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SEWARD • COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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ST. JOHN'S QUIZ BOWL
PAGE 12A



READY TO RUMBLE
SECTION B



The memories Igor the K-9 leaves behind

by Brady Oltmans
editor@sewardindependent.com

It always irritated Mike Vance that the four-legged coworker he got from Belgium wasn't as young as he was promised. Vance was told the Belgian malinois was 2 years old when selecting a new K-9 for the Seward County Sheriff's Office. A month-and-a-half later, Vance discovered the dog – Igor as he'd been named – was actually over 4.

"But by that time I'd already had a bond and certification with him," Vance said. "So I kept him."

They stayed together for more than eight years on the job. Over that time Igor helped seize \$8.4 million in illegal drug currency, over 30 pounds of heroin, over 45 pounds of cocaine, more than 32 pounds of methamphetamine and over 1,400 pounds of marijuana. Igor also accompanied Vance to schools where he'd welcome affection. Igor was forced into retirement Nov. 5 because of a degenerative nerve disease in his back legs.



Seward County Sheriff Mike Vance poses with a proud Igor next to a stack of contraband seized during a stop along Interstate 80. COURTESY PHOTO

A full month, to the day later, Igor suffered a stroke while playing in the backyard. Having already lived 12 full years, Igor was laid to rest.

"He was just a very good police dog," Vance said. "He was reliable and I've had several calls from other agencies – Lancaster County

deputies called me. They used him several times."

Igor was the fourth K-9 Vance worked with and, by Vance's own account, one of the best-trained. Igor was trained in both narcotics and tracking with handler protection. Perhaps Igor's older age, having already been

trained in Belgium and Illinois, played a role. He was also the first Belgian malinois Vance worked with. All the others were German shepherds.

Vance trusted Igor around children, including his own grandchildren. One of his grandchildren was raised with

Igor. Vance could never trust his previous K-9 like that. Igor loved the social attention.

When it came time to work, though, Igor was always ready.

"Throughout the course of many years, I relied on Igor numerous times to come out and do his thing to end up catching the bad guys," Deputy David Frye said. "Igor was always on point. He had an amazing nose."

Frye remembered countless stops when Igor was called to the scene. One of those came in September when, as Frye described it, a driver was traveling across Interstate 80 under highly suspicious circumstances. Search consent was denied. Igor and Vance were called to the scene. Of course, Igor discovered the contraband concealed in the back of the truck.

"Igor helped me on some pretty tremendous cases," Frye said. "Thinking out loud, I know numerous drug loads where we relied on Igor to get us that probable cause to get into the vehicle."

Vance said he could easily call out to Igor, to the point where he could stop halfway in pursuit. He said there was only one serious bite in over eight years on duty.

They sharpened their skills with training even on their days off.

"He was one of the best dogs out of the four I've worked with," Vance said.

Igor's degenerative nerve disease was discovered after he struggled to jump into Vance's vehicle on the way to a scene. Vance knew something was wrong when Igor went to scratch the point of investigation on a vehicle and his leg came out from under him. There wasn't any pain involved, Igor was just slowly losing feeling in his back legs.

Igor wasn't happy with retired life. When Vance took the new K-9, Eros, out of his kennel and into the cruiser, Igor barked. He wanted to go back to work.

"I'm sure it was hard on him to all of a sudden stay home," Vance said.

(continued on page 2A)

Schriner finally steps away

by Brady Oltmans
editor@sewardindependent.com

Joyce Schriner talked about retiring long before 2020. She decided to retire last winter from her position as manager of the Utica Senior Center. A large celebration was planned for March 15. Family, friends and neighbors near and far arranged to attend in hopes of showing their appreciation for Schriner's volunteerism and dedication.

Of course, the coronavirus pandemic interfered with those plans. Through the turbulence of a pandemic, Schriner agreed to continue managing the senior center. During a summer when contact with neighbors deemed "high risk" was discouraged, Schriner arranged drive-up meals. She also toiled on grant applications, reached out to isolated community members in Utica and went as far as helping them achieve their daily tasks.

Jody Wiemer of the Utica Aging Commission Board said Schriner is known in Utica as a person who gets things done. Wiemer also said she has a gift of strongly encouraging others to volunteer and make positive changes happen.

"She made it a point



Almost a full year after Joyce Schriner had originally planned to retire as manager of the Utica Senior Center, she was finally honored by friends and family for her years of service on Dec. 9. COURTESY PHOTO

to develop a relationship with each person who walked in the door," Wiemer said. "She strived to make the Utica Senior Center a warm, caring place for people of all ages to be involved."

At last, on Dec. 9, Schriner was recognized for her years of service with a celebration. Not

all those who originally planned to attend could make it. Even those who came to celebrate Schriner did so while social distancing.

Instead of retiring and stepping away from volunteerism, Schriner has taken the role of Utica historian at the Utica Museum.

Downward trends and vaccine plans

by Brady Oltmans
editor@sewardindependent.com

Local health officials are encouraged by Seward County's decline in coronavirus case numbers and hospitalizations. However, optimism was accompanied by wariness for a quick, sharp rebound they've grown familiar with dealing with the coronavirus.

In a Dec. 10 briefing of the Seward County sector, Four Corners Health Department Executive Director Laura McDougall said case rates have begun trended down. At the peak spread of coronavirus, the district averaged 400 new cases per week. In the week of Dec. 3-9, she said there were 262 cases.

"It's still a large number of cases and we still have our work cut out, but it's taking the pressure off of some of us," she said.

Seward County accounted for 77 new cases from Dec. 3-9.

That encouraging sign was met with the sobering reality of making up ground. Four Corners issued a press release on Dec. 10 evening to report 12 new COVID-related deaths in the district from mid-November through the week ending Dec. 5. Six of those deaths were Seward County resi-

dents. Those deaths were previously unaccounted for because of the sheer number of cases and hospitalizations in that timeframe.

Two new vaccines on the way and an infusion treatment have given hospitals a glimmer of hope. The vaccine produced by Pfizer was approved by the Federal Drug Administration on Dec. 10 and the vaccine produced by Moderna is scheduled for FDA approval on Dec. 17.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services submits a plan, which includes distribution. According to Memorial Health Care Systems CEO Roger Reamer, the original plan was to distribute the vaccine to health-care workers in Nebraska who wanted it by the end of December if there were no problems. Problems, however, arose. So instead, that vaccine will be delayed for rural areas. That's where the Moderna vaccine, which is scheduled to be distributed the week of Christmas, would be available.

They are two-shot vaccines with 28 days between the first and second shots.

Reamer said Memorial Hospital has started infusion treatments on high risk patients meant to keep those patients

away from emergency room visits that could develop into in-patient care.

Memorial Health Care Systems has also worked with Test Nebraska to increase the number of tests conducted and days the tests can be administered. Capacity of tests have been increased from 100 to 120 and testing increased to two days per week. Those seeking tests can now also get tested every Tuesday, in addition to every Friday at the testing site in the west parking lot of Memorial Hospital, 9-11 a.m. Reamer also said curbside facilities in Utica and Milford were scheduled for completion on Dec. 14.

Various government sectors also issued their reports. Seward County Commissioner John Culver said they have placed signs recommending face coverings. Culver said the justice center has long issued its own stipulations through its various offices.

Jim Swanson of Utica said the city has not issued an ordinance requiring face coverings, like Seward, because Utica simply doesn't have the law enforcement resources. He said

(continued on page 2A)



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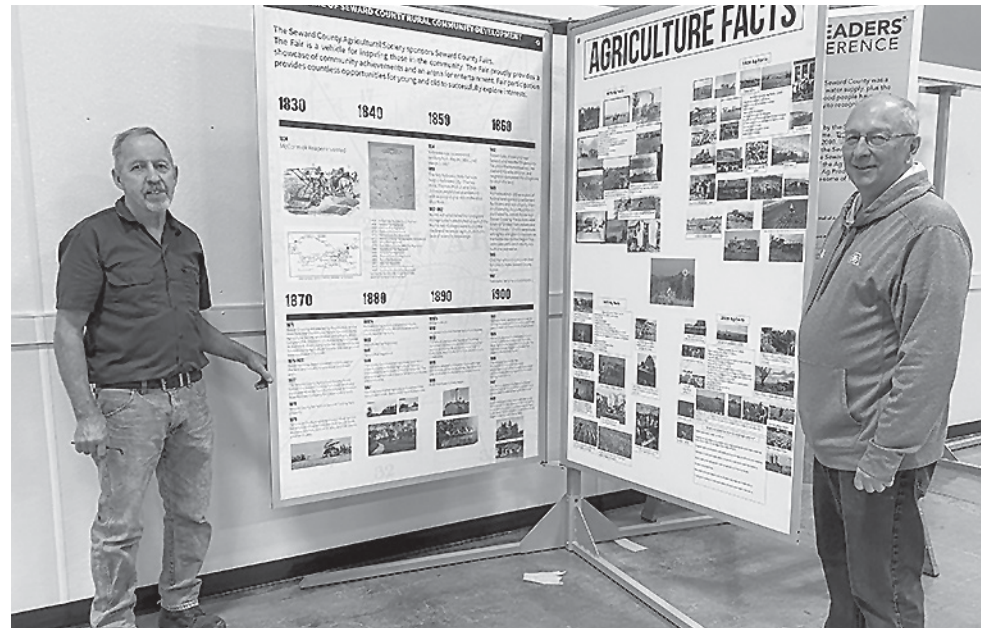
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The Seward County Ag Society commissioned a permanent display for its 20-panel Ag Society historical display created to commemorate the 150th annual Seward County Fair in 2021. Terry Miller of Seward, left, created and built to size the display. He is pictured installing the display with Seward Ag Society Representative Doug Brand of Seward.

Historic panels on display

The Seward County Ag Society finished its 150th anniversary year with the gift of a permanent display of the Seward County Agriculture Society's 150th Anniversary Historical Panels, now located at the Seward County Ag Pavilion on the Seward County Fairgrounds. The creative display is in two sections and is somewhat portable. The steel display was designed, created and installed by Terry Miller, owner of Precision Tool and Machine of Seward. He was commissioned by the Seward County Ag Society to create a permanent, yet flexible display for the 20 panels featuring the 150-year history of the

Seward County Fair. The project was coordinated by Doug Brand, representative for the Seward County Ag Society, and he also supervised and directed the creation of the display. A full length feature of Doug Brand and Dr. Ron Wallman, discussing each panel can be found on the Seward Fourth of July Facebook page. The display is available and open to the public when the Seward County Ag Pavillion is open. To schedule a visit to see the new display, contact Doug Brand at doug.brand73@gmail.com.

Kolterman speaks at Rotary

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

For the last six years, Seward's Mark Kolterman has been a senator, serving District 24 in the Nebraska state legislature. Kolterman talked to the Seward Rotary Club Dec. 2 about the upcoming biennium and how he plans to spend his final two years representing Seward, York and Polk counties. "I enjoy working in the legislature and appreciate the opportunity to serve," he said. Although the legislature has not met since August when it finished its previous session, the 14 standing committees and other subcommittees spend the interim holding meetings and collecting information on upcoming bills. "We're finishing up interim studies," Kolterman said, adding that some had to be cut short because of COVID-19. Kolterman has been on the retirement committee for the last five years and hopes to be put on the appropriations committee in 2021. The upcoming session will welcome eight new senators, three of whom have served before.

"We're starting to get returns," Kolterman said. "I won't be going back. Once I retire, I will retire." The 90-day session will start in January and run through June. In 2022, the session will be 60 days. Kolterman said there are a couple other committees he'd like to serve on this biennium. The Committee on Committees assigns senators to the 14 standing committees. Kolterman said he thinks that is an important committee to serve on. The Executive Committee hires the clerk of the legislature and handles the day-to-day operations of the legislature. It takes 25 votes to be elected to a committee, he said. Once the session starts Wednesday, Jan. 6, senators spend the first 10 days introducing bills. The Executive Committee determines which subcommittee will hear which bills. Hearing rooms will be set up to allow for social distancing for the senators and members of the public, and masks will be required, Kolterman said. Major issues the

legislature will have to deal with include funding public education, prison reform, public health and COVID-19, the budget, redistricting and judicial and police reform. One bill will focus on the Omaha Public Schools teacher retirement fund, which is about \$1 billion short, Kolterman said. OPS is asking the state to take over management of the plan, which the state has done for other groups, he said. Kolterman was asked about the gambling initiatives that were approved by voters in November. He reminded the Rotarians that gambling will be limited to racetracks and some of the money received will go to both property tax relief and providing help for gambling addicts. When it comes to redistricting, Kolterman said he will fight to keep District 24 as it is. District lines are drawn based on population, and he said Seward and York populations grew the same amount that Polk County shrank. "The bulk of the change will be in Elkhorn and West Omaha," he said.

Four Corners update

(continued from page 1A) they don't want an ordinance on the books they can't enforce. The city clerk's office remains open with a face shield at the desk and social distancing. The city encourages face coverings when social distancing can't be achieved. Seward City Administrator Greg Butcher said, upon visiting with Sgt. Mike Hammond with the Seward Police Department, no formal complaints were made by Dec. 10 since the city's ordinance requiring face coverings went into effect on Dec. 5. He also reiterated

the ordinance on the books does not discuss gatherings and that it only pertains to face coverings in public indoor areas. Butcher also said the library has remained closed to walk-in traffic for various reasons but its drive-thru window is open. Seward is due to revisit its face-covering ordinance at its Jan. 5 council meeting. Milford Public Schools Superintendent Kevin Wingard and Seward Public School Superintendent Dr. Josh Fields both thanked Four Corners and MHCS for helping educate

students and parents on new directed health measures. Wingard raised concerns about current DHMs, where if the state dropped back into the orange range, that no longer limited attendance on indoor sporting events. McDougall said the district has shared similar concerns. She also said if the state announces under 800 COVID-only hospitalizations throughout the state on a seven-day rolling average, the state could see new directed health measures that still limit attendance but with relaxing limitations.

Igor remembered

(continued from page 1A) Veterinarians told Vance exercise helped keep the disease manageable. So Igor regularly played in the backyard. Then, on Dec. 5, Vance's grandson came running into the house saying Igor wouldn't get up. Drooling and moaning, Igor struggled to his feet. Once upright, his body was crooked. The vet told Vance it was a stroke and Igor's time had come. News of Igor's death spread

throughout the department and in neighboring law enforcement circles. The determined K-9 Vance once felt duped about left a legacy and memories behind. One Lincoln Police Department officer caught wind of Igor's passing. They sent Vance a text on Dec. 9 morning, offering condolences and a summary of the past eight years. "He was a legend, Mike," the message said.

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Early Holiday Deadline and Closing

Our office will close 12:00 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24 and will be closed Friday, Dec. 25, 2020.

We will close 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020 and will be closed Friday, Jan. 1, 2021.

ADVERTISING & NEWS DEADLINE

for the publication dates of

DECEMBER 30, 2020

is 9:00 a.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 24

for the Seward County Independent, The Milford Times and Connection

JANUARY 6, 2021

is 9:00 a.m.

THURSDAY, DEC. 31

for the Seward County Independent, The Milford Times and Connection

SEWARD COUNTY

INDEPENDENT

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Test NE Schedule

Tuesday, December 22; 9-11 a.m.

Thursday, December 24; 9-11 a.m.

Tuesday, December 29; 9-11 a.m.

Thursday, December 31; 9-11 a.m.

On Dec. 2, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released information on new research offering a better understanding of when transmission of COVID-19 is most likely to occur.

An individual who had been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive case can get tested on day 5 or after. If no symptoms have developed, and if a negative result is received the individual can discontinue quarantine after day 7 since last close contact with a COVID positive individual. CDC requires daily self-monitoring for development of COVID-19 symptoms and masking until after day 14 since last close contact exposure with a COVID-19 positive individual.

It is important that the test specimen is collected no earlier than day 5 to provide a more accurate representation of infection.

Based on this new evidence from CDC, the change in policy was made for this to be an available option to discontinue quarantine.

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Cafe on the Square to expand, CASA to reinvent its space

Dec. 14 was the day Seward's own Cafe on the Square took ownership of 105 S. Sixth St., currently the home to Southeast Nebraska CASA and Blue Valley Community Action.

The sale of the building from CASA to the Cafe on the Square is a welcome sign of economic strength, cooperation and adaptability demonstrated by two long-time downtown businesses even in the current unpredictable landscape of pandemic.

"We've known for a long time that our limited space has informed the kind of service we can offer our customers and the kind of presence we can offer downtown Seward," said Cafe co-owner Lacey Koch. "We've dreamt of a future expansion and, in talking with Marci, we both agreed that the future is now."

"For CASA's part," Executive Director Marci Felhhafer said, "our building was financed for us by a group of local investors back in 2011 as a means to ensure financial security and longevity for our program. When COVID-19 hit back in March, we had to immediately rethink how we structured our work environment. What started as a seed of an

idea from Cafe on the Square Koch and Chelsey Kos-developed into a really opportunity for both stances."

CASA into its es

end of the year, Felhhafer said. The location is Gregory the nary.

"This move create an endow-

co-owners, Lacey micki, quickly amazing op-our circum-

will move new offic-at 1313 285th St. by the

fer The behind St. Great Semi-

will empower us to ment that supports our

mission and advocate for more kids," she said. "It will also provide handicap accessible offices and training space. CASA's work will be undisrupted, as we are able to work remotely or in person no matter what the future holds."

Cafe on the Square has plans to begin renovations in late 2021 that include a future event space and patio.

"We love our location, we knew we wanted to expand and we feel so fortunate that we get to do so with this purchase," Cafe co-owner Chelsey Kosmicki said. "Before our renovations get started, we plan to continue to rent the current space to Blue Valley Community Action, so they have time to secure a new location."

Cafe on the Square is open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. To see their hours and their menu, go to www.cafeonthesquareseward.com. Southeast Nebraska recruits, trains and supports volunteer advocates for abused and neglected children. To find out more, visit their website, www.southeastnebraskacasa.org.

Getting crafty with fiber art projects

Cyanotype quilts on display at the Seward Civic Center

The Nebraska Fiber Works Quilt Group's featured quilts are on display at the Langworthy Gallery in the Seward Civic Center at 616 Bradford Street coordinated by Jeanne Wiemer with the Seward Arts Council.

The blue images common throughout the quilts on display at the gallery used the same cyanotype printing process discovered in 1842 by Sir John Herschel. The process involves two chemicals (ferric ammonium citrate and potassium ferriyanide) applied to a surface (natural fabric or paper) which reacts with the light to form an intense blue color. Objects that block light produce a negative image on treated surface. Simple rising with water fixes the blue print and make it permanent.

The quilts on display include blueprints of various items. Some are images of plants, frescent of botanist Anna Alking, who first use cyanotype to illustrate a book about

algae specimens in 1843. Others used needlework fragments resulting in geometric designs, objects such as silverware or photo images transferred to transparent film.

Fiber Works Quilt Group is a group of 11 fiber artists from eastern Nebraska, working together to expand their knowledge and push the boundaries of creativity. Members include Jo Druke, Shelia Green, Merrilee Hansen, Dorothy Heidemann-Nelson, Cynthia Lewis, Roxann O'Hare, Lynne O'Rourke, Cindi Pape, Peg Pennell, Marilyn Rembolt and Pat Slava.

The Langworthy Gallery is located in west part of the Civic Center and is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information on the Gallery or to schedule a show, contact Jeanne Wiemer with the Seward Arts Council at innermaker@gmail.com. For info on the Fiber Works Group contact greenken-shelia@gmail.com.



The piece above is "Nature Captured #3" by Shelia Green of Lincoln.



This work is called "Ash Wednesday" by Dorothy Heidemann-Nelson.

Stay safe and healthy this holiday season!

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December 26: Closed
December 31: Closing at 4:00 p.m.
January 1: Closed
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Deadline for 2020 transactions will be 4:00 p.m. on December 31

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We asked you

Last week's poll question: Do you support the City of Seward's mask ordinance requiring face coverings being worn in certain indoor areas within city limits?

Yes: 354

No: 237

Now we want to know

This week's question: Do you plan to get together with family for Christmas?

Vote online at www.crenewsonline.com and share the question on Facebook, then check next week's edition of The Seward County Independent for results.

Letters to the editor

We will come out other side

I awoke unexpectedly the other night and found myself thinking about a choral work that my wife and I had performed with Abendmusik and the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra a few years back. It's entitled, "Dreams of the Fallen" by Jake Runestad. The lyrics are based on a poem by Brian Turner of the same name. It's an extended work for piano, orchestra and choir, commissioned to honor veterans and was broadcast nationally by PBR May 29, 2017. It's about the horrors of war as experienced by the individual soldier, about bone and blood and adrenaline and bullets and ripped flesh. It's truly visceral.

That night in bed, I was thinking mostly about the ending of the

piece. The lyric goes like this, "And I keep telling myself that if I walk far enough and long enough someday I'll come out the other side."

We're not in a war, but sometimes it feels like it. We've endured quite a bit this year in our battle with the virus and seen our share of chaos. We still can't do anything, or go anywhere or visit loved ones. My wife and I find it quite lonely. We are definitely ready to "come out the other side" and I suspect most everyone else is too.

But, of course, we can't. Not yet, anyway. So what are we to do in the meantime? Are we all to become, as the joke goes, fat drunks as we wait this thing out? Well, we certainly don't have to. We can use this isolation time to improve our lives after. We can take online classes, set up an

exercise regimen, focus on a healthy diet, learn new technical skills, make career plans, bring our financial and insurance situation up to date, do home repairs we've put off, attack that neglected pile of books, and so on and so on. The point is that it's possible to come out of this virus thing better than we went in.

Yes, but what about the loneliness and deprivation now? My wife and I haven't hugged our grandchildren in almost a year. The ones in Alaska, we haven't even seen. They're growing up without us. Everyone has a similar story. Well, I guess we just keep soldiering on and keep telling ourselves "... if I walk far enough or long enough someday I'll come out the other side."

Good luck to us all.
Rodney Hiser,
Seward

See the lights

I moved to Seward in 1991. In 1993 I started putting up Christmas lights, it continued as a friendly battle between my neighbor and I until he moved a few years later. In the late 90's I was recognized with an honorable mention. Feeling quite proud of this achievement every year I would add to my display striving to win an award, but every year I would receive an honorable mention.

As years past I realized that the compliments and enjoyment from family, friends and complete strangers who would drive by was more satisfying than any award. One friend's daughter remarked, "Wow

it's like everything that represents Christmas is in their yard." 2015 was the last year I decorated due to lack of time as we were remodeling a house. Yet in 2016 I still received an honorable mention, how can this be?

We finally moved this last August. My daughter called me last night and said "Hey Dad, you won an honorable mention again." Maybe the people that decide on awards should actually drive around and look at all of the lights. They'd be amazed by all of the beautiful displays around town.

Merry Christmas to all!

Dan Janak
Dwight

Thanks for the decorations

I just want to take a moment to thank all the Seward Christmas elves for decorating their houses with Christmas lights. Together with the lights provided by the city in the downtown business area, Seward's Christmas light displays are a pleasure for kids of all ages. Just to mention a few: the Culps, the Matzkes, and in the Ridge Run area, Tom Rief's and David Dam's houses and all others: thanks to you for your many hours of work and preparation, making Seward very festive

for the Christmas holiday.

And a final thank you to the Vinnie Bittinger family for their display in Centennial Park, down west of the fairgrounds; we are very fortunate they have chosen our town to display their electronic Christmas lights display! The out-of-town people being drawn to Seward each night to view the lights is outstanding; if you haven't seen them, make sure you go!

With that, I will close. Everyone - have a merry 2020 Christmas and wishes for a happy, healthier new year in 2021.

Doug Brand
Seward

1st Amendment, U.S. Constitution

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.



MY MOM

Just looked at my mom's babies! -me, the eldest child. It's fine, I only cried a little.

Family grows, happy tears shed

by Hope Moural
hope@sewardindependent.com

Breaking news, readers: as of this past weekend, I officially have a brother!



Hope Moural
Reporter

First off, mostly because my mother is reading this, she did not have a baby. That duty has been passed on to my siblings and me, of which she reminds us often. (Love you, mom!) Anyway, if you haven't guessed by now, my lovely sister, Ashtyn, got married this past Saturday.

Before shooting an angry COVID email off, I will say I holed up in my apartment weeks before to prepare, wore a mask except for a few photos and spaced out from people when able.

There were not many people who attended, for obvious reasons, but those who did wore

masks, were socially distanced and overall, it turned out to be a beautiful Christmas wedding.

Unfortunately, only a small number of family members from both sides felt comfortable attending, and the event wasn't what it could have been, but it was wonderful and happy. My sisters cried, my mom cried and I cried because I just really love love, especially around the holidays.

Oh, and there was really good cake, so I walked away satisfied. We took photos outside in 20 degree weather and I am pretty sure my nose was running in all of them? Oh well... hopefully that can be edited out.

Ashtyn looked like a winter angel in the cold and that's really all that matters.

Then came the fun. My teenage sister and I gave a joint maid of honor speech. Actually, let me back up: we sang

it. That's right, we brought out the tacky sunglasses, and sang originally composed lyrics to Frozen's "Let It Go," instead naming it "We Have A Bro."

Our new brother-in-law, Blake, got a kick out of it and to be honest, I don't know if I can top it. To be honest, I am hoping someone recorded it and sent it to Jimmy Fallon.

Yes, we are available for birthdays parties, weddings and any other occasion that may require a musical number.

Needless to say, coming back to work Monday was no easy task.

The entire weekend flew by with little sleep and high emotions, but the memories made will be there for a lifetime and I am so, so excited to see where life will take the couple.

In a tough year, this is one that will stick out happily for sure. Congrats to the happy couple!

American Life in Poetry

by Ted Kooser
U.S. Poet Laureate, 2004-2006

Language is a magic bowl that can hold all we imagine. Here in five words, carefully chosen by Jennifer Hambrick of Ohio, are the front and back of the galaxy, acorns underfoot and stars high above, and, magically, everything else in between. Her most recent book is *Unscathed from Night*. Ballet Press.

starry night
acorns popping
underfoot

We do not accept unsolicited manuscripts. *American Life in Poetry* is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (www.poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2020 by Jennifer Hambrick "starry night," from *Modern Haiku* (2020). Poem reprinted by permission of Jennifer Hambrick and the publisher. Introduction copyright ©2020 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction's author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006.

Share your opinions via letters to the editor. Please include a phone number so we can verify it's you and word count is 500.

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Jones Bank sculpture selected for Mayor's Art Award

The outdoor sculpture, "Untitled, Dango, 2012" by artist Jun Kaneko has been selected for the 2020 Mayor's Art Award by the Seward Arts Council. The sculpture is located on the greenspace at Jones Bank on the corner of Sixth Street and South Street.

"We are thrilled with this very impressive art presentation and welcome it to our Seward community," Seward Arts Council Vice President Jeanne Wiemer said. "It is our hope that this small token of appreciation and recognition draws even more attention to this beautiful work of art, and our way of thanking the

Jones Bank for their investment in the Seward community."

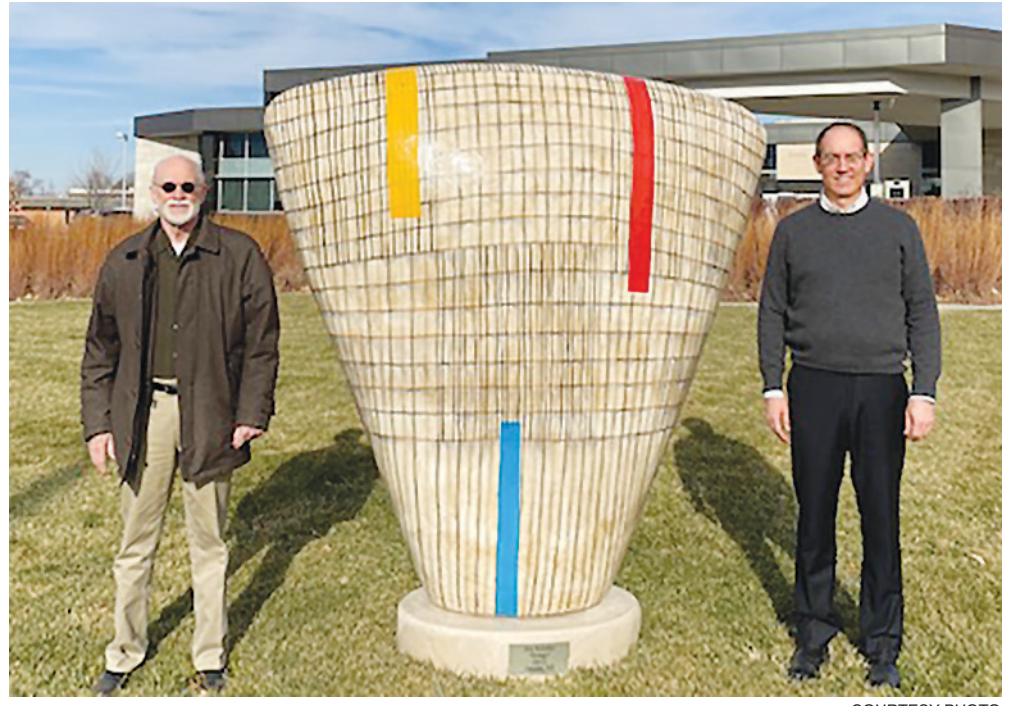
Jones Bank received the Mayor's Art Award at the Dec. 16 Seward Rotary Club meeting. The award was presented by Seward Arts Council President and Rotarian Clark Kolterman and Wiemer. Seward Rotary member Phil Bangert, the Seward Arts Council treasurer, was also present for the award. The presentation was given virtually at the Zoom meeting to Max Wake, president of Jones Bank. The framed, signed certificate of recognition features a photo of the artwork on the presentation certificate created by graphic artist Hailey

Behlen of Seward.

At the presentation, Wake spoke on the timeline of the art project and about the artwork.

The sculpture, "Untitled," is a 2012 glazed, ceramic "dango" style -which translates to "dumpling" from Japanese to English. It measures 75x73x24 and weighs 1,110.5 pounds.

The artist, Jun Kaneko, was born in Nagoya, Japan, in 1942. He studied painting with Satoshi Ogawa during his adolescence. He came to the U.S. in 1963 to continue studies at the Chouinard Institute of art, when his introduction to Fred Marer drew him to sculpture ceramics. He continued to study



COURTESY PHOTO

Steve, left, and Max Wake stand next to "Untitled," the ceramic sculpture awarded the 2020 Mayor's Art Award.

Rotary Club honors Baldwin with admiralship for service

The Seward Rotary Club wanted to honor one of its prized members with a special recognition honoring and thanking him for his 41 years of service in law enforcement and his 23 years of service to the City of Seward.

The club nominated Alan Baldwin to be an admiral in the Nebraska Navy, and the award was coordinated and obtained for the Rotary by State Sen. Mark Kolterman, also a member of the Seward Rotary.

Kolterman presented Baldwin the admiralship and congratulated him on his retirement as the chief of police for the City of Seward.

Baldwin is a past president of the Seward Rotary Club and served as co-chair of the annual Seward Police/Seward Rotary Club Stuff the Crusier Toy Drive. He was also the co-chair of the annual Seward Rotary Holiday Home Lighting Christmas Display contest and the annual



COURTESY PHOTO

Sen. Mark Kolterman, left, presents the Nebraska Admiralship to Alan Baldwin to honor and thank him for his service to the City of Seward and Seward Rotary Club.

Seward Rotary Holiday Home Lighting Fourth of July Display contest. He often co-chaired the annual J. Don Miller Family Kite Flying Contest, sponsored by the Rotary Club, and participated in a host of Rotary activities throughout the

years.

Baldwin was a long-time member of the Seward Fourth of July Celebration Committee, working with the tourist family project, the Grand Parade and other activities, as needed.

with Peter Voulkos, Paul Soldner and Jerry Rothman in California during the time as the Contemporary Ceramics Movement in America.

The following decade, Kaneko taught at some of the leading art schools including Scripps College, Rhode Island School of Design and Cranbrook Academy of Art.

Based in Omaha since 1986, Kaneko has worked in a variety of experimental studies worldwide. Over the course of his career he has partnered with industrial facilities to produce large scale, hand built sculptures. The first was the Omaha Project in 1982-83 in the Omaha Brickyards.

In 1998, Kaneko and his wife Ree formed KANEKO, a non-profit cultural organization to serve the community as an open space for creativity. It is headquartered in a turn of the century building in Omaha's Old Market.

The sculpture, "Untitled," is a 2012 glazed, ceramic "dango" style -which translates to "dumpling" from Japanese to English.

The annual Mayor's Art Award was first presented in 2015 to honor "Prairie Trails," the entrance sculpture in front of the Nebraska National Guard Museum. In 2016, the sculpture located on the corner of Columbia Avenue and Hillcrest Avenue, "The Light" created by artist Josh Smith, at the Heartfelt Children's Memorial was presented the Mayor's Art Award. The 2017 Mayor's Art Award was presented to Virginia Fraser and her family in recognition of the donation of the painting Nebraska Statehood 150 project, "The Seward County Courthouse" by artist Todd Williams, which was donated to the Seward Memorial Library in honor of the late Rev. T. J. Fraser of Seward.

In 2018, the William Seward bronze statue

and plaza was recognized with the Mayor's Art Award and presented to donor Sen. Mark Kolterman and his family and to the artists of the sculpture, David and Judith Rubin of New York, New York. The most recent Mayor's Art Award was presented in 2019 to Virginia Cattle for her commissioned bronze sculpture donation to downtown Seward of two small children titled "For Which It Stands," by Colorado artist James Haire, located on the corner of 5th and Seward Streets.

Nominations for the annual Mayor's Art award can be made to any officer of the Seward Arts Council or by contacting Clark Kolterman at clark.kolterman@sewardschools.org or call (402) 641-8522.

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Obituaries

William "Willie" Shonka

Oct. 19, 1938 – Dec. 6, 2020

William "Willie" Shonka of Gresham was born Oct. 19, 1938, to Ernest and Agnes (Hajek) Shonka in Surprise.

He attended high school in Ulysses, graduating in 1955. He served in the United States Army from Dec. 13, 1961, to Sept. 13, 1963. On May 6, 1961, Willie was united in marriage to Agnes "Aggie" Fuxa in Dwight. He farmed his entire life. He was a member of David City Knights of Columbus Council 1717 and served on the co-op and church boards. He was a past president of Ulysses Alumni. In his free time, he loved being outside working in the vegetable and flower gardens. He loved trees and planted many varieties on the farm. He was always in the shop working on or creating something. He was an avid Husker sports fan. He had a love for cattle, his dog Otis and enjoyed going on drives with his wife to see the countryside.

Willie passed away Dec. 6, 2020, in Lincoln, at the age of 82. He is survived by his wife, Aggie Shonka, Gresham; children, Lori (Ron) Hanway, Lincoln, Mark Shonka, Surprise, and Kelly (Eric) Anderson, co; grandchildren, Taylor Hanway, Kaylee Hanway (fiancée, Tate Schutt) and Macie Hanway; brother, Ernie (Doris) Shonka, Surprise; and sisters, Marilyn (Jimmy) Chmelka, Valparaiso, Betty (Alvin) Wellman, Bellwood, and Dee Stuhr, Bellwood. Willie was preceded in death by his parents, Ernest and Agnes Shonka; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Thomas and Adelaine Fuxa; sister-in-law, Sally (Fuxa) Juranek; and brothers-in-law, Jim Fuxa, Tony Stuhr and Mike Birkel.

A Funeral Mass was Dec. 10 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Ulysses. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Shonka family or the donor's choice. Condolences may be left for the family at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.

**Carol A. Isaac**

Nov. 27, 1945 – Dec. 6, 2020

Carol Ann (Loontjer) Isaac of Seward, daughter of Edwin and Louise (Knep) Loontjer, was born Nov. 27, 1945, in Deshler.

She attended Bethlehem Lutheran in Kiowa for eight years and then Deshler High School. Carol was united in marriage to Alvin H. Isaac of Fairbury on July 17, 1966, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kiowa. They lived 20 years in Fairbury before moving to Seward in 1986. They attended St. John Lutheran Church in Seward, where she enjoyed attending bible studies. She also volunteered for the altar guild, sewing quilts for Orphan Grain Train and other committees. She was a member of the VFW and hospital auxiliaries. She taught special education at Seward Public Schools for 22 years. In her free time, she enjoyed sewing, reading, crocheting, gardening and going for walks. She especially enjoyed spending time with her family.

Carol passed away Dec. 6, 2020, in Lincoln, at the age of 75 years and 9 days. She is survived by her husband, Alvin H. Isaac, Seward; children, Debra (Lynn) Mohling, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Douglas (Tonya) Isaac, Omaha, and Daniel (Samantha) Isaac, Scribner; grandchildren, Jarod Mohling, Ashley Mohling, Jordan Mohling, Savannah Mohling, Christopher Isaac, Anthony (Nicole) Isaac, Aaron Isaac, Haley Isaac, Carson Isaac and Colby Isaac; brother, Michael A. Loontjer, Columbus; sisters, Leora (Jerry) Kuhlmann, Grand Island, Linda (Dwayne) Brettmann, Seward, and Rebecca (Bob) Reinke, Deshler. Carol was preceded in death by her parents, Edwin and Louise Loontjer; and brother, Edwin G. Loontjer.

A funeral service was Dec. 15 at St. John Lutheran Church with committal in the Greenwood Cemetery in Seward. Memorial contributions are suggested in care of the Isaac family or the donor's choice. Condolences may be left for the family at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.

**Barbara F. Herout**

May 1, 1932 – Dec. 9, 2020

Barbara Faye (Stolp) Montgomery Herout of Seward, was born May 1, 1932, in Bassett, to Orville and Martha (Tharnish) Stolp. She attended school at St. Ludger Catholic School in Creighton through the 12th grade. On Nov. 12, 1955, Barbara was united in marriage to John Joseph Herout in Creighton. In her free time, she enjoyed camping with grandchildren, playing bridge and pinochle, quilting and sewing. She especially liked to attend her children and grandchildren's activities. She was a member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, PCCW and Catholic Daughters.

Barbara passed away Dec. 9, 2020, in Seward at the age of 88 years, 7 months and 8 days. She is survived by her children, Suzanne (Ray) Wobken, Seward, Patricia (Bill) Tomes, Seward, Michael (Mary) Herout, North Platte, Elizabeth (Tim) Weber, Rockford, Michigan, James (Linda) Herout, Omaha; grandchildren, Brett (Jessica) Wobken, Andrew (Becky) Tomes, Erica Wobken, Cassandra (Jordan) Wilson, Jennifer Tobey, Stephanie (Tom) Grant, Alexandria (Lance) Pylman, Elizabeth (Adam) Bissell, Joseph (Melissa) Weber, Tyler Herout, Emily Herout, Nicholas Weber; step-grandchildren, Jessie McIntosh, Evan McIntosh; great-grandchildren, Rylee Tobey, Mckenzie Wobken, Zane Wobken, Hazel Grant, Molly Grant, Amelia Grant, Sophia Pylman, Eleanor Bissel, Watson Tomes, Taelor Wilson and two on the way; brothers, Kenneth Stolp, Bill (Janice) Stolp; numerous nieces and nephews. Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, Orville and Martha Stolp; husbands, Charles Montgomery and John Herout; sister-in-law, Peggy Stolp; nephew, Kenny Stolp; parents-in-law, John and Anna Herout; brother and sister-in-law, Daniel and Helen Becvar; and nephews.

Visitation is from 3 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 16, at Volzke Funeral Home in Seward. The family will not be present at visitation. Rosary is at 9 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 17 at St. Vincent dePaul Catholic Church with the Funeral Mass at 9:30 at the church. Interment will be at 2:30 p.m. Thursday at St. Ludger Catholic Cemetery in Creighton. Condolences may be left for the family at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.

**Fernadel Baade**

Dec. 9, 2020

Mrs. Fernadel Baade, 102, of Beech Island, South Carolina, wife of the late Fred W. Baade, entered into rest on Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020, in the comfort of her home.

Born in Iowa, a daughter of the late Emil and Adella Pauling Hatterman, she had been a resident of Beech Island for the past five years. She attended elementary school at St. John's Lutheran School, Germantown, Iowa, graduated from Central High School, St. Paul, Minnesota, and completed nurses training St. Luke's Hospital, Sioux City, Iowa. A retired registered nurse, she worked many years in hospitals, college health care centers, home healthcare, nursing homes and an orphanage. She was always helping others.

In addition to her husband and parents, family members include her children and their spouses, Clyde and Alice Baade, Bloomington, Illinois, Judy Wagner, Crooks, South Dakota, Edward and Jan Baade, Lincoln, Fred and Marcia Baade, Andale, Kansas, and Sherilyn and Carl Cheek, Beech Island; 12 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren and a host of other relatives and friends. She was also preceded in death by siblings, Emil "EW" Hatterman, Avel "Jerry" Grauer, Adeline and Sila; a granddaughter, Hope Ann Wagner; and a son-in-law, William Wagner.

A graveside Celebration of Life service will be conducted in the summer of 2021, in the Marcus-Amherst Cemetery, Marcus, Iowa. Condolences may be left for the family at www.HatcherFuneralHome.com.

**Celia K. Whitford**

Sept. 9, 1948 – Dec. 12, 2020

Celia Kay Whitford, of Milford, was born Sept. 9, 1948, to Verlin K. and Doris K. (Helmberger) Peterson in Mitchell,

South Dakota. She attended O'Neill High School in O'Neill, graduating in 1966. Following high school, Celia attended college at West-Nebraska Regional Hospital School of Nursing in Scottsbluff and received her Registered Nursing Degree. On May 23, 1970, Celia was united in marriage to Alan R. Whitford at Calvary Lutheran Church in Scottsbluff. In her free time, Celia was an avidly prolific reader. She enjoyed cooking and counted cross stitch. More than anything, she loved being a grandma and spending time with all of her grandchildren.

Celia passed away Dec. 12, 2020, in Lincoln, at the age of 72 years, 3 months and 3 days. She is survived by her husband, Alan R. Whitford, Milford; children, Erik (Kori) Whitford, Milford, Shane (Deena) Whitford, Milford; grandchildren, Kari Whitford, Zoey Whitford, Layla Whitford, Jayse Whitford, Xander Whitford, Celaren Whitford, Liam Whitford, Cordelia Whitford; sister, Debi (Steve) Dunn, Stella; brothers, Earl (Belinda) Peterson, Beresford, South Dakota, Michael (Lisa) Peterson, Eagle; many nieces and nephews. Celia was preceded in death by her parents, Verlin Peterson and Doris Ziska.

Visitation is from 2 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 17, at Volzke Funeral Home in Seward. Funeral service is at 1:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Milford with interment at Blue Mound Cemetery in Milford. Memorial contributions are suggested to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Milford or the donor's choice. Condolences may be left for the family at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.

**Erma C. Johnson**

Feb. 1, 1935 – Dec. 9, 2020

Erma C. Johnson, 85, of Vancouver, Washington, formerly of Ulysses, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020. She was born Feb. 1, 1935, to Ralph and Charlotte (Minnick) Bickle in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Erma enjoyed crafts, reading and going on walks. She was a lover of cats and dogs.

Erma is survived by her children, Tom (Karin) Johnson and Cathy (Rich) Couch; 12 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; siblings, Rome Stough and George Bickle; and daughter-in-law, Lynne Johnson.

She was preceded in death by her sons, David and Michael Johnson; parents, Ralph and Charlotte Bickle; and siblings, Leah, Pat, Ralph Jr., Edward and Annetta.

Condolences may be left for the family at www.lincolnffc.com.

Roger D. Keil

Sept. 17, 1949 – Dec. 10, 2020

Roger D. Keil was born Sept. 17, 1949, and died Dec. 10, 2020. Services are pending at Volzke Funeral Home in Seward. A full obituary may be found and condolences may be left for the family at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.

Marjorie J. Krzeneski

April 20, 1938 – Dec. 13, 2020

Marjorie J. Krzeneski was born April 20, 1938, and died Dec. 13, 2020. Arrangements are pending with Zabka-Perdue Funeral Home in Seward. A full obituary may be found and condolences left for the family at www.zabkafuneralhome.com.

Donald L. Rondorf

Aug. 30, 1949 – Dec. 13, 2020

Donald L. Rondorf was born Aug. 30, 1949, and died Dec. 13, 2020. Arrangements are pending with Zabka-Perdue Funeral Home in Seward. A full obituary may be found and condolences left for the family at www.zabkafuneralhome.com.

Patricia A. Neuman

Dec. 3, 1931 – Dec. 11, 2020

Patricia A. (Ganey) Neuman was born Dec. 3, 1931, and died Dec. 11, 2020. A full obituary may be found and condolences may be left for the family at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.

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Faszholzs to celebrate 70 years

Eugene and Marian Faszholz of Seward will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary this month.

They were married Dec. 17, 1950, at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in San Leandro, California.

To celebrate, their family is requesting a card shower. Cards may be sent to the couple at 500 Heartland



Eugene and Marian Faszholz
Park Drive, Room 113, Seward, NE 68434.

District Oratory students named at Seward event

Magdalen Heckman of Grand Island, a junior at Hastings St. Cecilia, was selected the representative/winner in the Area C American Legion Oratorical Contest. She is the daughter of Eric and Jonie Heckman of Grand Island. She was sponsored by the Minden American Legion Post 94.

Seward High senior J.J. Metschke of Seward was selected first runner-up in the senior level contest. He is the son of Amy and Jonathan Metschke of Seward. He was sponsored by the Seward American Legion Post 33.

The students were each required to write, memorize and present a 10-minute speech on the U.S. Constitution and draw one of four amendments to address extemporaneously for three to five minutes. Heckman's speech was titled "The Rights of Petition and Peaceful Assembly" and Metschke's speech was "American's Greatest Pastime!"

They drew Amendment XXII, Section 1 on the Office of the President. The other possible amendments in the draw included Article I Section 7, Article II, Section 3 and Article III, Section 1.

In the junior/middle school division, Falls City seventh grader You-Ha Kim was selected the winner. She is the daughter of Young Je Kim and Jungsoon Ju. Molly Marroquin of Seward, a seventh grader at St. John Lutheran, was selected first runner-up. She is the daughter of Jon and Tina Marroquin of Seward. In the junior division, each student was asked

to write and present a speech relating to the U.S. Constitution. Kim's speech was titled "Article 3, Section 1" and Marroquin's speech was "Judges and the U.S. Constitution."

Judges for the contest were Dr. Louis Reith and Bonnie Kruse of Seward and Kathleen Wilcox of Crete. Event Chair was Bonnie Brewer of Elwood, Area C commander, and the Seward American Legion Post 33 served as the host with Seward Post Commander Joe Ruzicka and Sargent of Arms/Contestant Host Ken Meyer assisting with the contest.

Welcomes were presented by District Commanders Larry Borchert, District 13, David Glantz, District 12, and Don Nelson, District 10. A welcome to Seward was also offered by Seward American Legion Post 33 Commander Joe Ruzicka. Riley Nuttleman served as the official timer. Clark Kolterman served as the host/emcee for the event.

The senior division winners each received a trophy and certificate. The winner also was presented a medal. In the junior division, the students received medals and certificates. Each of the Senior Division winners each received a \$100 scholarship.

Heckman will now represent the Area C at the State American Legion Speech Contest in Columbus in January. There are four areas in competition for the State Championships. The Junior Division winners do not go on to the State Level.

Jurgensens together for 50 years

David and Nancy Jurgensen of Cordova will celebrate 50 years of marriage this week.

They were married Dec. 20, 1970.

To celebrate, their family is requesting a card shower. Cards may be sent to the couple at Box 136, Cordova, NE 68330.



David and Nancy Jurgensen

Burger elected chairman of state Society of CPA

Seward's Ryan Burger was recently elected chairman of the Nebraska Society of CPAs at its fall conference 2020. Burger is a certified public accountant at Gabriel, Burger and Else, CPA in Seward.

In a short statement, the Nebraska

Society of CPAs congratulated Burger on his election win.

"We love your passion for the CPA profession and can't wait to see what the future holds under your leadership," a Nebraska Society of CPAs post said.

SHS students selected to compete

Seward High has selected the members of its 2020-2021 Academic Decathlon scheduled to compete in January in the large school division of the Nebraska Academic Decathlon program.

Seniors selected for the competition are Miriam Voehl, Jackson Soukup, Hannah Kolterman-Wagner, Cole Gray, Emily Gokie, Elizabeth Gokie, Ashton Conner, Tyler Calway, Andrew Alley and Braden Adams.

The US Academic Decathlon program follows the overall curricular them on "The Cold War." The tests will be given to the students in the subject areas of science with a focus on the space race, literature which includes the novel "Cat's Cradle" by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., art with an emphasis on art fundamentals and art during the cold war, music focusing on the various musical works from the Cold War era, social science promoting the history of the Cold War, economics emphasizing the economics of the Cold War and mathematics promoting

general math, geometry and an introduction to differential calculus.

The students will be divided into teams based on their academic grade scores and compete only with other students with the same grade point averages. All the students will take the same tests.

Students will be recognized individually and as a team at the regional gathering in Omaha. At that gathering, the students will compete in a special Academic Quiz Bowl based on the theme The Cold War.

The sponsors of the Seward High School Academic Decathlon Team are the School District of Seward High Ability Learner Program and the Seward Optimist Club.

The school district purchases the curriculum/study materials and the Seward Optimist Club donates and sponsors the special SHS Academic Decathlon team t-shirts and members assist in monitoring the local testing. The advisor/coach for the program at Seward High is SHS Counselor Noelle Baker.

Big Cob's Benson named to 40 under 40 list

Ben Benson, the CEO of Big Cob Hybrids in Seward, was recently named to The Scoop's list of the 40 individuals under the age of 40. The Scoop's 40 under 40 list is compiled of leaders in the ag retail industry who are nominated for the distinction.

Announcement of the award came this month from The Scoop, a sister publication of Farm Journal.

"To be under the age of 40 and to have started, and maintained, a successful independent seed company in the days of multi-national brands is no small feat," said Jason Ladman, the company's director

of sales who nominated Benson for the award. "Ben certainly deserves this award. He started Big Cob Hybrids from scratch with a vision of serving farms on a more individual level, and his commitment to helping farmers has never wavered."

Big Cob Hybrids, which just launched its new sales website, celebrated its 11th year of business in 2020. The company concentrates on providing farmers with exceptional seed, as well as proven, experienced crop planning guidance based upon individual grower's management practices and field conditions.

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





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Dennis Stastny of Bee, NE, is celebrating his 90th birthday. He and twin brother Dan were born December 27, 1930, to John and Agnes Stastny of Dwight, NE. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!**



We love you

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Please join us in celebrating him with a card party.

Dennis Stastny
2110 Q Rd. • Bee, NE 68314

THANK YOU

Thanks for the cards, phone calls, visits, food, memorials, Masses, and all the ways you showed your support and kindness after Don Suhr's passing.

Barbara Suhr and Family

With Our thanks

The family of Richard Rieger would like to thank everyone for their kindness shown to us after Richard's passing, through their prayers, phone calls, visits, food, flowers, cards and memorials.

A special thanks to Pastor Jon Dunbar for the comforting service.

Also, a special thanks to the UVFD for the last call.

We would like to thank Brad, Jill and family for the caring and guidance to our family.

LaDean Rieger
Mike and Cindy & family
Jo and Mike & family
Chris and Tammie & family

LET'S ALL MAKE THE 'NICE LIST'



The best gift you can give this holiday season is to celebrate safely.

Keep gatherings small. Wear a mask indoors and out. And be sure to check in on loved ones.

Let's work together so we can be back together.

DoRightRightNow.org




Turbulent time in local meatpacking environment

by Brady Oltmans
editor@sewardindependent.com

The American Civil Liberties Union of Nebraska, as well as the national ACLU, have filed a federal lawsuit against Noah's Ark Processors in Hastings after the meatpacking plant did not implement protections to shield workers against a surge of coronavirus cases.

Plant workers, whom the ACLU states are majority Latinx and immigrants, have been crowded together without proper personal protective equipment and without any abiding to social distancing, the ACLU claims.

"Noah's Ark has refused to implement even the most basic protections against a coronavirus surge in the plant," Spencer Amdur, attorney at the ACLU, said. "At this point

in the pandemic, there is no excuse for failing to do even the bare minimum to protect workers and the surrounding community."

One plaintiff in the lawsuit said management downplayed the severity of the disease before workers fell ill in late April. According to the lawsuit, workers who showed symptoms at work were told by management to return to their stations. The lawsuit also claims Noah's Ark did not pay sick leave when workers quarantined or were COVID-positive. That would directly go against the Coronavirus, Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed on March 27.

Noah's Ark does have a record of failing to provide for workers. A district court determined Noah's Ark illegally attempted to block workers

from joining a meatpacking workers union by seeking to slash benefits and workplace safety protections in October 2019. The U.S. Department of Labor fined the company in 2019 and 2020 for not paying sick leave or securing dangerous equipment.

Smithfield Foods in Crete has been praised for measures taken to protect workers at the meatpacking plant since an April outbreak resulted in 123 coronavirus cases tied to the plant. Implementing on-site testing, sneeze guards, hand sanitizer and paid sick leave are a few of the steps the plant has taken since the start of the pandemic.

Meatpacking plants across the country slowed production or shuttered doors briefly in the spring because of the spread of coronavirus.

That forced President Donald Trump to sign an executive order at the end of April to keep meat processing plants open in order to secure the food supply chain.

Now, with a vaccine upcoming, unions and special-interest groups call on meat packing workers to receive priority.

The National Pork Producers Council, National Cattlemen's Beef Association and North American Meat Institute sent letters to all 50 state governors for priority on a vaccine for ag and food workers following healthcare workers and long-term care residents.

The letters say meat and poultry workers and livestock producers have been on the front lines to ensure Americans have access to safe, nutritious and afford-

able food. They say prioritizing meat industry workers and livestock suppliers next would address a critical industry.

The Ag CEO Council shared priority papers with the Biden campaign and American Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall said he told Biden's transition team it's critical essential ag workers be included in the second tier of vaccine distributions.

"We just wanted to emphasize how important that is that after the needs of the workers on the frontline and the ones that are critical need to get that first, and then we need to make sure that we provide that for ag workers," he said.

He also called upon state farm bureaus to contact state leaders about the issue.

USDA releases information on safety-net programs

Farm and ranch management series webinar is Thursday, Dec. 17

Agricultural producers can now make elections and enroll in the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs for the 2021 crop year. The sign-up period is open through March 15, 2021, and producers are encouraged to begin working with their USDA county Farm Service Agency office now to complete the process.

These key U.S. Department of Agriculture safety-net programs help producers weather fluctuations in either revenue or price for certain crops. ARC/PLC payments for the 2019 production season were distributed in October, and payments for the 2020 production season will go out in fall 2021.

Producers can learn more about the ARC and PLC options during a University of Nebraska-Lincoln Farm and Ranch Management Series webinar scheduled for noon on Thursday, Dec. 17. Nebraska FSA Production and Compliance Programs Chief Cathy Anderson will present on ARC and PLC options for the 2021 production season, while Brad Lubben from the UNL Department of Agricultural Economics will discuss the economics of the programs and provide an Ag Policy Update. Those interested can register at go.unl.edu/ou4m.

ARC provides income support payments on historical base acres when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guaranteed level. PLC provides income support payments

on historical base acres when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its reference price.

Covered commodities include barley, canola, large and small chickpeas, corn, crambe, flaxseed, grain sorghum, lentils, mustard seed, oats, peanuts, dry peas, rapeseed, long grain rice, medium and short grain rice, safflower seed, seed cotton, sesame, soybeans, sunflower seed and wheat.

2021 elections and enrollment
Producers can elect coverage and enroll in crop-by-crop ARC-County or PLC, or ARC-Individual for the entire farm, for the 2021 crop year. Although election changes for 2021 are optional, enrollment (signed contract) is required for each year of the program. If a producer has a multi-year contract on the farm and makes an election change for 2021, it will be necessary to sign a new contract.

If an election is not submitted by the deadline of March 15, 2021, the election defaults to the current election for crops on the farm from the prior crop year.

All program participants are encouraged to review their previous program elections, Johner said.

For crop years 2022 and 2023, producers will have an opportunity to make new elections during those signups. Farm owners cannot enroll in either program unless they have a share interest in the farm.

Winter tetany a possible problem in cattle

by Aaron Berger
and Mary Drownoski
Nebraska Extension

To prevent winter tetany from harvested forages, there are several things for producers to consider

Grass tetany is considered a problem that usually occurs when cattle or sheep are eating lush, spring grass or annual cereal forages such as rye, wheat or triticale. However, it also can occur when cattle are being fed harvested forages.

Grass tetany, sometimes called grass staggers or hypomagnesaemia, is a metabolic disorder of cattle related to a deficiency of magnesium. Magnesium is a critical mineral to the nervous system and muscle function.

Low levels of magnesium can result in cattle that exhibit hyperexcitability, reduced feed intake and muscle twitching, especially around the face and ears. Cattle also may appear uncoordinated and walk with a stiff gait.

Grass tetany is most often associated with cattle grazing immature, cool-season grasses or lush annual forages. However, tetany also can occur during the winter when cattle are being fed grass hay, alfalfa hay or annual forages harvested for hay. This is especially true

if these hays are being fed in a drylot situation where they are the only source of feed.

Grass, alfalfa and cereal grains harvested for hay can be low in magnesium. A mineral analysis showing less than 0.15% magnesium in hay is considered low. When hay is low in magnesium and also low in calcium (less than 0.4%), while being simultaneously high in potassium (more than 2.5%), tetany is more likely to occur.

Recent forage test results, observed in the Nebraska Panhandle, have indicated that this could potentially be an issue with some hays harvested this year.

Forages likely to cause grass tetany often are borderline to low in magnesium while having excess levels of potassium. Usually, forages also tend to be low in sodium content. Because high potassium levels interfere with magnesium absorption, it's the excess potassium that induces tetany.

An imbalance of potassium, calcium and phosphorus in feed can hinder magnesium absorption from the di-

gestive system into the bloodstream, magnifying the problem of a low intake of magnesium. Sodium is important in transporting magnesium into cells, so it is crucial to provide adequate sodium (salt) to ensure proper magnesium utilization.

To prevent winter tetany from harvested forages, there are several things for producers to consider.

First, test hay for mineral concentrations to identify if an imbalance of magnesium, potassium and calcium is present.

If hay tests low in magnesium (less than 0.15%) and calcium (less than 0.40%) and high in potassium (more than 2.5%), consider feeding a high-calcium, high-magnesium mineral supplement (10% to 13% magnesium for a 4-ounce target intake mineral) that also contains salt.

Because magnesium oxide is bitter, adding dried distillers grains or soybean meal at the rate of 1 pound to 50 pounds of the mineral and salt mix can help to increase intake if consumption is not at targeted levels.

In instances where cattle are being hand-fed a protein or energy supplement, supplemental magnesium also can be delivered with the feed. If this occurs, make sure access to loose salt is provided as well.

Be sure to examine the concentration of potassium in mineral supplements. If feeds are already high in potassium, feeding additional potassium in a mineral only aggravates the problem.

Another option to consider when managing hay that is high in potassium and low in magnesium is feeding hay that is higher in calcium and magnesium together with it. Alfalfa can be high in potassium as well, so be sure to test it before feeding.

Winter tetany can be an unexpected problem as most producers are not looking for it at this time of year. Through forage testing for levels of calcium, potassium, phosphorus and magnesium present, producers can determine if action may be needed to prevent winter tetany from occurring.

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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Kate Hirschfeld, a senior at Centennial, has helped the Broncos to a 2-0 start. She scored 20 points, grabbed four steals and delivered five assists against Sandy Creek and finished with 16 points, four rebounds and five steals against Tri County.

Honorable Mention
Tarryn Hartman - Seward
Hannah Kepler - Milford
Alyssa Fortik - Malcolm

Konner Schluckebier, a senior at Milford, set a new school record for career wins with 140, winning that match in the finals of the Crete Invitational Dec. 12. It was also his 100th career pin.

Honorable Mention
• Nolan Hill - Seward
• Cooper Gierhan - Centennial
• Malcolm Saltzman - Malcolm

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Pastor's column

At the center of all the clutter

by Pastor Scott D. Bruick
St. John Lutheran Church

Well, the Christmas totes have been lugged out of the attic and closets so that we could decorate our abode on Fifth Street. It's that time of the year to "haul out the holly, put up the tree and fill up the stockings."

For many, this is "the season." We like to really go all out. Perhaps this year something that feels like normalcy, such as decorating for Christmas, may help us tremendously.

So, the tree goes up. The lights are lit. The decorations are hung. The knickknacks are set around. Then much to our amazement, the crazy clutter of Christmas starts to pile up around us, not only with the décor of December but also with the other stuff of the season.

That "stuff" of the season comes in various forms for each one of us: gatherings, card sending, gift buying, family traditions, events and the list goes on. It isn't long before the clutter of Christmas piles up to a point that oftentimes we feel overwhelmed or worn out days or even weeks before we get to the pinnacle of the season, Dec. 25. By the time Christmas Day rolled around in previous years, many of us found ourselves exhausted, frustrated, stressed and frazzled.

And that was all without the challenges in which we find ourselves this year. This year we all find added to the clutter of Christmas the perplexities of the pandemic. Talk about clutter!

In our home, the meaningful "centerpiece" of the décor of December is a nativity scene. Given to us as a wedding gift, this nativity scene has been set up for 33 years. In the midst of the clutter of each of those 33 Christmases that we have celebrated, sits this nativity scene. And at the heart of that nativity scene is the focal point of why all of us as Christ Followers celebrate during this Advent and Christmas season – JESUS!

This is an obvious point, but nevertheless, it became clear for me once again as I listened to and read news reports at the end of November and the beginning of December. Hearing concerns and arguments on how to safely celebrate the holidays, I was nudged in my mind to recall once again, no matter what is trying to clutter out Christmas this year, the focal point for us Christ Followers in this Advent and Christmas season is still at the center – JESUS!

He is still there at the center, not just in this season but at the center of our lives as our newborn King and Savior. He is still at the center of our lives, not as a little ceramic figurine but as our living Lord and Savior. Believe it or not, there is nothing, not even a pandemic and all of the issues connected to it, that can move Jesus from the center.

So, for me, and I pray for you, the concerns of the times will turn into a blessing for you and your family, helping to remove the clutter of celebrating Christmas and bring us more simply and clearly to the reality of God's gift to us in the manger.

It is with these thoughts that I share the lyrics from the following hymn. Though it is not considered a Christmas carol, I believe this year it may be one for me.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto Me and rest;

Lay down, O weary one, lay down Your head upon My breast."

I came to Jesus as I was, So weary, worn, and sad;

I found in Him a resting place, And He has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give

The living water; thirsty one, Stoop down, and drink, and live."

I came to Jesus, and I drank Of that life-giving stream;

My thirst was quenched, my soul revived, And now I live in Him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;

Look unto Me, your morn shall rise, And all your day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found In Him my star, my sun;

And in that light of life I'll walk Till traveling days are done.

And now I pray, Lord, by your mercy and grace, remove all of the clutter of Christmas again this year so that my loved ones and I can see Jesus, our Light and our Lord. Amen.

A long-standing partnership

Concordia University, Nebraska, and the community it serves have worked together for 126 years

by Zane Francescato
Seward County Chamber
Development Partnership

If there is one thing that economic development corporations and chambers of commerce like to see, it is businesses with three-digit business anniversaries.

There are plenty of these businesses in Seward County such as Hughes Brothers and the Rivoli Theatre to name a couple. This is not even taking into consideration the numerous, multi-generational family farms and civic organizations in and around Seward that have been forging forward the past century. Concordia University, Nebraska, is another entity that has a rich 126-year-old history in Seward County.

Founded in 1894 as the Evangelical Lutheran School Teachers Seminary (Evangelische Lutherische Schullehrer Seminar), Concordia has stood tall in the face of tornadoes, blizzards, two world wars, the Great Depression, Great Recession and now the Great COVID Reset. In this time, Concordia has seen many positive changes and additions since the initial gift of 20 acres of land and \$8,000 from four local families that led to Concordia being placed in Seward (Concordia history).

Currently, the university sits on 85 acres of land occupied by 11 academic and administration buildings and 11 residence halls, and offers more than 80 undergraduate and masters programs. In the past five years alone, Concordia has seen the addition of the \$26.5 million Dunklau Center for Science, Math and Business; made improvements to dorms, Weller Hall, Bulldog Stadium and Brommer Drive; and recently announced a \$17 million project to improve Concordia's music building.

Through the years, Concordia has attracted tens of thousands of young adults to Seward County seeking to change their lives and answer the call to seek a higher education.

Some of these students make Seward their permanent home after graduating, others leave the state returning home or pursuing gainful employment opportunities, and some eventually bounce back to either raise a family or retire in Seward County. As of November 2020, 3,548 Nebraskans have received degrees from Concordia, 587 of whom made their permanent home in Seward County.

Of this overall number of Concordia alumni in Seward County, 492 live within Seward itself. Many of the county's elected officials, both past and present, received their start at Concordia or have some intimate tie to the university via a spouse or employment opportunity. This goes without saying that Concordia has a deep-rooted history in the community, one that continues to grow as the years and faces come and go.

Economically speaking, Concordia is a powerhouse when it comes to the generation of income in the local and state economies. The Brookings Institute estimates that a single bachelor's degree holder contributes \$278,000 more to a local economy than the average high school graduate through direct spending over the course of their lifetime (Rothwell, 2015).

This impact does not include the rolling impact on a community over the course of the college year. Not only is Concordia home to over 1,200 undergrads living, working, and spending money locally, the university employs over 500 people and hosts multiple large-

scale events throughout the year drawing in thousands of people to the county.

The Council of Independent Nebraska Colleges Foundation estimates that Concordia has an estimated annual impact of over \$50 million on the Nebraska Economy (Gross, Strain, p. 39). And while Concordia's exact economic impact on the Seward has not been studied, simple napkin math reveals a small look into what it might be.

HSBC Holdings, a British multinational investment bank and financial services holding company, calculates that the typical four-year degree earner spends an average of \$16,566 on accommodation (rent), \$8,993 on food and groceries, \$7,262 on bills & utilities, \$4,097 on eating out, \$5,026 on entertainment, and \$3,435 on clothing over the course of their degree (HSBC Holdings plc, 2018).

For a community of Seward's size, and our relatively low cost of living, the typical four-year degree earner could spend an average of between \$2,000-\$15,000 a year on living expenses depending on a variety of circumstances including but not limited to economic backgrounds, employment situation, living circumstances and whether they have met Concordia's three-year on-campus living requirement.

Looking at Concordia's current undergrad population of roughly 1,268 students and multiplying that number by the estimated spending averages above, the rough data shows that in any given year Concordia students have the potential to contribute between \$2.5 million and \$19 million to the local economy depending on whether they live on or off campus.

Of course, these numbers are based on estimated data, and not every

cent a student spends necessarily stays local.

In a November 2016 edition of the Seward County Independent, then-Concordia President Brian Friedrich wrote a letter to the editor outlining the economic impact of Concordia on the Seward community. In part, he quoted a former Seward mayor who said, "What's good for Concordia is good for Seward, and what's good for Seward is good for Concordia."

Considering the events which have transpired over the course of 2020, this message could not be more on point. Despite the mounting odds, Concordia was able to keep students on campus rather than going 100% online. This move, while challenging for the university, was well executed by Concordia's faculty, staff and administration keeping vital dollars flowing through the community.

The Seward County Chamber and Development Partnership is grateful for Concordia's constant, multi-generational support of Seward County. We are thankful for their continued support of SCCDP and for continuing to provide generation after generation of mission-minded and service-focused students into not only communities across Nebraska, but the world.

While we are not out of the COVID-19 woods yet, we understand that without our hometown university, our community would be in a completely different situation today. Likewise, without the generous partnerships, extremely supportive community, and quality city and county services required to make Concordia function, our community would be without a hometown university.

And for that SCCDP and Concordia University, Nebraska thanks you, Seward County!

Police

Information provided by the Seward Police Department.

Nov. 29

1:38 a.m.—An officer reported they had stopped a vehicle without plates. A person was arrested for driving under suspension.

Nov. 30

11:30 p.m.—Following a traffic stop in the area of Highway 15 and Fletcher Road, a Lincoln man was

arrested on a warrant and transported to the justice center.

Dec. 2

6:32 a.m.—A caller in the area of Highway 34 and Crooked Mile Road reported they had hit a deer in the roadway. The driver was not injured but needed a tow truck.


5:38 p.m.—A caller in the 500

block of North Seventh Street reported there are two females riding

on a lawn mower in the street and was concerned because there are no lights and they may get hit.

Dec. 3

7:52 a.m.—A caller in the 900 block of Elm Street reported her 7-year-old-son was missing but later reported she found him in the neighbor's yard.



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At Blue Valley Community Action, our mission is overcoming poverty by helping people, improving lives and strengthening communities. Our goal is to identify the needs of the entire community and take action to improve life for everyone.

Anyone can shop at the Blue Valley Community Action Thrift Store at 105 S. 6th St. in Seward. When you do, all of the money stays in Seward County to help low-income individuals, families and veterans with:

- Food 📦 Rent & Utilities 📦 Holiday Gifts 📦 Healthcare Marketplace 📦 Head Start
- Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) 📦 Case Management 📦 Commodities
- WIC (Women, Infants & Children) Programs 📦 Children and Youth Services
- Budgeting and Financial Literacy 📦 School Supplies 📦 Home Weatherization



Our Customers

Low Income – Blue Valley Community Action Partnership focuses on services that can help families and individuals emerge from poverty or a crisis or prevent them from experiencing these conditions. Therefore, we take a holistic, family support approach to the services we provide. Whether you come to us with one need or multiple needs, we will take the time to assess your entire situation and recommend a variety of options that can help you meet your personal goals. Children and youth make up the largest portion of the low-income population we serve.

Elderly – Recognizing that the elderly constitute a vulnerable population, several services are available to senior citizens without regard to income. Remember, if we do not operate senior services in a particular county, we will gladly refer you to those who do.

General Public – We at Blue Valley Community Action Partnership seek to provide the general public with information on our mission, promise, principles and programs. We want people to understand who we are, what we do and why we are an important member of the communities we serve. Our website, www.bvca.net, is one small way to convey the message that BVCA Partnership is committed to our slogan: Helping People. Changing Lives. We encourage you to browse our site and learn more about BVCA Partnership. All we ask is that you review our Legal Notices and respect our terms and conditions.

Nonprofit Organizations – In today's competitive world, Blue Valley Community Action Partnership offers nonprofits a cost-effective alternative to the administrative requirements of many state and federal grants. By designating BVCA Partnership as their fiscal agent, small and startup nonprofits can enjoy the benefits of a sophisticated accounting system without having to duplicate this effort in-house. If you are interested in developing a collaborative project, contact us for additional information on our services.

Moderate Income – While many federal and state programs limit who can enroll, an increasing number allow us to support families of moderate means. If you, a friend or family member needs help, please call us. We will gladly discuss your situation and recommend programs and services available in your area.

Communities – In addition to serving individuals and families, Blue Valley Community Action Partnership works with local communities to develop housing, facilities, programs and services to meet our citizens' needs. Whether your community is considering a major housing development project or a simple tourism promotion, we may be able to complement your planning, grant writing and administrative efforts.

We take donations anytime during our normal business hours (Monday–Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

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Many churches have suspended services or are using online platforms due to COVID-19. Please use the information below to contact them directly about how they are conducting services during the Christmas season.

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graceseward.org
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It's Quiz (Bowl) time!



COURTESY PHOTO
The fifth grade class at St. John Lutheran School won the Fall 5/6 America Answers Quiz Bowl. St. John was one of 113 teams from 19 states signed up this year.

Seward veterans receive quilts of valor



COURTESY PHOTO
The Nebraska National Guard Museum hosted a Quilts of Valor ceremony recently. Joyce Sheehan presented quilts to Seward veterans Marlin Pozehl, left, and Ralph Hansen. The quilts were completed by volunteers in Broken Bow and Alliance.

Events happening this week

'TIL FURTHER NOTICE

Library doors closed to public

Seward Memorial Library has closed its doors to the public for the time being, but the drive-up window remains open all published hours as long as staff is available. Call the library at (402) 643-3318, text the staff at (402) 260-2202 or email the staff at info@sewardlibrary.org with requests or questions. The staff will be happy to have items ready for you to pick up when they are available.

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 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.

DURING DECEMBER

Test Nebraska set in Seward

Test Nebraska will be available in Seward 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. Dates for testing are Tuesdays, Dec. 22 and 29, Friday, Dec. 18, and Thursdays, Dec. 24 and 31.

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 Thursday, Dec. 17, from 6 to 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 19, from 3 to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 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.

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.

Utica Lions and Thrivent team up for food pantry donation

The Utica Lions and Thrivent teamed to collect food for the community food pantry at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Together they surpassed their goal of 500 items with a total of 972 food items collected. By exceeding the goal, Thrivent will pay \$500 to the food pantry through the

Thrivent Member Network - Nebraska Region as a generosity multiplier gift.

Various gift cards were also donated to pay for fresh fruits, vegetables, meat and dairy products.

Those wanting more information can contact Jody Weimer at (402) 641-5537.



Remember to shop local!

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- 8 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service with communion and candlelight

Christmas Day + Friday, December 25

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Reservations are required for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services—visit stjohnseward.org or call the church office (402-643-2983) beginning December 17.



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OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Broncos open with victories

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

After having the season delayed for a week, the Centennial Broncos hit the court Dec. 10 at Sandy Creek and brought home a 53-17 victory. The momentum continued into the weekend, when CHS beat Tri County 66-28.

"The girls were ready to play teams not wearing the same practice jersey," Coach Jake Polk said. "We just had to get out and play."

He said the team shared the ball well against Sandy Creek, handing out 18 assists, led by Daylee Dey's seven. CHS could have shot better from outside, but the team played tough defense and did a good job in transition, Polk said.

"We want to pressure and speed the game up," he said, adding that the Broncos' depth will be good for that as the season progresses.

Kate Hirschfeld scored 20 to lead the Broncos. Kiley Rathjen pulled down eight rebounds, as well.

Polk said the team wanted to start fast against Tri County and did so, leading 22-4 after the first quarter and 45-12 at halftime.

"We played fearless defense and continued to share the ball," he said. "They did a great job getting out to a fast start."

Ten of the 12 Broncos who suited up for the game got in the scoring column, led by 16 points from Hirschfeld and 11 from Dey.

Polk said this team's experience has been key to its 2-0 start. CHS had plans for camps and summer games but couldn't see them through because of



Jaycee Stuhr of Centennial lines up a shot over the Tri County defense Dec. 12.

COVID-19.

"This is an experienced and mature group," Polk said. "There's no lack of trust."

Centennial has tough tests on the schedule this week. The team was to play at Fairbury Dec. 15, host Milford Friday, Dec. 18, and visit Superior Saturday, Dec. 19.

"We'd love to get all three, but we just want to be competitive," Polk said. "This could be a defining point for this team."

The first two games of the season were the first in about two years for

senior Asia Nisly, who missed the last seasons with injuries.

He said the coaches sat down with the seniors to set goals for the year, and one, when asked what she was excited about for the 2020-21 campaign, said she was excited to play with Asia again.

"She's still catching her bearings," Polk said. "She's been great for us and huge for our team. They know how hard she worked to get back."

Centennial 53, Sandy Creek 17					
CHS	15	10	16	12	53
SCHS	1	10	4	2	17
CHS	—Kate Hirschfeld 7-13 4-5 20, Madison				

Centennial 66, Tri County 28					
CHS	22	23	7	14	66
TCHS	4	8	7	9	28
CHS	—Hirschfeld 8-13 0-1 16, Brandenburg 1-1 0-0 3, Green 3-5 0-0 8, Dey 5-8 0-0 11, Opfer 2-5 2-4 6, Rathjen 2-3 0-0 4, Avery 2-6 0-0 6, Nisly 1-6 1-2 3, Stuhr 3-5 0-1 8, Kalleigh Ziegler 0-2 0-0 0, Heidtbrink 0-0 1-2 1. Totals 27-54 4-10 66.				

Three-point goals—CHS 8-21 (Hirschfeld 0-2, Brandenburg 1-1, Green 2-4, Dey 1-3, Opfer 0-1, Avery 2-6, Nisly 0-2, Stuhr 2-2). Rebounds—CHS 37 (Opfer 9), Assists—CHS 21 (Nisly 5). Steals—CHS 20 (Hirschfeld 5). Blocked shots—CHS 2 (Dey, Ziegler 1). Turnovers—CHS 16. Fouls—CHS 14.					
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Seward 55 (Dec. 5)					
NBC	14	18	18	18	68
SHS	16	10	18	11	55
SHS	—Covalt 5-13 0-0 14, Schaefer 4-12 2-3 10, Trost 5-6 0-0 10, Piskorski 1-6 0-0 2, Sukup 2-3 0-0 4, Ruth 0-1 0-0 0, Limback 2-4 0-1 4, Schroeder 4-6 3-6 11.				

Three-point goals—CHS 4-15 (Covalt 4-8, Schaefer 0-2, Trost 0-1, Piskorski 0-4). Rebounds—SHS 28 (Trost 6). Assists—SHS 17 (Schaefer 7). Steals—SHS 4 (Schaefer, Trost 2). Blocked shots—SHS 1 (Schroeder 1). Turnovers—SHS 17. Fouls—SHS 19. Fouled out—Covalt, Piskorski.					
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Jaxon Weyand of Milford tries a scoop shot to avoid the Fairbury defender Dec. 11.

Eagles win pair on hardwood

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Milford boys picked up a pair of victories last week, beating Fairbury 52-27 Dec. 11 and Lincoln Lutheran 73-59 Dec. 12.

Coach Tony Muller was happy to see his team get out to a fast start against Fairbury. After allowing the Jeffs to hit a couple threes and draw fouls on drives to the basket, the Eagles cleaned up the defense and shut down the Jeffs the rest of the game.

MHS led 31-16 at the half and outscored Fair-

bury 17-5 in the third quarter.

"We ran the floor really well," Muller said.

Jaxon Weyand led the team with 18 points, and Seth Stutzman added 12 points. Micah Hartwig had a solid night with nine points, eight rebounds, three assists and three steals, and Kaleb Miller grabbed eight rebounds.

Another good start led the Eagles to the win the next day. Muller said the team played up-tempo ball and was able to sustain that through the game.

Weyand scored 19 for MHS, with Stutzman adding 17 points and seven rebounds. Hartwig finished with 11 points and nine assists, and Cabe Schluckebier notched eight points, eight rebounds and four assists.

Milford (3-0) is scheduled to visit Centennial Friday, Dec. 18, for a county and conference clash. On Saturday, Dec. 19, the team is to host Ashland-Greenwood. Tip off Friday is set for 7:30 p.m., while Saturday's game is set to start at 3:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 21, the Eagles are scheduled to host Bruning-Davenport/Shickley in the holiday tournament opener. Tip-off is set for 7:45 p.m.

The Eagles then finish their pre-Christmas games Tuesday, Dec. 22, at North Bend.

Milford 52, Fairbury 27					
FHS	13	3	5	6	27
MHS	16	15	17	4	52
FHS	—Totals 9-31 6-10 27.				

MHS—Isaac Yeackley 3-8 0-0 6, Micah Hartwig 4-7 0-0 9, Cason Tucker 0-1 0-0 0, Maddox Baack 0-3 0-0 2, Jaxon Weyand 7-15 4-7 18, Carter Roth 1-2 0-0 2, Kaleb Miller 1-3 1-3 3, Collin Piening 0-2 0-0 0, Seth Stutzman 6-12 1-2 13, Cabe Schluckebier 0-1 1-2 1. Totals 22-54 7-14 52.					
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Three-point goals—FHS 3-13, MHS 1-11 (Yeackley 0-1, Hartwig 1-2, Tucker 0-1, Baack 0-3, Weyand 0-2, Roth 0-1, Stutzman 0-1). Rebounds—FHS 22, MHS 37 (Hartwig, Miller 8). Assists—MHS 6 (Hartwig 3). Steals—MHS 16 (three with 3). Blocked shots—MHS 2. Turnovers—FHS 20, MHS 10. Fouls—FHS 11, MHS 10.					
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Milford 73, Lincoln Lutheran 59					
MHS	20	20	18	15	73
LLHS	9	15	20	15	59
MHS	—Yeackley 4-8 0-1 8, Hartwig 4-12 1-2 11, Bryce Jakub 1-1 0-0 2, Baack 2-3 0-0 6, Weyand 6-12 7-19 19, Roth 1-1 0-0 2, Stutzman 7-13 1-4 17, Schluckebier 2-5 4-5 8. Totals 27-55 13-19 73.				

Three-point goals—MHS 6-19 (Yeackley 0-2, Hartwig 2-8, Baack 2-3, Weyand 0-2, Stutzman 2-4), LLHS 6-23. Rebounds—MHS 30 (Schluckebier 8, LLHS 27). Assists—MHS 21 (Hartwig 9). Steals—MHS 8 (Yeackley, Baack 2). Blocked shots—MHS 1. Turnovers—MHS 10, LLHS 18. Fouls—MHS 17, LLHS 20.					
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Bluejays fight but fall in two games

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Seward boys' basketball team had a rough go Dec. 8 against Lincoln Christian. The Crusaders pulled away in the second half to win 75-36.

"They got us pretty good," Coach Trevor Menke said. "They're really good."

LCHS led 16-11 after the first quarter and 35-22 at halftime.

"Their big guy caused problems," Menke said. The Jays hung with LCHS for the first quarter, which the coach was happy to see. Now, he said, the team needs to string longer segments together.

On the bright side, he was pleased to see Sam Schroeder get the free throw line often. The junior was 11-14 from the stripe and finished with 13 points.

Seward hosted Grand Island Northwest Dec. 12 and lost 52-41. "We played pretty good," Menke said, adding that the Jays were only down a possession in the middle of the fourth quarter.

Drew Covalt led the Jays with 12 points, and Jackson Trost scored 11.

Leighton Limback came off the bench to add nine points and seven rebounds.

"We had a chance to take the lead late, but we'd miss a few shots and they'd make a few," Menke said.

"We need to take steps and keep improving."

Up next for the Jays (0-4) is a trip to Norris Friday, Dec. 18. The Titans are one of the top three teams in Class B, Menke said. The pre-Christmas scheduled ends at home against Lincoln Lutheran Tuesday, Dec. 22.

Lincoln Christian 75, Seward 36					
SHS	11	11	8	6	36
LCHS	16	21	21	17	75
SHS	—Drew Covalt 1-7 0-0 2, Traetyn Schaefer 1-7 0-0 2, Jackson Trost 0-5 4-4 4, Dalton Burt 0-1 0-0 0, Bryce Piskorski 2-8 2-2 6, Trevor Ruth 0-3 1-2 1, Andrew Frazey 0-1 0-0 0, Leighton Limback 2-6 0-0 5, Sam Schroeder 1-8 11-14 13.				

Three-point goals—SHS 2-6 (Covalt 0-3, Schaefer 0-3, Trost 0-5, Burt 0-1, Piskorski 0-4, Ruth 0-2, Frazey 0-1, Limback 2-4, Schroeder 0-4). Rebounds—SHS 21 (Schaefer 6). Assists—SHS 4 (Schroeder 2). Steals—SHS 2 (Schaefer, Gavin Sukup 1). Blocked shots—SHS 1 (Sukup 1). Turnovers—SHS 12. Fouls—SHS 18. Fouled out—Sukup.					
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Northwest 52, Seward 41					
SHS	10	11	10	11	41
SHS	—Covalt 3-10 5-8 12, Schaefer 2-6 2-4 6, Trost 4-8 0-1 11, Sukup 1-3 1-2 3, Limback 2-7 2-2 7, Schroeder 1-4 0-0 2.				

Three-point goals—SHS 5-23 (Covalt 1-7, Schaefer 0-2, Trost 3-7, Sukup 0-1, Limback 1-6). Rebounds—SHS 27 (Limback 8). Assists—SHS 9 (Covalt, Schaefer 3). Steals—SHS 5 (Schaefer 2). Turnovers—SHS 18. Fouls—SHS 23. Fouled out—Schroeder.					
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Hastings 50, Seward 38 (Dec. 3)					
SHS	8	9	8	13	38
HHS	11	9	16	14	50
SHS	—Covalt 5-13 2-3 17, Schaefer 3-8 2-2 8, Trost 2-4 0-0 5, Piskorski 0-2 0-0 0, Trevor Ruth				



Seward's Jackson Trost outraces Grand Island Northwest's Sam Hartman for a loose ball Dec. 12.

Three-point goals—SHS 6-23 (Covalt 5-11, Schaefer 0-4, Trost 1-3, Piskorski 0-2, Ruth 0-2, Limback 0-1). Rebounds—SHS 22 (Covalt, Schroeder 5). Assists—SHS 6 (Trost, Piskorski 2). Steals—SHS 3 (Schaefer 2). Turnovers—SHS 13. Fouls—SHS 15.					
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Three-point goals—SHS 4-15 (Covalt					
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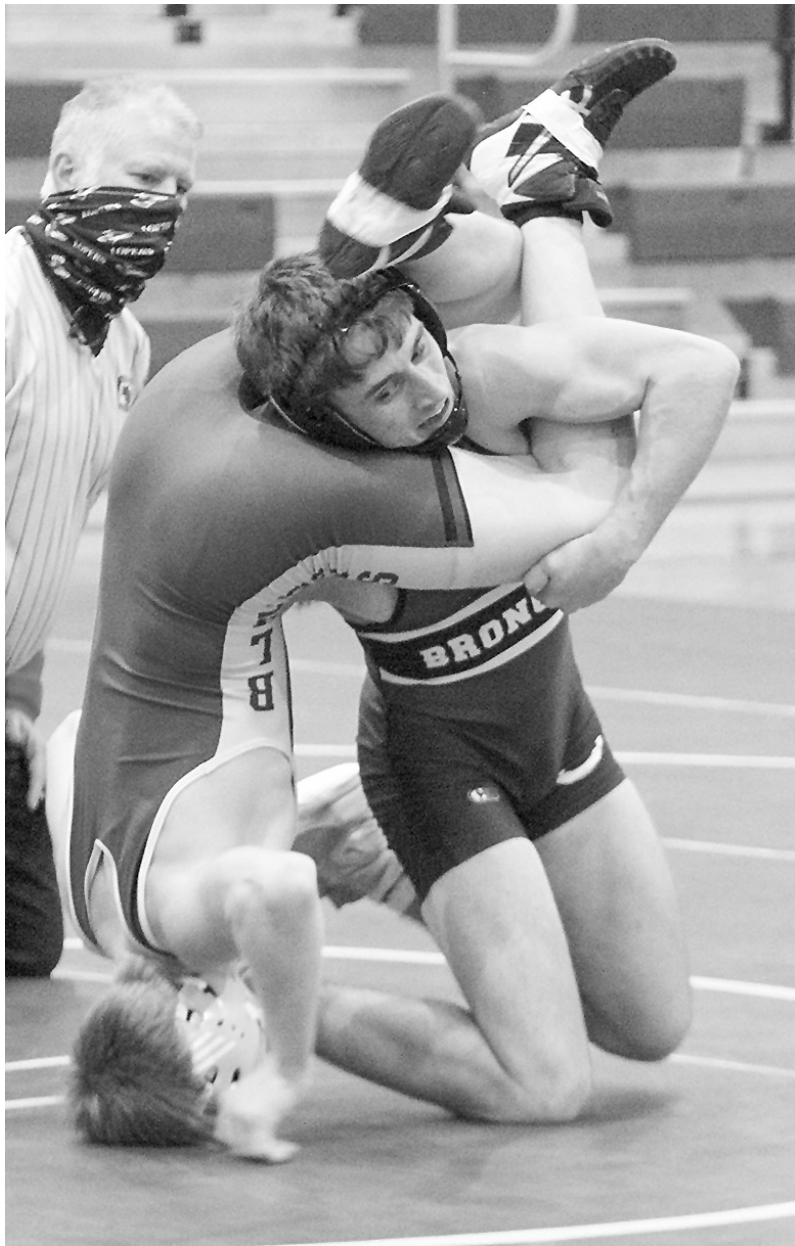
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It's the final full week of competition before the moratorium starts Wednesday, Dec. 23.



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Ryan Payne of Centennial flips Xander Foulk of Seward during the county triangular Dec. 10.

Broncos wrestle county opponents

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

Centennial's wrestlers made some improvements from week one to week two, but Coach Phil Payne said there's still work to do. The Broncos competed in the county triangular Dec. 10 at Seward and, although they lost the duals to Milford and Seward, Payne said they wrestled well.

Ryan Payne had a rematch with Milford's Eli Vondra and lost 4-3. Coach Payne said the strategy was to let Vondra up and then score a takedown to win the match. Ryan Payne couldn't get the takedown, however. In the dual with Seward, Payne pinned Xander Foulk.

Tyson Rodewald is also wrestling well to start the season, even though he's wrestling up a weight. Rodewald wrestled Milford's Thomas Vance in a rematch and lost 8-2. He also pinned Hunter Novacek of Seward.

The 195-pound match in the dual with Milford featured a family match-up between Samuel Payne of CHS and Hunter Oborny of MHS. Payne lost 3-1.

"We didn't do enough to

score," Coach Payne said. "We have to be the aggressor."

Coach Payne said some of the Broncos are not at their final competition weights. When they are, CHS will only be open at one weight class instead of five, which will make it a better dual team.

"That's something to look forward to," the coach said.

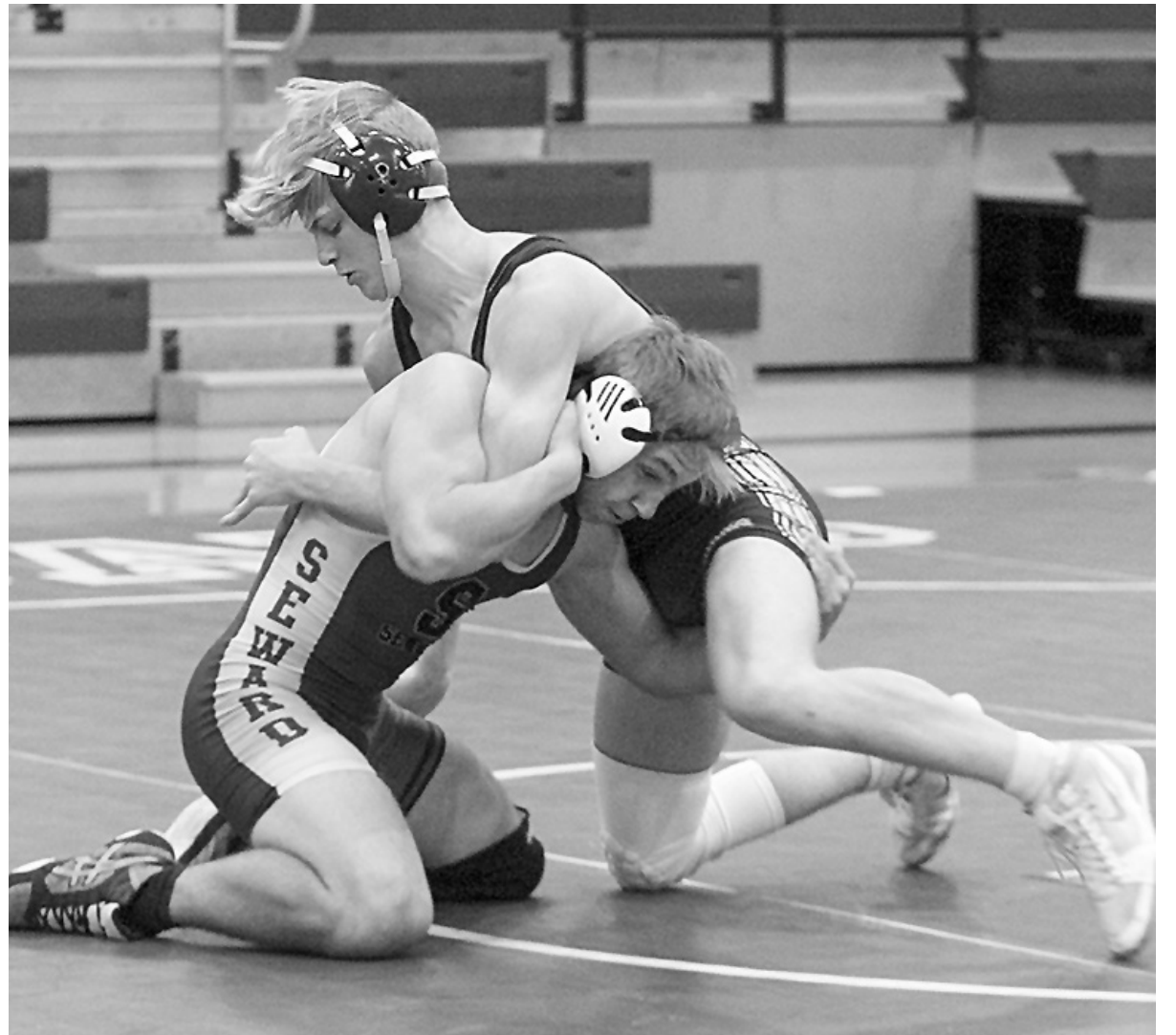
Centennial is scheduled to host a triangular Thursday, Dec. 17, at 5:30 p.m. with Cross County and Raymond Central. On Saturday, Dec. 19, CHS is slated to wrestle in the Wahoo Invitational. The Sutton Duals Tuesday, Dec. 22, close the pre-Christmas schedule.

Milford 57, Centennial 12

106: Trayton Stewart (C) win by forfeit; 113: Conner Kohout (M) win by forfeit; 120: Double forfeit; 126: Konner Schluckebier (M) pin Keenan Kosek (C) 1:48; 132: Eli Vondra (M) def. Ryan Payne (C) 4-3; 138: Jack Chapman (M) win by forfeit; 145: Trent Stauffer (M) win by forfeit; 152: Keenan Troyer (M) pin Cyrus Songster (C) 4:27; 160: Carter Springer (M) win by forfeit; 170: Christopher Scdoris (M) pin Garrett Schernikau (C) 1:13; 182: Thomas Vance (M) def. Tyson Rodewald (C) 8-2; 195: Hunter Oborny (M) def. Samuel Payne (C) 3-1; 220: Lorenzo Temple (M) pin Nickolas Keith (C) 0:14; 285: Carson Fehlhafer (C) pin Trey Lyon (M) 0:42

Seward 42, Centennial 36

106: Trayton Stewart (C) win by forfeit; 113: 120: Cash Duncan (S) win by forfeit; 126: Keenan Kosek (C) win by forfeit; 132: Ryan Payne (C) pin Xander Foulk (S) 3:08; 138: Conner Rosendale (S) win by forfeit; 145: Breckin Schoepf (S) win by forfeit; 152: Cameron Schrad (S) win by forfeit; 160: Boone Duncan (S) pin Cyrus Songster (C) 5:09; 170: Nolan Hill (S) pin Garrett Schernikau (C) 1:45; 182: Tyson Rodewald (C) pin Hunter Novacek (S) 2:43; 195: Samuel Payne (C) pin Dustin Hurley (S) 3:22; 220: Ethan Woolard (S) pin Nickolas Keith (C) 1:38; 285: Carson Fehlhafer (C) win by forfeit



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Christopher Scdoris of Milford (back) works for position against Seward's Nolan Hill Dec. 10.

Eagles win county, third at Crete

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Milford wrestlers finished another good week, winning the county triangular Dec. 10 and finishing third in their side of the Crete Invitational Dec. 12, as well as setting a pair of new school records.

MHS beat both Seward and Centennial 57-12 in duals at Seward. Both Milford losses came from wrestlers making their high school debuts against tough opponents, Coach Joe Schluckebier said.

"Seward came out really physical, but our guys responded well and came out on top of some close matches," he said. "The marquee matchup in the Centennial dual was a second meeting between Eli Vondra and Ryan Payne who are both ranked at 132 pounds, with Vondra coming out on top again in a 4-3 match.

"We take a lot of pride in winning the county triangular and this is the second straight year we were able to do so. These kids all know each other pretty well and there are some neat friendships and rivalries between them."

The Eagles headed to Crete Saturday. The teams were divided based on how they did at state last year. Milford finished third behind Beatrice and Nebraska City.

Schluckebier said Beatrice is one of the top teams in Class B, while Nebraska City had more wrestlers competing than Milford.

Konner Schluckebier and freshman Hunter Oborny

were the lone Eagle champions on the day.

"By comparison, last year we were second out of 16 teams without having a single champion," Coach Schluckebier said. "Konner took care of business with three dominating wins. Hunter had a tough bracket with two returning state qualifiers, but our freshman had an outstanding day going 4-0 in a round-robin bracket.

"Hunter is a seasoned freshman and he's off to a 10-1 start on the season. Christopher Scdoris, Carter Springer, and Eli Vondra all finished second after suffering their first losses of the season."

Jack Chapman, Trent Stauffer and Lorenzo Temple were third. Conner Kohout, Keenan Troyer and Thomas Vance finished fourth.

"Our team has a lot of individuals who are capable of being the top performer on any given week, and they push each other every day," the coach said.

En route to his Crete invite championship, Konner Schluckebier set a new school record for career wins by picking up his 140th win in the finals, besting former teammate Javeen Scdoris' mark of 139 career wins from last year. In that same match, he recorded his 100th career pin, which extends his school record for career pins after passing Sam Copley late last year."

The Eagles are scheduled to wrestle at Axtell Dec. 15 and in the Logan View Invitational Saturday, Dec. 19.

Milford 57, Seward 12

106: Double forfeit; 113: Conner Kohout (M) win by forfeit; 120: Cash Duncan (S) win by forfeit; 126: Konner Schluckebier (M) pin Keenan Kosek (C) 1:48; 132: Vondra (M) def. Ryan Payne (C) 4-3; 138: Chapman (M) win by forfeit; 145: Stauffer (M) win by forfeit; 152: Troyer (M) pin Cyrus Songster (C) 4:27; 160: Springer (M) win by forfeit; 170: Scdoris (M) pin Garrett Schernikau (C) 1:13; 182: Thomas Vance (M) def. Tyson Rodewald (C) 8-2; 195: Oborny (M) def. Samuel Payne (C) 3-1; 220: Temple (M) pin Nickolas Keith (C) 0:14; 285: Carson Fehlhafer (C) pin Trey Lyon (M) 0:42

Milford 57, Centennial 12

106: Stewart (C) win by forfeit; 113: Kohout (M) win by forfeit; 120: Double forfeit; 126: Schluckebier (M) pin Keenan Kosek (C) 1:48; 132: Vondra (M) def. Ryan Payne (C) 4-3; 138: Chapman (M) win by forfeit; 145: Stauffer (M) win by forfeit; 152: Troyer (M) pin Cyrus Songster (C) 4:27; 160: Springer (M) win by forfeit; 170: Scdoris (M) pin Garrett Schernikau (C) 1:13; 182: Thomas Vance (M) def. Tyson Rodewald (C) 8-2; 195: Oborny (M) def. Samuel Payne (C) 3-1; 220: Temple (M) pin Nickolas Keith (C) 0:14; 285: Carson Fehlhafer (C) pin Trey Lyon (M) 0:42

Crete Invite

Team scores—Beatrice 195.5, Central City 193, Nebraska City 165, Milford 150.5, Adams Central 124, Ashland-Greenwood 121, Norris 115.5, Syracuse 112, Malcol 102, Seward 99, Crete 88, Omaha Bryan 86.5, Wilber-Clatonia 69, Fairbury 47

113—Kohout (MIL) pin Tristan Reinke (BTR) 1:13; def. by Collin Mangnall (BTR) 7-6; pinned by Chase Landreth (NC) 0:35; def. Gabe Hartman (NC) 7-5, fourth

126—Schluckebier (MIL) def. Colton Jelinek (BTR) 15-0; pin Yusuf Mohamad (OB) 2:34; pin Sam Draus (NC) 1:14, first

132—Vondra (MIL) pin Bryce Teut (MAL) 0:45; pin Connor Gerths (FBY) 3:15; def. by Drew Arnold (BTR) 15-0, second

132—Brody Mach (MIL) pinned by Jesse Rodriguez (NC) 1:57; pinned by Drew Arnold (BTR) 1:08; pin Bryce Teut (MAL) 0:39

138—Chapman (MIL) def. by Tommy Lokken (WC) 13-4; def. Colt Relling (MAL) 5-1; pin Angel Reyes (OB) 2:29, third

145—Stauffer (MIL) pin Cayden Witzel (MAL) 1:05; def. by Tobin Wingender (OB) 4-3; pin Ethan McCown (FBY) 0:55; def. Zander Baker (WC) 8-1, third

152—Troyer (MIL) pinned by Cole Maschmann (BTR) 5:12; pin Landon Trimm (FBY) 2:09; def. by Brett Powers (BTR) 4-3, fourth

160—Springer (MIL) pin Cael Kreifelt (NC) 3:01; pin Jarrett Koch (BTR) 5:55; pinned by Gavin Zoucha (MAL) 3:34, second

170—Scdoris (MIL) pin Connor Nuemeister (NC) 0:52; pin Logan Hobbs (NC) 1:24; def. by Torrance Keehn (BTR) 14-7, second

170—Voboril (MIL) pin Cooper Witte (MAL) 1:19; def. by Torrance Keehn (BTR) 16-1; def. by Josh Stewart (MAL) 7-3; pin Trevor Lohrman (MAL) 0:55

182—Vance (MIL) pin Ethan Buchli (MIL) 1:15; pinned by Jacob Schoenauer (OB) 0:56; pin Clay DuVall (NC) 0:41; def. by Deegan Nelson (BTR) 8-3, fourth

182—Ethan Buchli (MIL) pinned by Thomas Vance (MIL) 1:15; pinned by Ashton McCown (FBY) 1:44

195—Oborny (MIL) pin Riley Donahoe (MAL) 1:26; pin Sawyer Kunc (WC) 3:21; pin Braeden Chipman (NC) 0:30; pin Brock Ostedier (BTR) 2:00, first

220—Temple (MIL) pinned by Nolan Bahnsen (BTR) 0:57; pinned by Mikah Ruiz (NC) 5:50, third

285—Lyon (MIL) pinned by Gavin Bailey (NC) 2:38; pinned by Zack Pasco (MAL) 2:44

Jays split triangular; wrestle tourney at Crete

by Stephanie Croston
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After going 1-1 at the Seward County Triangular Dec. 10, the Seward wrestlers headed to Crete for a tournament Dec. 12.

Coach Bob Core took eight wrestlers, and all won at least one match.

"For what we took, we did well," he said.

Nolan Hill was the only Bluejay in the championship finals, and he finished second at 170 pounds.

Cash Duncan, Xander Foulk, Brecken Schoepf and Dustin Hurley finished third in their divisions, and Conner Rosendale, Boone Duncan and Hunter Novacek were fourth.

It was the first bracketed tournament for the Bluejays, and Core said his wrestlers were more aggressive than they had been in the team's duals.

In the triangular, the Jays lost to Milford 57-12 but beat Centennial 42-36.

"We didn't wrestle bad," Core said. "We were able to do good things and got better from a week ago."



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Boone Duncan of Seward tries to flatten Cyrus Songster's shoulders to the mat during a match Dec. 10.

The Jays will close the pre-Christmas portion of the season at the Platteview Invitational Friday, Dec. 18. Included in the tournament are Aurora, Nebraska City and High Plains.

Core said the competition is a dual tournament at

two sites to comply with the COVID-19 protocols.

He's looking forward to having the Jays at their competition weights. After Christmas, Seward should have just two open weight classes.

"We have a lot clumped at weights," he said. "We need to

spread out."

The Jays are working hard and doing everything the coaches are asking, Core said.

"We are young, but they're doing a nice job," he said.

Milford 57, Seward 12

106: Double forfeit; 113: Conner Kohout (M) win by forfeit; 120: Cash Duncan (S) win by forfeit; 126: Konner

Schluckebier (M) win by forfeit; 132: Eli Vondra (M) pin Xander Foulk (S) 0:49; 138: Jack Chapman (M) def. Conner Rosendale (S) 7-4; 145: Trent Stauffer (M) def. Breckin Schoepf (S) 8-4; 152: Cameron Schrad (S) pin Keenan Troyer (M) 4:39; 160: Carter Springer (M) pin Boone Duncan (S) 1:22; 170: Christopher Scdoris (M) def. Nolan Hill (S) 9-8; 182: Thomas Vance (M) pin Hunter Novacek (S) 1:02; 195: Hunter Oborny (M) pin Dustin Hurley (S) 1:40; 220: Lorenzo Temple (M) win by forfeit; 285: Kasen Petsch (M) win by forfeit

JV: 182: Isaac Voboril (M) pin Conner Towle (S) time not available; 182: Ethan Buchli (M) pin Matt Flyr (S) 2:19

Seward 42, Centennial 36

106: Trayton Stewart (C) win by forfeit; 113: 120: C. Duncan (S) win by forfeit; 126: Keenan Kosek (C) win by forfeit; 132: Ryan Payne (C) pin Xander Foulk (S) 3:08; 138: Rosendale (S) win by forfeit; 145: Schoepf (S) win by forfeit; 152: Schrad (S) win by forfeit; 160: B. Duncan (S) pin Cyrus Songster (C) 5:09; 170: Hill (S) pin Garrett Schernikau (C) 1:45; 182: Tyson Rodewald (C) pin Hunter Novacek (S) 2:43; 195: Samuel Payne (C) pin Hurley (S) 3:22; 220: Ethan Woolard (S) pin Nickolas Keith (C) 1:38; 285: Carson Fehlhafer (C) win by forfeit

Crete Invite

Team scores—Beatrice 195.5, Central City 193, Nebraska City 165, Milford 150.5, Adams Central 124, Ashland-Greenwood 121, Norris 115.5, Syracuse 112, Malcol 102, Seward 99, Crete 88, Omaha Bryan 86.5, Wilber-Clatonia 69, Fairbury 47

120—C. Duncan (SEW) def. Mitchell Jacobs (NOR) 11-1; def. by Tristan Burbach (CC) 6-3; pin Marlon Gomez (CRT) 1:55; def. Jace Goebel (SYR) 7-1, third

132—Foulk (SEW) def. by Aidan Adams (NOR) 5-4; pin Michael Mertens (AC) 1:23; pin Nathan Mieth (AC) 2:10, third

138—Rosendale (SEW) pin Creighton Orchard (SYR) 1:44; pinned by Dyson Kunz (CC) 0:27; pin Treyton Tweton (AG) 2:23; pinned by Caden Eggleston (NOR) 2:10, fourth

145—Schoepf (SEW) pin Ethan Guthard (NEOR) 0:35; pinned by Kane VonBonn (CC) 5:48; pin Ty Beetsion (AG) 0:41; def. Cooper Bice (NOR) 9-0, third

160—B. Duncan (SEW) pin Bryce Draeger (SYR) 1:47; def. by Cooper Spaulding (NOR) 15-0; pin Nathan Upton (AG) 4:23; pinned by Bryce Sutton (CC) 2:37, fourth

170—Hill (SEW) pin Isaiah Reed (SYR) 3:26; pin Zachary Fleischer (AC) 5:31; pin Zach Pittman (NOR) 0:49; pinned by Sam Moore (CC) 5:11, second

182—Novacek (SEW) pinned by Kyle Dittmer (CC) 0:48; pin Josh Hoyos (CRT) 5:20; pinned by Burton Brandt (SYR) 0:35; pinned by Cinch Beetsion (AG) 1:14, fourth

195—Hurley (SEW) pinned by Luke Lambert (AG) 0:43; pinned by Jackson Nordhues (SYR) 5:26; pin Logan Rohloff (CC) 0:58, third

Coaches had to be flexible with restrictions

by Heath Kramer
Seward County Independent

They were just about to get started when the plug got pulled. Four Malcolm sports teams successfully navigated a fall sports season in which they competed in over 90% of their scheduled contests. A look at how Big Ten football has gone will tell you that a completion rate like that is to be applauded.

With excitement for a winter sports season growing, the frustration was understandable when, on Nov. 20, Lincoln Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird and Lancaster County Health Director Pat Lopez announced that, due to a growing number of cases, high positivity rates and the potential of overcrowded hospitals, they were putting high school and youth sports on hold in the county until at least Dec. 7.

"That was tough," Malcolm wrestling coach Matt Coufal

said. "We had just done a week of conditioning, and we were looking forward to practices starting that next Monday and then that happened."

With schools in 92 other counties able to start practices, Malcolm and 14 other Lancaster County high schools were suddenly at a competitive disadvantage.

"At first, we were told we couldn't do anything with the kids," Coufal said. "It was just a waiting game."

A week later the health department came back and said the students could do workouts, but there was to be no contact and balls were not to be used.

"They didn't want the kids touching each other or anything anyone else had touched," Malcolm girls' basketball coach Andy Klepper said. "So we could do conditioning and run through some of our plays but without a ball and without bumping into each other. That wasn't

that productive."

"You can do a lot of running to get you into shape, but that's not really wrestling shape," Coufal said. "Without being able to get on the mats and grapple, you really can't get conditioned like you need to for wrestling."

The Malcolm boys' basketball team spent their shutdown time doing work on their own.

"We posted workouts for the boys to do and told them to find a hoop somewhere and shoot as much as you can," Malcolm boys' coach Chris Lewandowski said. "We also posted our playbook and videos of our plays and asked the guys to study hard so we wouldn't have so much to explain once we could practice again."

A major challenge for the coaches was the morale of their players.

"Our girls took it hard," Klepper said. "They were excited about getting started

and then we had to tell them everything was on hold. As you can imagine, there were some tears."

"The toughest part was trying to explain to them why we had to stop," Lewandowski said. "No one seemed to have a good answer for that."

"I understand the seriousness of the pandemic and I don't take that lightly, but when schools less than 15 miles down the road were going full bore and we're sitting, that's tough to take. What bugged me even more was that we were making all these sacrifices and taking so many precautions and schools in other parts of the state seemed to be wide open."

The county's directed health measure was allowed to expire on Dec. 7 and the teams that had missed more than two weeks of practice and the opening week of their season were allowed to resume activities. All of the

coaches agree that their athletes made the most of a hard situation.

"I'm really proud of how our guys used their time when we weren't able to work with them in person," Lewandowski said. "We played our first game after just one practice and we were in the game to the end."

"Our boys held their own in terms of conditioning too. That wouldn't have been the case had they not done work on their own."

"I think having the girls do some player-led conditioning workouts may have actually brought our girls together," Klepper said. "They see the importance of being there for each other and picking each other up."

"What we've learned these past 10 months is that teenagers are resilient," Coufal said. "Look at all that we've put them through and they just continue to adapt to the new rules and move on."



DOUG CARROLL/SCI

Seward's Abbey Ringler splits a pair of Grand Island Northwest defenders as she drives to the basket Dec. 12 in Seward.

Jays stay close but end short

by Stephanie Croston
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Seward's girls' basketball team faced tough competition last week in Lincoln Christian and Grand Island Northwest.

The Jays battled hard, Coach Beth Bohuslavsky said, but came up short to the Crusaders 57-47 Dec. 8 and to Northwest 58-40 Dec. 12.

Bohuslavsky said she said good things from the Jays at Lincoln Christian. Tarryn Hartman scored a career-high 17 points, making three from beyond the arc.

"In the second half she took over and gave us a big spark," Bohuslavsky said.

Eden Schulz also provided a spark off the bench with seven points, the coach said.

Seward cut the LCHS lead to four with about four minutes left but couldn't get enough stops to pull out the win.

Abbey Ringler finished with five points and eight rebounds, and Hannah Benedict dished out five assists.

On Saturday, Northwest had one of its best shooting games of the season, Bohuslavsky

said. GINW was 20-43 shooting in the Vikings' win.

The Jays stayed with GINW until the fourth quarter, when the Vikings were able to pull away.

Benedict led the team with 10 points and four assists. Ringler added seven points and five boards.

"We had good looks, but they didn't fall," Bohuslavsky said.

The Jays were scheduled to host Elkhorn North Dec. 15 and travel to Norris Friday, Dec. 18.

Lincoln Christian 57, Seward 47

SHS 16 6 14 11 47
LCHS 18 13 14 12 57

SHS—Tanya Miller 1 0-1 3, Dalaney Anderson 1 0-0 2, Tarryn Hartman 6 2-4 17, Eden Schulz 2 2-2 7, Hannah Benedict 2 0-0 5, Anna Hughes 10-0 2, Abbey Ringler 2 1-5 5, Ellie Greisen 1 0-0 2, Madison Dominy 1 0-0 2, Ona Stutzman 0 2-4 2, Totals 17-49 7-16 47.

LCHS—Totals 21-69 9-16 57.

Three-point goals—SHS 6 (Miller 1, Hartman 3, Benedict 1), Rebounds—SHS 40 (Ringler 8), Assists—SHS 9 (Benedict 5), Steals—SHS 6 (Hartman 2), Blocked shots—SHS 3 (Ringler 2), Turnovers—SHS 24, LCHS 17, Fouls—SHS 16, LCHS 15.

Northwest 58, Seward 40

GINW 10 12 16 19 58
SHS 10 4 16 10 40

GINW—Totals 20-43 12-23 58.

SHS—Miller 0-2 1-2 1, Anderson 0-0 1-2 1, Hartman 1-5 1-3 3, Schulz 2-5 0-0 5, Benedict 4-9 1-2 10, Hughes 1-6 0-2 2, Ringler 3-5 1-1 7, Dominy 1-1 1-1 3, Greisen 0-3 0-0 0, Keira Litteras 0-1 1-2 1, Stutzman 1-2 0-0 3, Totals 13-39 7-15 40.

Three-point goals—GINW 5-14, SHS 3-20 (Miller 0-2, Hartman 0-4, Schulz 1-3, Benedict 1-2, Hughes 0-3, Ringler 0-1, Greisen 0-2, Litteras 0-1, Stutzman 1-2), Rebounds—GINW 32, SHS 21 (Ringler 5), Assists—SHS 8 (Benedict 4), Steals—SHS 5 (five with 1), Turnovers—GINW 17, SHS 17, Fouls—GINW 13, SHS 18.

Milford girls go 1-1 on hardwood

by Stephanie Croston
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Although the Milford girls' basketball team went 1-1 in last week's games, Coach Phil Stauffer was disappointed in their play.

The Eagles held on to beat Fairbury 42-40 Dec. 11 and lost to Lincoln Lutheran 42-34 Dec. 12.

Stauffer said the Eagles didn't rebound well against Fairbury, allowing 15 offensive boards for the Jeffs.

"When we did get rebounds, we were able to get our transition game going and get easy baskets," he said.

Milford finished with 19 rebounds to 31 for Fairbury. Taylor Roth led the team with four.

On offense, Hannah Kepler and Kaitlin Kontor shot well, Stauffer said. Kontor finished with 18 points, and Kepler scored 16. Kontor was 4-5 from three-point range.

Stauffer said Alayna Piening gave the Eagles a defensive spark off the bench in the second half. Abby Houk also played good defense, Stauffer said.

The Eagles made too many mistakes in the game at Lincoln Lutheran.

"Unforced turnovers and defensive mistakes have to get better. Offensively we could not get any rhythm going," he



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Milford's Hannah Kepler braces for impact as she turns toward the basket against Fairbury Dec. 11.

said.

Kepler led the team with 18 points.

"We will get better from this loss," Stauffer said.

Milford (2-1) was scheduled to host Ashland-Greenwood Dec. 15 and travel to Centennial Friday, Dec. 18, for a 6 p.m. tip-off. The team is slated to host Bruning-Davenport/Shickley Monday, Dec. 21, at 6

p.m. in the first round of the holiday tournament and then finish in the pre-Christmas schedule at North Bend Tuesday, Dec. 22.

Milford 42, Fairbury 40

FHS 9 10 4 17 40
MHS 11 7 14 10 42

FHS—Totals 15-46 7-10 40.

MHS—Makena Stutzman 0-6 2-2 2, Kaitlin Kontor 6-7 2-2 18, Hannah Kepler 6-13 2-4 16, Alayna Piening 0-1 0-0 0, Kaitlyn Klug 0-1 0-0 0, Taylor Roth 1-2 1-2 3, Abby Houk 1-3 0-2 3, Totals 14-33 7-12 42.

Three-point goals—FHS 3-19, MHS 7-19 (Stutzman 0-6, Kontor 4-5, Kepler 2-5, Houk 1-3). Rebounds—FHS 31 MHS 19 (Roth 4), Assists—

MHS 9 (Kepler 4), Steals—MHS 11 (Kontor, Piening 3), Blocked shots—MHS 1 (Kontor 1), Turnovers—FHS 16, MHS 15, Fouls—FHS 12, MHS 11.

Lincoln Lutheran 42, Milford 34

MHS 9 3 11 11 34
LLHS 9 13 11 9 42

MHS—Stutzman 0-1 0-0 0, Kontor 1-5 1-1 3, Kepler 6-13 3-3 18, Piening 1-2 0-0 2, Klug 0-1 0-0 0, Roth 0-0 3-4 3, Sydney Stelling 1-2 1-2 3, Houk 1-5 3-6 5, Totals 10-29 11-16 34.

LLHS—Totals 15-39 12-20 42.

Three-point goals—MHS 3-14 (Stutzman 0-1, Kontor 0-3, Kepler 3-8, Houk 0-2), LLHS 0-7.

Rebounds—MHS 23 (Roth 5), LLHS 26. Assists—MHS 7 (Kontor 5), Steals—MHS 5 (Kepler 2), Blocked shots—MHS 2 (Kontor, Houk 1), Turnovers—MHS 22, LLHS 14, Fouls—MHS 18, LLHS 16, Fouled out—Houk.

Concordia University

Wrestling

The Concordia University wrestling team knew it had little margin for error while up against Morningside in Dec. 10's home opener inside Friedrich Arena.

The visiting Mustangs snapped a GPAC dual win streak of 10 for the Bulldogs by taking six of 10 matches, including three with bonus points. Concordia junior Issiah Burks managed to edge a nationally-ranked opponent in what amounted to a 28-12 team loss.

In the four matches Concordia (2-2, 2-1 GPAC) won, it had to scrap and claw and come through in the waning moments of the third period. From a ratings perspective, Burks produced one of the more significant victories of his career in holding off NAIA No. 13 John Diener at 157 pounds. Burks collected all of his points in the 3-2 win in

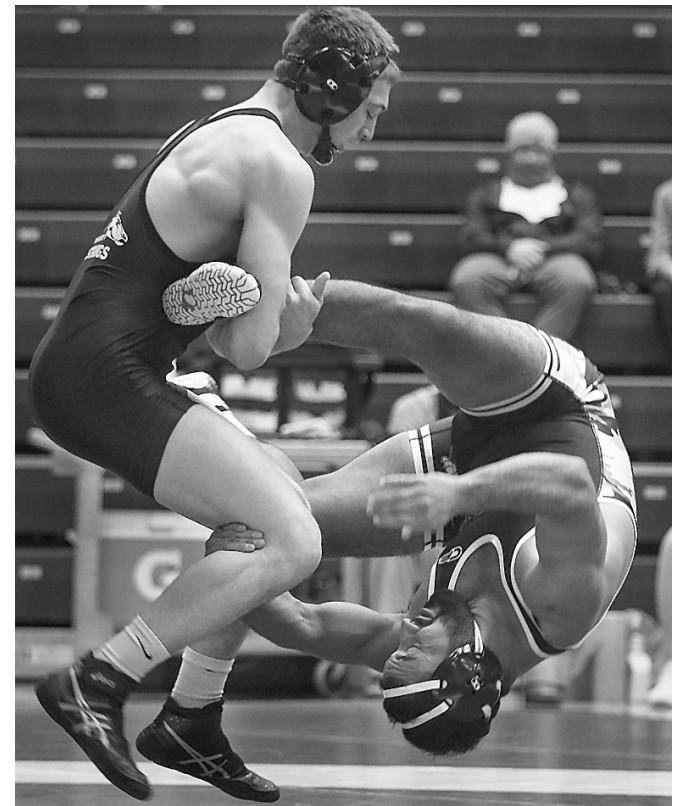
the final period. In similar fashion, freshmen Javeen Scdoris (149) and Jacob Telles (285) eked out victories courtesy of takedowns just before the clock ticked out.

Next up on the schedule are the Concordia Bulldog Duals set for Saturday, Dec. 19, inside Friedrich Arena. The full slate for that event will be publicized early next week. Consistent with local COVID-19 health guidelines, Concordia will allow up to 25% capacity in the arena.

Men's basketball

The Concordia University men's basketball team capitalized with big runs in both halves to dispatch Mount Marty 82-71 Dec. 9. The hosts burst out of the gates with a 12-0 run to start the game and a 13-0 run to start the second half to aid their efforts in the 11-point victory.

A key matchup of



DOUG CARROLL/SCI

Concordia 184-pounder Oscar Ramirez-Garcia flips upside down in a takedown attempt against Morningside's Kory Van Oort Dec. 10.

top-of-the-league contenders featured the defending GPAC tournament champion Bulldogs

against the defending GPAC regular season champion Mustangs. (continued on page 4B)

Seward bowling starts its season Saturday, Dec. 19, on the road.



DOUG CARROLL/SCI

Malcolm's Maclain Beach puts up a shot over Cross County's Alex Noyd Dec. 12 in Malcolm.

Clippers fight in opening games

by Heath Kramer
Seward County Independent

With only a few practices under their belt, it was hard to have lofty expectations. But, even with minimal time in the gym, the Malcolm boys' basketball team proved to be a group that will compete to the end. The Clippers opened the season with a pair of close losses including at 62-55 defeat in their Dec. 12 home opener against Cross County. Malcolm opened the season with a 68-59 loss on Dec. 8 at Conestoga.

"The games were like carbon copies," Malcolm head coach Chris Lewandowski said. "We got behind early, we battled back, we didn't close the deal."

Cross County's Cory Hollinger made life difficult for the Clippers early on. The 6-foot-5 junior scored nine of the Cougars' 15 first-quarter points.

"He's a big strong kid with a long reach," Lewandowski said. "He does a lot of things well on offense and defense."

Hollinger led all scorers with 24 points while going 8-for-10 from the free throw line.

In the closing minutes of the third quarter, the Clippers went on a run aided by a pair of three-pointers from Malcolm Saltzman that gave the home team a one-point lead. Shayden Lundstrom answered with a three of his own at the buzzer to give Cross County a 47-45 lead going into the final frame.

"That was a dagger," Lewandowski said. "We played well that quarter and then had the momentum taken from us right at the end."

Saltzman led the Clippers with 20 points.

It was much the same at Conestoga when the Clippers grabbed the lead early in the third quarter but failed to extend it as both teams went scoreless during four consecutive possessions.

"We expend a lot of energy coming back and then we don't take that next step," Lewandowski said. "We need to get to where we're making them chase us."

Maclain Beach opened the season with a double-double as the senior scored 25 and grabbed 11 rebounds. Drew Johnson - a sophomore - added 11 points.

"Considering we had just one actual practice before our first game (due to Lancaster County COVID-19 restrictions), I was pleased with how we competed," Lewandowski said. "Our guys seem to be in good

physical condition and mentally they kept their composure both nights."

Malcolm (0-2) has a busy week as they host Elmwood-Murdock (0-3) Tuesday and Weeping Water (1-4) on Friday. The Clippers travel to Raymond Central (0-2) Saturday.

"These are all games we should be in and can win," Lewandowski said. "We need a good week of practice so we can continue to build on what we were able to get started this first week."

Cross County 62, Malcolm 55
CC 15 17 15 15 62
MAL 10 19 16 10 55
MALCOLM—Hayden Frank 9, Malcolm Saltzman 20, Maclain Beach 8, Jacob Schweitzer 2, Drew Johnson 7, Connor Zegar 7, Ethan Robotham 2.
Rebounds—Frank 6, Saltzman 4, Beach 7, Schweitzer 4, Johnson 8, Robotham 4. **Assists**—Frank 2, Saltzman, Beach 2, Schweitzer 2. **Steals**—Saltzman, Beach, Johnson, Zegar. **Blocks**—Schweitzer.

Conestoga 68, Malcolm 59
MAL 14 16 15 14 59
CON 19 14 19 16 59
MALCOLM—Frank 8, Saltzman 9, Gavan Dunse 3, Beach 25, Schweitzer 3, Johnson 11.
Rebounds—Frank 4, Saltzman 3, Dunse 2, Beach 11, Schweitzer 6, Johnson 4, Zegar, Robotham 6. **Assists**—Frank 2, Saltzman 5, Beach 2, Schweitzer 2, Johnson. **Blocks**—Saltzman, Beach, Johnson.

Clippers get first matches after Lancaster County layoff ends

by Heath Kramer
Seward County Independent

Teams typically get close to three weeks of practices before the first competition of the season. Of course, 2020 has been anything but typical. After just five practices, the Malcolm wrestling team hit the mat at the Dec. 12 Crete Invite.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 14-team tournament was split into two pools. The Clippers placed fourth in their pool with 102 points. Beatrice claimed the top spot with 195.5 points.

Gavin Zoucha turned in the Clippers' best performance of the meet as the 160-pound junior recorded three pins on his way to a gold medal. Zoucha opened the meet with a 63-second pin of Carlos Jimenez-Fuentes of Omaha Bryan. It took him 1:54 to finish off Chance Sjuln of Nebraska City before getting a second period pin of Milford's Carter Springer in the championship match.

"He was definitely our most polished looking wrestler," Malcolm head coach Matt Coufal said. "There's still plenty to work on, but, considering we've had one week of practice, it wasn't a bad day."

Kale Nordmeyer also earned gold as the 285-pound junior began the day with a 1:31 pin of Dietrick Baker from Wilber-Clatonia. The championship match pitted Nordmeyer against Fairbury's Kazz Hyson who entered the match with an 11-0 record. In a match that went the distance, Nordmeyer prevailed with a 1-0 victory.

"Kale did what he



CAITLYN NELSON/SCI

Zane Zoucha of Malcolm looks for an opening during a match Dec. 12 in Crete.

needed to do to win the tournament," Coufal said. "We know there's a lot of room for improvement, but it was good to see him go out and get it done with only a few practices under his belt."

Caleb Courter earned a silver medal. The 182-pound junior went 2-1 on the day with a pin.

"Caleb did some nice things," Coufal said. "Like all of our guys, he showed that things will get better as we practice and compete more."

Zane Zoucha earned the bronze medal at 120 pounds while Josh Stewart placed fourth at 170 pounds. Riley Donahoo (195) and Zack Pasco (285) also earned fourth place medals.

"I think we've got some guys that will

have some success this season," Coufal said.

"We're looking forward to one more full week of practice with a couple of chances to compete before we have to take some more time off for the holiday break."

The Malcolm grapplers head back to Crete for a Friday, Dec. 18, dual before spending Saturday at the Wahoo Invitational.

"Wahoo will be a full meet with some really good wrestlers from all over the state," Coufal said. "It will be a good test to see where we are at this point in the season."

Crete Invite

Team scores—Beatrice 195.5, Central City 193, Nebraska City 165, Milford 150.5, Adams Central 124, Ashland-Greenwood 121, Norris 115.5, Syracuse 112, Malcolm 102, Seward 99, Crete 88, Omaha Bryan 86.5, Wilber-Clatonia 69, Fairbury 47

120—Zane Zoucha (MAL) pinned by Bryce Karlin (BTR) 0:36; def. by Hayden Schalk (NC) 19-4; pin Spencer Weers (FBY) 2:22, third
132—Bryce Teut (MAL) pinned by Connor Gerths (FBY) 0:44; pinned by Eli Vondra (MIL) 0:45; pinned by Brody Mach (MIL) 0:39
138—Colt Relling (MAL) pinned by Trevor Reinke (BTR) 2:26; pin Kyler Arthur (NC) 2:20; def. by Jack Chapman (MIL) 5-1; pinned by Andres Pro (NC) 4:38
145—Cayden Witzel (MAL) pinned by Trent Stauffer (MIL) 1:05; pinned by Kruse Williamson (BTR) 0:17
152—Luke Walters (MAL) pinned by Lee Hobbs (NC) 0:21; pinned by Landon Trimm (FBY) 3:48
160—Gavin Zoucha (MAL) pin Carlos Jimenez-Fuentes (OB) 1:03; pin Chance Sjuln (NC) 1:54; pin Carter Springer (MIL) 3:34, first
170—Josh Stewart (MAL) pinned by Logan Hobbs (NC) 3:12; pin Connor Nuemeister (NC) 1:29; def. Isaac Voboril (MIL) 7-3; pinned by Hobbs (NC) 3:26, fourth
170—Cooper Witte (MAL) pinned by Isaac Voboril (MIL) 1:19; def. by Trevor Lohrman (MAL) 9-8; pinned by Connor Nuemeister (NC) 1:34
170—Trevor Lohrman (MAL) pinned by Torrance Keehn (BTR) 0:43; def. Cooper Witte (MAL) 9-8; pinned by Logan Hobbs (NC) 1:48; pinned by Isaac Voboril (MIL) 0:55
182—Caleb Courter (MAL) pin Clay DuVal (NC) 4:29; def. Deegan Nelson (BTR) 5V-1 10-8; pinned by Jacob Schoenauer (OB) 0:19, second
195—Riley Donahoo (MAL) pinned by Sawyer Kunc (WC) 1:54; pinned by Hunter Oborny (MIL) 1:26; pin Braeden Chipman (NC) 2:11; pinned by Brock Ostdiek (BTR) 1:16, fourth
285—Kale Nordmeyer (MAL) pin Dietrick Baker (WC) 1:31; def. Kazz Hyson (FBY) 1-0, first
285—Zack Pasco (MAL) pinned by Kazz Hyson (FBY) 4:00; pin Trey Lyon (MIL) 2:44; def. Dietrick Baker (WC) 3-2; def. by Gavin Bailey (NC) 6-0, fourth

Centennial splits two to start

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Centennial boys' basketball team finally took the court Dec. 10 at Sandy Creek and won its season opener 50-19. The Broncos came back to action Dec. 12 at Tri County and lost to the Trojans 53-39.

"It was nice to get playing," Coach Cam Scholl said.

The Broncos played well on defense against Sandy Creek, holding the Cougars to seven first-half points. Scholl said the defense was able to take away Sandy Creek's inside game.

"They started to play better in the third quarter, but we wore them down," he said. "It was a good first game. It was good to get our nose bloodied."

Jake Bergen led the CHS offense with 17 points and 10 rebounds, and Cooper Gierhan scored 15.

Things didn't go as well against Tri County. "We did some not smart things," Scholl said. "Our defense didn't play especially well, and we got no stops in big moments."

The Trojans were able to seal the win with fourth-quarter free throws.

Gierhan led CHS with 15 points.

Centennial (1-1) was to play at Fairbury Dec. 15, host Milford Friday, Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m. and travel to Superior Saturday, Dec. 19.

"We'll keep grinding



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Maj Nisly of Centennial draws contact from Tri County's Logan Larson (back) and Colton Jantzen as he looks to the hoop Dec. 12.

and getting better," Scholl said.

Centennial 50, Sandy Creek 19
CHS 7 14 17 12 50
SCHS 3 4 8 4 19

CHS—Alex Hirschfeld 2-20-0-6, Maj Nisly 3-6-1-8, Jake Bergen 7-19-2-3-17, Lance Haberman 1-4-0-0-3, Cooper Gierhan 5-10-0-0-15, Lane Zimmer 0-0-1-2-1, Jayden Hartshorn 0-1-0-0-0.

Tri County 53, Centennial 39
CHS 10 8 14 7 39
TCHS 14 11 9 19 53
CHS—Ma. Nisly 3-8-2-5-10, Bergen 2-7-1-2-5,

Haberman 2-6-0-0-5, Gierhan 5-13-4-4-15, Zimmer 1-2-0-0-2, Hartshorn 1-1-0-0-2, Totals 14-37-7-11-39.

TCHS—Totals 17-37-15-19-53.
Three-point goals—CHS 4-18 (Ma. Nisly 2-7, Bergen 0-1, Haberman 1-5, Gierhan 1-5), TCHS 4-14. **Rebounds**—CHS 20 (Bergen 5), TCHS 23. **Assists**—CHS 10 (Bergen, Gierhan 3). **Steals**—CHS 2 (Bergen, Zimmer 1). **Blocked shots**—CHS 1 (Bergen 1), TCHS 2. **Turnovers**—CHS 15, TCHS 7. **Fouls**—CHS 17, TCHS 12.

Concordia

(continued from page 3B)

Unfortunately, Concordia struggled offensively in the first half and then allowed seventh-ranked Morningside to run away with it in the second half. The result was a Mustangs win, 86-64, in Sioux City, Iowa, on Dec. 12.

The pre-Christmas road swing will continue on Dec. 15 with a visit to Midland.

Women's basketball

As the Concordia University women's basketball team found out on Dec. 12, Morningside may possess as much talent as any squad in the GPAC.

The 24th-ranked Mustangs made 14 of their first 17 shots from the floor while striding to an 86-67 victory over the Bulldogs. Concordia was also plagued by its 22 turnovers.

After trailing by as many as 20 points, CU crept back within 11 in the second half with the help of a surprise performance from sophomore and Seward High School product Luebbe.

She entered the contest with eight career points, but totaled 20 points on Saturday on perfect 10-for-10 shooting from the floor.

The Bulldogs appeared to gain momentum heading into the fourth quarter before Morningside regained full control with an 8-0 run (led 67-47) to open the final period.

Malcolm girls recover, sweep first week

by Heath Kramer
Seward County Independent

Showing progress is important. The progress shown by the Malcolm girls' basketball team from game one to game two was noticeable. After struggling their way through the Dec. 8 season opener with a 37-28 win over Conestoga, the No. 5 Clippers came home Dec. 12 to pull away with a 44-30 win over a solid Cross County team.

There was reason for concern early on against Cross County as the Lady Cougars jumped out to a 9-0 lead.

"Not good," Malcolm head coach Andy Klepper said. "They came out in a full court press and we got a little rattled right at the start.

"We called a timeout, the girls settled down and things got better from there."

The Clippers cut the lead to just one point by the end of the opening frame and then rolled through the second quarter, taking a ten-point lead into the half-time break.

"We got them out of their press and ours started working," Klepper said. "They've played more games than

we have and they played a close game the night before. Their legs may have gotten tired."

Against the much taller Cougars who have three starters at 5-feet-11 or taller, it was Malcolm's Emma Brown that took control inside. The 6-foot sophomore scored three times in the paint during the second quarter.

Cross County cut Malcolm's lead in half by the end of the third quarter but the Clippers pulled away by outscoring the Cougars 12-3 in the fourth.

"It was a big improvement over the first game," Klepper said. "We limited our turnovers, we hit a few more shots and we played really good defense."

Alyssa Fortik led Malcolm with 15 points and five steals while Brown recorded a double-double with 12 points and 12 rebounds.

At Conestoga, points were harder to come by as the Clippers hit on 23% of their shots from the field and went just 4-of-24 from behind the arc.

"Like Cross County, Conestoga is a much bigger team than ours so we took a lot of shots from the outside," Klepper said.

"We didn't need all of them that night but we will need those shots to start falling.

"I'm hopeful, now that we're back in the gym that our shooting will continue to improve."

Diamond Sedlak led a balanced attack against Conestoga. The sophomore sharp shooter hit a pair of three-pointers and scored eight points. Joslyn Small and Fortik each scored seven while Ashlynn Sehi finished with six. Small led the team with seven steals.

Malcolm (2-0) will host Elmwood-Murdock (3-1) Tuesday and No. 7 Weeping Water (2-2) Friday before heading to Raymond Central (0-2) on Saturday.

"We'll have some challenging games this week for sure," Klepper said. "We need to keep using our practice time to get better and the things we do that make us hard to beat."

Malcolm 44, Cross County 30	
CC	11 4 12 3 30
MAL	10 15 7 12 44
MALCOLM —Alyssa Fortik 5-15 5-8 15, Joslyn Small 1-7 2-5, Jordan Denton 1-1 0-0 2, Reagan Wondercheck 2-3 0-0 5, Jasmine Small 0-1 0-0 0, Ashlynn Sehi 1-4 0-0 2, Diamond Sedlak 1-9 0-1 3, Cora Schweitzer 0-1 0-0 0, Emma Brown 5-8 2-3 12, Riley McCall 0-0 0-1 0.	
CC —Totals 10-31 10-17 30.	
Three-point goals —MHS 3-14 (Fortik 0-5, Jo. Small 1-3, Wondercheck 1-1, Sedlak 1-5) CC 0-8	
Rebounds —MHS 29 (Brown 12) CC 32. Assists —MHS 9 (Jo. Small 2, Sehi 2) CC 7. Steals —MHS 11 (Fortik 5, Jo. Small 4) CC 3. Turnovers —MHS 8 CC 18. Fouls —MHS 13 CC 16.	



DOUG CARROLL/SCI

Malcolm's Joslyn Small, left, and Ashlynn Sehi pressure Cross County's Jacy Mentink Saturday in Malcolm.

Malcolm 37, Conestoga 28	
MAL	11 10 8 8 37
CON	7 7 4 10 38
MALCOLM —Lauryn England 0-3 0-0 0, Fortik 3-12 0-0 7, Jo. Small 2-8 3-3 7, Denton 2-7	

1-4 5, Wondercheck 0-1 0-0 0, Ja. Small 0-5 0-0 0, Sehi 2-5 2-2 6, Sedlak 3-8 0-2 8, Brown 1-7 2-6 4. **CHS**—10-29 5-7 28. **Three-point goals**—MHS 4-24 (Fortik 1-8, Jo. Small 0-2, Denton 1-4, Ja. Small 0-3, Sehi 0-2, Sedlak 2-5) CHS 3-12 **Rebounds**—MHS 34 (Sehi

7, Brown 7, Ja. Small 6) CHS 31. **Assists**—MHS 6 (Ja. Small 2) CHS 8. **Steals**—MHS 18 (Jo. Small 7) CHS 5. **Turnovers**—MHS 8 CHS 23. **Fouls**—MHS 11 CHS 8.

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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.

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DONATE YOUR car or truck to Heritage for the Blind. Free 3 Day Vacation, tax deductible, free towing. All paperwork taken care of. Call 1-877-730-8167.

FOR RENT

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

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.

1 & 2 BR Garden level APARTMENTS. Call for details. 402-641-2580

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.

LOCUST APARTMENTS Accepting applications for 1 & 2 bedroom apartments 1130 Main St. • Seward Rental Assistance Available Please call 402-643-3373 for more information or email locust@costelloco.com for appt. www.costelloco.com This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE FOR 62 & OLDER OR DISABLED HOUSEHOLD One-bedroom apartments, carpeting, range, refrigerator, garbage disposal, window coverings. All utilities furnished. Snow removal and lawn maintenance. Rent subsidy available under HUD Section Eight Program or USDA Rural Dev. Applications available Monday through Friday at Linden Village, 1015 Linden Ave., Milford, NE - or by calling - 402-761-2452 TDD 1-800-833-7352 This facility is an equal opportunity provider

Classifieds GET THE JOB DONE! Buy • Sell • Trade • Rent • Hire

MINUTES

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 JANUARY 5, 2020

The Seward County Board of Equalization convened on December 8, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. Present: Chairperson: John Culver Members: Misty Ahmic, Bob Vrbka, Ken Schmieding, Becky Paulsen County Clerk: Sherry Schweitzer County Assessor: Marilyn Hladky Approved the minutes of November 24, 2020.

Approved Tax List Corrections. Hladky gave an update of her office.

Convened as the Board of Commissioners.

Approved the minutes of December 1, 2020.

Approved Seward County claims through November 27, 2020.

Officials gave updates of their offices.

Commissioners gave an update of their activities.

Accepted November 2020 Fee Reports for Clerk of the District Court and County Clerk.

Discussed potential contract with former HR Director. No action was taken.

Approved re-appointment of Dan Kovar to the Seward County Veteran's Service Committee.

Accepted the resignation of Jeff Baker, Seward County Veteran's Service Officer/Public Transit Director, effective 12/31/2020.

Discussed restructuring for Veteran's Service/Public Transit/General Assistance position.

Approved increase in credit card limit for Seward County Veteran's Services/Public Transit.

Approved Resolution No. 3551 in regard to correcting a previous Resolution concerning Petri Addition Short Form Plat.

Approved signage for County buildings regarding Seward Mask Ordinance.

Approved closure of County Offices on December 24, 2020. Adopted the agenda for December 15, 2020, and adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Sherry Schweitzer, County Clerk
SEWARD COUNTY CLAIMS THROUGH NOVEMBER 27, 2020

ADVANCED CRRTL HLTHCR, SE, \$4.40; ADVANCED OFFICE AUTOM, SU, \$268.84; AMERITAS LIFE INS, FE, \$18,181.06; CHARLES W CAMPBELL, SE, \$168.00; BRENNAN LAW, SE, \$7,796.60; CAMPBELL CLEANING, SE, \$2,255.00; CAPITAL BUSINESS SYS, SU, \$25.00; CITY OF SEWARD, UT, \$4,732.93; E 911 C/O, SE, \$36,687.33; EAKES OFFICE PLUS, SU, \$208.77; GALLS LLC, SU, \$84.26; GENERAL FIRE & SAFETY, SE, \$278.80; GRAHAM TIRE LINCOLN, SE, \$599.96; GREAT PLAINS COMM, UT, \$225.00; HELMINK PRINTING, SU, \$189.00; EMILY HEMPHILL, SE, \$58.65; HOMETOWN LEASING, SE, \$149.85; INDOFF INC, SU, \$99.99; JONES BANK (FICA), FE, \$13,876.19; KONICA MINOLTA, SU, \$131.48; MATTHEW BENDER, SE, \$84.28; MEMORIAL CLINIC, SE, \$416.80; MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, SE, \$230.55; MID-AMERICAN INS GRP, FE, \$36,734.12; MIDWEST OFFICEAUTOM, SU, \$61.99; NE ASSN OF CO OFFICIALS, FE, \$2,599.76; ONESOURCE, SU, \$92.00; OREILLY AUTOMOTIVE, SE, \$20.97; ORKIN LLC, SE, \$111.78; POSTMASTER, SU, \$240.00; POTTER REPAIR, SE, \$325.80; PRIORITY ENV SOL, SE, \$335.35; RADWEN INC, SU, \$1,000.00; REGION V SYSTEMS, SE, \$1,284.00; SAUNDERS CO COURT, SE, \$6.75; SOS - ELECTIONS, SU, \$20.00; SEWARD CO BRIDGES, FE, \$11,500.00; SEW CO HLTH CLM FND, FE, \$203,073.18; SEWARD CO INDEPENDENT, SE, \$89.95; SEWARD CO PUB TRANS, SE, \$66.00; SEWARD CO ROAD FND, FE, \$750,000.00; SEWARD CO TREASURER, FE, \$45.00; SEWARD LUMBER, SU, \$23.99; SOARIN GROUP, SE, \$6,160.96; SUMMIT FOOD SERV, SU, \$2,564.45; THE HOME DEPOT PRO, SU, \$229.44; U S POSTAL SERV, SU, \$10,000.00; VERIZON WIRELESS, UT, \$547.22; VISA, FE, \$893.77; WELLS FARGO, SE, \$198.15; WINDSTREAM, UT, \$852.80; SUE WURM, SE, \$273.75; WYTHERS LAW, SE, \$313.50; ALL ROAD BARRICADES, SU,

\$693.16; BLACK HILLS ENERGY, UT, \$678.44; BRD OF EXAM CO HWY, FE, \$50.00; DALE JOHNSON, SE, \$41,318.40; GERHOLD CONCRETE, SU, \$238.05; JOHNSON SAND & GRAVEL, SU, \$15,164.04; KERFORD LIMESTONE CO, SU, \$2,055.46; MIDWEST SERVICE, SE, \$298.50; NE PUB POW DIST, UT, \$118.14; SACK LUMBER, SU, \$120.00; SNAP-ON INDUSTRIAL, SU, \$613.92; TRUCK CENTER CO, SE, \$541.58; TRUCK EQUIP SERV, SE, \$76.42; VILLAGE OF UTICA, FE, \$53.48; DELTA DENTAL OF NE, SE, \$29.38; BIZCO INC, FE, \$11,300.82; DEPT OF HHS, SE, \$350.00; GREAT PLAINS UNIF, SE, \$634.40; LAST MILE NETWORK, UT, \$2,762.80; MILE HIGH SHOOTINGACC, SU, \$7,063.00; NE SHERIFFS ASSOC, FE, \$435.00; SHINETECH SOFTWARE, EQ, \$6,414.50; CENTENNIAL TEAMMATES, FE, \$289.00; ST OF NE DAS COMM, SE, \$704.00; LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR, SE, \$2,917.20 SALARIES: \$263,569.99 GROSS SALARIES INCLUDE DEDUCTIONS TO: COLONIAL SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE; MID AMERICAN CO WISCONSIN; DELTADENTAL; VSP VISION; WADDELL & REED SCI — December 16, 2020

Official Proceedings of Staplehurst

November 24, 2020

The following is a condensed form of minutes. A complete copy is on file at the Village all. The Staplehurst Village Board held their monthly meeting at 7 p.m. at the village hall. Chairman Thompson called the meeting to order and announced the open meeting act and location in the village hall. Roll call was taken with members present Thompson, Stava, Benedict, Blath. No meeting held in October. The following actions were taken. Approved claims for the fire department. Discussion held on Ordinance Waiver & Fines to be enforced by Sheriff Department. Seward County Housing Development study was presented by Zane Francescato. Our Redeemer representatives present to give update on the construction of school. Discussion held on removal of the Recycle Bins. The following claims were approved: Greg Damman 250.00; One Call Concepts 10.78; Beaver Hardware 18.00; NE Clerks Association 20.00; Traveler's Insurance 210.00; Seward Lumber 37.80; Midwest Laboratories 171.72; O'Reilly 3.99; Waste Connections 62.00; Farmers Coop 186.10; Black Hills Energy 73.25; Nebraska PHE Laboratory 83.00; Recycling Enterprises 200.00; Seward County Independent 13.81; JEO 1513.40; NE Clerks Institute 50; Cornhusker Press 55.95; NNTC 58.92; Farmers Cop 56.47; Constellation Energy 9.13; Black Hills 163.92; Norris Public Power 1630.36; EFTPS 1082.08; Next scheduled meeting December 29 @ 7:00 p.m. at the Staplehurst Village Hall. Sharon Reinmiller Staplehurst Village Clerk SCI — December 16, 2020

SEWARD CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

Following is a condensed form of minutes. A complete copy is on file at City Hall, 537 Main St, or may be viewed at <http://www.CityofSewardNE.gov>. The Seward City Council met in regular session in the Seward Civic Center, 616 Bradford St, Seward, on November 17, 2020, at 7:00 p.m., with Mayor Joshua Eickmeier presiding. Councilmembers present: Jonathon Wilken, Sid Kamprath, Jessica Kolterman, Karl Miller, John Singleton, Chris Schmit, Alyssa Hendrix. Absent: Ellen Beck. Following items were approved: Minutes Nov 3, 2020; Claims; City Treas Reprt; Police Dept Reprt; Add Jensen Schulz and Brady Johnson to Seward Vol Firefighter Roster; Infrast Cost Reimbr to City; Spl Use Permit for 1778 Pine St to operate auto body shop; TIF - Arrowhead Estates, LLC, Twin Oaks Dev 7th Addn; Ord 2020-29 Update ULDO Rezone Jarecki Addn; Ord 2020-30 Update ULDO Rezone Banzhaf Addn; Ord 2020-31 Text Amend to ULDO -allow convenience storage; Ord 2020-27 Floodplain/Floodway Overlay Dist; Ord 2020-27Amend No. 2 to automated metering agrmt with NPPD; Maint Agrmt No. 28 with NDOT; Res 2020-42 NDOT year-end cert of Street Superintendent; Designate Julie A. Ogden, JEO, as Street Superintendent for NDOT Incentive Pmts; Update Master Agrmt with Olsson for on-call services; Amend Rules & Regs for Seward Cemeteries; First Amend to Employee Handbook for comp time; Agrmt with GWorks for Payroll Time & Attend Module; City Admin report; Adjourn. AKRS Equipment, Re, Gu, 85.88; Amazon.Com Credit Service, Su, Misc, 550.44; Autographix Inc, Misc, 618.00; Baker & Taylor, Su, 3,399.37; Barco Municipal Product, Signs, 3,348.04; Bern's Body Shop, Re, 2,069.00; Biblionx LLC, Ma, 4,223.00; Bizco Technologies, Se, Bu, Eq, 14,453.43; Blackburn

Manufacturing, Re, 242.89; Black Hills Energy, Ut, 820.60; Blue Valley Pest Control, Bu, 80.00; Border States Industries, Re, 792.28; Burlington Northern Santa, Misc, Ex, 1,219.58; Callaway Golf, Merchandise, 243.16; Campbell Cleaning, Se, Su, 1,001.99; Cattle Bank & Trust, Eq, 24,245.00; City Seward Library Petty, Su, 77.64; City Seward Merchant Serv, Se, 2,497.45; City Seward Payroll Account, Payroll, 157,307.51; City Seward Perpetual Fd, Lot Sales, 1,050.00; Coast To Coast Solutions, Su, 69.45; Commonwealth Electric Co, Re, 2,530.74; Consolidated Water Solution, Re, 1,301.67; Constellation Newenergy, Ut, 118.48; Cornhusker Press, Su, 123.45; Cornhusker State Industries, Re, 714.00; Eakes Office Solutions, Su, 40.04; Elliott Equipment Co, Ma, 3,778.37; Emergency Medical Product, Su, 201.17; Farmers Coop Seward, Su, Re, Ma, 4,123.07; Galls LLC, Un, 87.45; Gehring Construction, Ci, 7,159.30; Gerhold Concrete Co Inc, Gu, Su, 2,073.13; Great Plains Communication, Eq, 4,455.94; GWorks, Se, 10,923.23; H & S Plumbing Heating, Bu, 761.96; HD Supply Construction, Su, 88.98; Hobson Automotive & Tire, Re, Ma, 539.87; Home Depot Pro, Su, 210.90; Husker Electric Supply Co, Re, Tools, 2,447.67; Hydraulic Equipment Service, Re, 743.84; J E O Consulting Group In, Se, 1,000.00; Jackson Services Inc, Su, 142.19; Jacobsen Rock & Gravel, Su, Ma, 1,087.63; Johnson Controls Inc, Ma, 4,973.09; Jones Automotive, Eq, 10,599.55; Konica Minolta Business, Ma, 28.92; Last Mile Network Consult, Se, 90.00; League Nebraska Muni, Trng, 95.00; Lee's Refrigeration, Ma, 83.75; Matheson Tri-Gas Inc, Su, 146.74; Menards North, Su, Re, 327.12; Mid-American Benefits Inc, Ina, 1,030.47; Midwest Auto Parts, Ma, Bu, Re, 714.39; Midwest Automotive, Re, 307.00; Midwest Laboratories Inc, Se, 920.67; Municipal Supply Omaha, Inv, Re, Ci, 1,536.29; Nebraska Mun Clerks' Asso, Dues, 45.00; Nebraska Pub Pow-Desmoine, Incentive, Ut, 427,127.17; Niemann's Port-A-Pot LLC, Se, 250.00; Norris Public Power Dist, Ut, 857.10; Oberhauser Doug, Incentive, 3,500.00; One Call Concepts Inc, Se, 112.25; O'Reilly Automotive Inc, Su, Re, 259.20; Orscheln Farm & Home, Re, Su, Gu, 356.79; Overdrive Inc, Misc, 1,000.00; Pac 'N' Save Discount Food, Gu, Su, Bu, Re, Ma, 2,378.30; Paper Tiger Shredding, Se, 30.00; Pitney Bowes Inc, Se, Su, 4,605.00; Plunkett's Pest Control, Bu, 61.61; Policky Brandon A, Un, 236.33; Seward County Clerk/Reg D, Ex, 16.00; Seward County Independent, Ex, 436.37; Seward County Treasurer, Se, 19,217.17; Seward Lumber & Home Cent, Su, Bu, Ma, Re, 288.01; Seward Public Schools, Fines, Fees, 1,927.60; Seward Storage, Ex, 2,310.00; Seward Wind LLC, Ut, 42,079.80; Sleuth Systems, Se, 648.00; Spickelmier & Son Inc, Re, 1,570.00; Sports Express, Ex, 268.65; Steager Irrigation LLC, Se, 110.00; Sterling West, Ci, 10,084.50; Trimax Mowing Systems, Su, 18.21; Truck Center Companies, Re, 1,809.59; U S A Bluebook - Cust 812, Su, Tools, 290.80; U S Postal Service, Su, 4,500.00; Verizon Wireless, Se, 269.09; Vessco Inc, Su, 423.63 Visa - Pinnacle Bank: 334.26 Harlequin, Su, -18.39; Walmart, Ma, 171.62; Bluestem, Se, 115.00; Zoom, Us, Misc, 16.03; Iowa Library Assn, Trng, 50.00 WCHE LLC, Ci, 100,842.42; Wegman Nicole, Ex, 125.00; Wesco Distribution Inc, Inv, Su, Re, 37,800.02; Windstream Nebraska Inc, SE, 1,884.20; Woods & Aitken LLP, Se, 90.00; Wynegar Ann, Ex, 125.00; York Equipment, Re, 29.89 CLAIMS TOTAL: \$952,217.74 Bonnie Otte Asst. Admin/Clerk-Treasurer/ Budget & HR Director SCI — December 16, 2020 ZNEZ

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 ZNEZ

GENERAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Notice is hereby given that Wiemer Family Farms, LLC, a Nebraska limited liability company (the "Company") was dissolved effective December 8, 2020. The name of the Registered Agent of the Company is Rick A. Damkroger, whose address is 121 S. 13th St., #800, Lincoln, NE 68508. Any person having a claim against the Company should present same in writing to the Registered Agent at the address reflected in this notice. Any such claim should include the date of the claim, amount and a description of the basis for the claim. A claim against the Company is barred unless an action to enforce the claim is commenced within five (5) years after the publication date of the third required notice. SCI — December 16, 23, 30, 2020

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF SEWARD COUNTY NEBRASKA

STATE OF NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, Plaintiff, v. DANIEL D. EDWARDS, Defendant. Case No. CI 20-455

NOTICE

To: Daniel D. Edwards You will take notice that a Complaint has been filed in the County Court of Seward County, Nebraska, praying for judgment against you in the sum of \$4,560.40 plus interest and costs, for damage to its property arising out of an accident on or about March 18, 2020, in Seward County, Nebraska. You will further take notice that if you fail to answer or otherwise plead to said Complaint on or before January 30, 2021, the Plaintiff will request the court to enter judgment against you. DATED this 7th day of December 2020.

STATE OF NEBRASKA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, Plaintiff,

By: DOUGLAS J. PETERSON, #18146 Attorney General

By: /s/ Greg M. Ariza Greg M. Ariza, #22225 Assistant Attorney General P.O. Box 94759 Lincoln, NE 68509-4759 (402) 479-4611 Greg.Ariza@nebraska.gov Attorneys for Plaintiff SCI — December 16, 23, 30, 2020 ZNEZ

ESTATES

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

Parker, Grossart & Bahensky, L.L.P. NOTICE IN THE COUNTY COURT OF SEWARD COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Estate of Richard LeRoy Besse, Deceased Estate No. PR 20-71

Notice is hereby given that on December 9, 2020, in the County Court of Seward County, Nebraska, Jack W. Besse, whose address is 5006 G Avenue Place, Kearney, NE 68847, 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 16, 2021, or be forever barred.

/s/Sheila R. Beins Clerk of the County Court Justice Center P.O. Box 37 Seward, NE 68434

Jack W. Besse #19005 PARKER, GROSSART & BAHENSKY, L.L.P. 1516 First Avenue P.O. Box 1600 Kearney, Nebraska 68848-1600 (308) 237-2114 phone (308) 234-4989 fax jwb@pgbblaw.com SCI — December 16, 23, 30, 2020 ZNEZ

BIDS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Seward County Assessor's Office is requesting proposals for Orthophotography and Digital Oblique Aerial Imagery and software. Vendor must demonstrate at least five successful Nebraska county oblique imagery customers. Vendor must allow for the cost of the project to be paid over three years without a finance charge. For consideration, all proposals must be received by the County by 9:00 AM on December 22, 2020, and will be opened publicly at 9:45 AM on December 22, 2020. Send proposals to: Seward County Clerk, PO Box 190, Seward, NE 68434. Please mark the proposal as Assessor - Imagery. For more information on the specifications, contact the office at 402-643-3311. Marilyn Hladky Seward County Assessor SCI — December 09, 16, 2020 ZNEZ

ORGANIZATIONS

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

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

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 WCLS FARMS, LLC The address of the designated office is 2574 Waverly Road, Seward, NE 68434. The registered agent and address for service upon the company is Ronald Wallman, 2574 Waverly Road, Seward, NE 68434. 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 — December 16, 23, 30, 2020 ZNEZ

MEETINGS

PUBLIC NOTICE

A meeting of the Seward County Extension Board will be held on Thursday, December 17 at 5:30 p.m. THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM. WEBSITE: <https://zoom.us/join> MEETING ID: 992 6318 8831 CALL IN: 312-626-6799 The agenda for all meetings is kept continually current and is available for public at the Extension Office. Contact the Extension Office at 402-643-2981 for more questions. Rebecca McKay Administrative Assistant SCI — December 16, 2020 ZNEZ

Public Notices
Your Right to Know

GREEN REALTY & AUCTION • GREEN REALTY & AUCTION • GREEN REALTY & AUCTION

ESTATE EQUIPMENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 10:02 a.m.
Site: 875 Indiana Street, Utica, Nebraska

DUE TO COVID-19, WE WILL BE MONITORING ALL DIRECT HEALTH MEASURES & INFORMATION RELATED TO COVID-19. THE HEALTH & SAFETY OF OUR STAFF & CUSTOMERS IS OUR FIRST PRIORITY. PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE ([GreenSells.com](https://www.GreenSells.com)) FOR ANY CHANGES OR UPDATES PRIOR TO AUCTION.

VEHICLES / TRAILERS • EQUIPMENT • TRACTORS / COMBINES / HEADS • IRRIGATION • GUNS • SIGNS • MISCELLANEOUS

STARTING 12:32 p.m. - ONLINE BIDDING FOR SOME ITEMS AVAILABLE THROUGH BIDCALLER.COM

Log onto [GreenSells.com](https://www.GreenSells.com) for complete listing, terms and pictures. Direct all inquiries to Ross Ronne at 402.366.7818 or Bill Winkelman at 402.366.9714.

GALE SIMONSEN ESTATE, OWNER
Vicki L. Loos, Personal Representative

Auctioneer: Ross Ronne 402-362-5595 104 S. Lincoln Ave., York, NE www.GreenSells.com

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NOTICES

Please note early public notice deadlines for the 2020 holiday season.

December 30 edition

3 p.m., Wednesday, December 23, 2020

January 6 edition

3 p.m., Wednesday, December 30, 2020

SHOPPING LOCALLY

helps your community *thrive*

There are a lot of reasons to shop locally. The dollars you spend help support our local economy. Please **THINK TWICE** before you automatically hop in the car and head to the city.



When you shop locally, you'll get personalized local customer service

Shopping locally means great customer service. In many cases, the person who is helping you with your purchase is actually the business owner. So, they're going to bend over backward to make sure you're satisfied and will tell your friends and neighbors about your experience at their business.

Even if the owner isn't the person helping you, most likely they're someone you know and will want to make sure you're taken care of. Most will know you by name, know your favorite products and often can answer your questions before you even ask them.

Banking locally supports your community

In good and bad economic times, local banks remain anchors of their communities. They provide loans for local businesses and individuals alike, helping both in their quests for success. When you walk into your bank, you'll typically be greeted by your name and always with a smile.

Local banks are dedicated to their community and are often the first to step up and support a cause. Whether it's by giving to local non-profit and community organizations, or having their employees volunteer for local activities, banks are there to support your community.

When you buy locally, almost \$70 out of every \$100 stays to help your community be strong and vibrant. This directly impacts:

- Schools
- Streets
- Libraries
- Fire and rescue squads
- Creation of local jobs
- Community charities
- Churches
- Sports teams
- Scholarships to high school graduates
- Law enforcement

Shopping locally supports your neighbors in many ways

When you shop locally, you are supporting small businesses run by and employing your neighbors.

Small, local businesses are the largest employers nationally and create two out of every three new jobs. Buying locally means employment levels are more likely to be stable and create more opportunities for residents to work in the community.

Employees spend more of their money locally. They give to churches, coach Little League teams and support your community in hundreds of other ways.

SHOP SMALL
THE HOLIDAYS ARE COMING

SHOP SMALL BY AMEX

By shopping locally, you help the businesses that give back to your community

We all have our favorite local organizations and charities. It may be your church, a ball team, the food pantry, a 4-H club, the county fair... the list goes on and on. If you haven't stopped to think about how these organizations are supported, you should. For the most part, it's your local, hometown businesses.

You don't see the names of the big city stores or Amazon on any of those banners on the Little League fields. They are all local businesses donating their hard-earned dollars to help their community.

Shopping locally saves you time and money

Have you ever thought about what your time is actually worth? When you spend your time driving to the city, you're losing valuable time. That's time you can never get back.

Let's say you take just three trips a week to the city. Conservatively, you've just spent three hours on the road, and if you do that every week, you've lost 152 hours of your year. That's the equivalent of nearly 20 eight-hour days. Just think about what else you could do with that time if you stay right here and shop.

Think of the money you'll save on gas and wear and tear on your vehicle. The current IRS mileage rate is 54 cents per mile. Using that same rate with just three trips a week, you'll spend nearly \$100 each week in vehicle expense, or over \$5,000 a year. You can save enough in gas money each year for a nice

vacation, even if you're just driving to the city only three times a week. Or just think of everything you could buy right here in town with the money you save.

Shop locally and help provide scholarships to our local students

Each year at graduation, our graduates walk proudly in front of friends, family and other community members to accept their diplomas from high school. Many of these students also receive scholarship support for their future education from dozens of local businesses. Help continue this great tradition of giving our local students the opportunity to move forward with their next level of education.

Local scholarships would not be available to these students without the support of the community businesses that give them. When you shop locally, you're actually supporting scholarships, too. Shop locally and support those who support your community.

SUPPORT
Small
Businesses
SHOP SEWARD COUNTY!

LOCAL GIFT CARDS MAKE GREAT STOCKING STUFFERS!

SHOP SMALL ALL SEASON LONG

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