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# SEWARD • COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Wednesday  
December 23, 2020

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Seward, Nebraska  
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SANTA LETTERS!  
PAGE 3A



BRONCOS VS EAGLES  
SECTION B



## New police chief in town



HOPE MOURAL/SCI

Brian Peters was sworn in as Seward's newest police chief Dec. 16 following an unanimous vote by the Seward City Council the evening before. Pictured with Peters is Seward City Clerk Bonnie Otte administering the oath.

## EMS, fees approved

by Hope Moural  
hope@sewardindependent.com

The Seward County Board of Commissioners approved a special designated liquor license for a New Year's Eve event sponsored by Pan 'N' Save during its Dec. 15 meeting.

Also during the meeting, the board:

- approved the Seward County Sheriff Department's monthly fees of \$1,663 and \$929.07.
- declared county offices to be closed Dec. 24 in honor of Christmas Eve.
- authorized a refund on behalf of the treasurer's office for an overpayment of \$5,992.72 of inheritance tax re-

garding the Barbra Ann Swanson estate.

- authorized building and grounds superintendent Eric Hoefler to advertise for bids for re-painting of the courthouse building dome. Discussion included funding, paint color and sandblasting options among the board.

- held a public hearing involving a request to rezone land located in 33-10-3 from agricultural to transitional agriculture. Two people including the landowner spoke in support of the request.

After the public hearing was closed, a resolution approving the request was adopted.

(continued on 2A)

## Four Corners update

As of Friday, Dec. 18, the Four Corners Risk Dial has been reset in the Orange Elevated COVID-19 Risk Level at 2.63.

The Risk Dial was last set in the Orange level Oct. 30, and since that time has been Red. Lower test positivity rates, reduced transmission rates and increased hospital capacities are contributing factors to the improved setting of the risk dial.

At this time, Four Corners strongly urges our communities to Avoid the 3 C's: Crowded Places, Close Contact

and Confined Spaces. Remember to wash your hands often and wear a face mask that covers your nose and mouth. Public health recommendations and the COVID-19 dashboard are posted on our website at [www.fourcorners.ne.gov](http://www.fourcorners.ne.gov).

In the past two days, there have been 44 new cases of COVID-19 reported in the Four Corners District (December 17-18):

Seward County had 22 new cases for a total of 1,506.

York County had 14

(continued on 2A)



JILL MARTIN/SCI

Vinny Bittinger of Malcolm talks about the logistics of the lights Dec. 15. Each light has a computer chip in it and is synchronized to music through a computer. The show features around 400,000 lights and is available through Dec. 31.

## Show brightens Seward

by Jill Martin  
Seward County Independent

What was once a dark park near the Seward County Fairgrounds now features 400,000 lights as part of Nebraska's Largest Christmas Light Show.

The show has brought a steady flow of traffic to the park since Black Friday.

Show owner and creator Vinny Bittinger originally established the show in Malcolm where he and his family live. Two years ago, he started looking at different locations to expand the show.

"We had meetings and pitches from Omaha, Lincoln, a park in Ashland, and Seward," he said. "One thing that was the icing on the cake for us was the people of Seward. So many people have dropped what they were doing to come help us."

He ultimately chose to build the project in Seward because of the people, he said.

"People like Megan Kahler at the Chamber, all the great guys at the city electric department, road crew guys, police officers. So many people in this town stepped up to help us be successful," he said. "Everywhere we turn, people like Pat Coldiron at Liberty House are offering to help us in any way they can. We could not have done this without them, and they are a wonderful example of the good people of Seward."

Bittinger said it is to their credit that the family hopes to keep Seward as the home to Nebraska's Largest Christmas Light Show in the future, and he



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JERRY MEYER

Nebraska's largest Christmas lights show is on display near the Seward County Fairgrounds now through Friday.

is already looking at what's next.

"We are nowhere near done," he said.

Bittinger, who works full time as an electrician nine months out of the year, said the show is a family operation, which includes his wife, parents and in-laws.

"Everyone helps. Everyone plays a role," he said.

The show includes around 400,000 lights that Bittinger and his family have synchronized to music. The attraction comes at an ideal time as people continue to attend drive-through events because of COVID-19.

"I think people have been thankful to have something they can do," he said. "Things have been taken away from the kids this year."

Bittinger said people don't always understand that they are coming to see a show instead of just a display of lights. Each light has a comput-

er chip.

"All of our lights are synchronized to music. They are all programmed, and they are controlled by a computer," he said. "Every light on this property is controlled by a computer."

The show is automated from his computer in a small building in the center of the park. At the push of a key, the lights, music and movement entertain the families driving through the park circle.

"This show gave something back to the kids. And that kid might be 40 years old with three kids of his own," Bittinger said. "This stuff awakens the kid inside of you."

Bittinger plans to build onto the show each year and is hoping to double it in size by next year.

"We're already Nebraska's Largest Christmas light show, but we don't even plan to slow down," he said.

He and his family have built all of the pieces on display, and that is a priority to him.

"I would rather spend countless hours with my father in the shop building and designing something than worrying about making a bunch of money," he said. "Every thing you see out here is custom built by us."

The show has also gained statewide attention. Bittinger said on Saturday night alone, vehicles from 43 different counties visited. He said the proceeds from the per vehicle admission fee will go toward building and improving the show in the future.

Kahler, membership director at the Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership, said she met Bittinger in 2018 when SCCDP was needing to replace the lights and garland for the light poles in downtown Seward.

(continued on 2A)

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# Santa Letters have arrived

Santa Claus shared some of the letters dropped off at his mailbox by the Seward County Courthouse. The Seward County Independent staff tried their best to get spellings correct, but rest assured that Santa and his elves know what the letters say.

Dear Santa,  
Hello! My name is Lily. I am six years old and this year I have been pretty good.

The nicest thing I did this year is help my mom get ornaments on the tree.

I hope you, Mrs. Claus and the reindeer have been well!

A few gifts I'm wishing for this Christmas are: a big pack of gum, some makeup, a fit bit and a cat.  
Have a safe trip on Christmas Eve!  
Love, Lily

Dear Santa,  
I would like a scooter, a Barbie car and a paint by number set. Pixie would like some treats.  
Love, Evalyn

Dear Santa,  
I would like a play table, some balls and a camouflage blanket. I haven't been around very long but I've been good.  
Love, Huxley

Dear Santa,  
I want a new orange Fitbit for Christmas and hunting stuff.  
Love, Caydin

Dear Santa,  
We would like baseballs, bumper race cars, a t-ball bat, a robot, bath bombs and Legos.  
Love, Burke and Briggs

Dear Santa,  
I would like Lego games, bath bombs, books, a pen and lamp and bumper cars.  
Love, Briggz

Dear Santa and Mrs. Claus,  
Please bring me a jewelry box, a Butterbeer book, soccer goals, a microphone, coloring markers and candy.  
Love, Brianne

Dear Santa,  
Please bring me a phone, a red robe, an electric scooter, a Husker necklace, five packs of mint gum, a Baby Alive doll, a big reindeer and a train for my Christmas tree.  
Love, Sophie

Dear Santa,  
My name is Grace. I am six years old and live in Seward.  
This year I have been really good. For Christmas, please bring me an American Horse doll with glasses, a Spirit toy and tree with a star.  
Love, Grace

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good girl most of the time. I would like a flamingo that poops for Christmas, please and thank you.  
Love, Kylar

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good girl. I want slime.  
Love, Korryn

Dear Santa,  
My name is Marlie. I have been a very good girl this year. I would like presents, including: a cry baby, cowgirl boots and daddy needs some light bulbs.  
Love, Marlie

Dear Santa,  
I have been very good this year. What I want for Christmas are Pokemon cards, stuffed animal and printer with ink. Also, I hope you have a nice day.  
Love, Brielle

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I want a baby Yoda, art supplies and a Nintendo Switch.  
Love, Violet

Dear Santa,  
I have been a really good boy this year. My number one thing that I really want is an Xbox. I also want Nintendo Switch games, especially Legendary Fishing. I really want Ravens football gloves and football. I also want a Patrick Mahomes jersey and Stephen Curry jersey. The last thing I want is a cool looking Nerf football.  
Love, Teagan

Dear Santa,  
If I could want one thing it would be Pokemon cards. But that's the only thing I want. But I would like to give something to another person and that would be all I want for Christmas.  
Love, Eli

Dear Santa,  
I would like a desk, an aqua colored chair and shirt and a kitten.  
Love, Abby

Dear Santa,  
I would like an alarm clock, my very own music night light, a ballerina box, my own play toy box to put toys in a sparkle necklace and a shimmering necklace that glows in the dark like my cat one.  
Love, Cora

Dear Santa,  
I really want a basketball sweat-shirt, a Saint Bernard dog, Lego friends camper, Barbie play sets like the pizza place and a camo computer.  
Love, Brooklyn

Dear Santa,  
I would like this year:

Karson to be happy, a Wubble, a Wubble reindeer, money, melty beads Nerf guns and Super Mario Kart  
Love, Kooper

Dear Santa,  
My name is Emery. I live in Lincoln. One thing that is awesome about me is that I am kind. I love doing nice things like helping people and my Christmas wish list is LOL friends, Lego sets and doll beds.  
Thank you Santa, have a great flight!  
Love, Emery

Dear Santa,  
My name is Dalton and I live in Lincoln. One thing that's awesome about me is that I play soccer. I love doing things like helping mom. My Christmas wish list is Legos, rhino and a bike bell. Thank you Santa and have a great flight!  
Love, Dalton

Dear Santa,  
I have been a really good boy this year. I really want some Legos, especially an airport, submarine, boat and train. I also want a small Packers football, Nintendo Switch bowling game and slime kit. I am five years old and excited for Christmas.  
Love, Toren

Dear Santa,  
I would like an electric dirt bike, camo pants and an automatic BB gun.  
Love, Brice

Dear Santa,  
I have been a really good boy this year!



I just turned two years old and so excited for Christmas. I really like Thomas the Train, Paw Patrol and Wheels on the Bus. I would like a tool set, a doctor set, and toy truck. I can't wait for you to come to my house on Christmas.  
Love, Tristen

Dear Santa,  
I want a cool Nerf gun and a Big Fury World toy.  
Love, Johnny

Dear Santa,  
I would like school supplies, a calendar, art stuff, stuff for when we play school, a scrapbook, chapstick, gum and slime.  
Love, Makenzie

Dear Santa,  
I would like a castle, a pickup for my Barbies to drive and a purple Barbie.  
Raisin would like some treats  
I have mostly been a good girl this year.  
Love, Raimie

Dear Santa  
I would like a LEGO set dually with gooseneck horse trailer, erector set float trailer with semi and sleeper and a giant stuffed cat.  
Tank would like some treats  
Love, Tyler and Tank  
Please and thank you

Dear Santa Claus  
Could I please have a remote control airplane for Christmas? I have been a good boy this year. My sister Molly would like a scooter for Christmas. I would also like a power car and that's all. Hope your reindeer are doing good. Thank you?  
From Silas

Dear Santa  
I want to have a train and a drone, not real, just toys also have a nice day.  
From Clayton

Dear Santa,  
I have helped clean and I have been good. I would like American Girl Joss Kendrick's ultimate girl doll collection this year for Christmas.  
With high hopes for you, from

Kinzie

Dear Santa,  
I want a desktop mic for youtube videos.  
Merry Christmas  
Love, Ryan

Santa can I have the new big smasher eggs from Treysen and I don't think your fat.

Dear Santa,  
How are the reindeer? I want a night light speaker that is blue tooth and an alarm clock. In my stocking a hermonie keychain please.  
Thank you, Sarah

Dear Santa I have ben rile good this year. I want a AG doll named Joss for Christmas.  
From ...Everit

makeup set, frozen II horse, remote control car, snow stuff for American girl doll, Baking set, Barbie Bakery set, chair pillow  
Love, Keagan

Dear Santa  
what I really want for x-mas is better wi-fi. I glich a lot in my games and its starting to get to my head. Also I want a dirt bike because they look really fun to drive.  
Thank you and Merry Christmas.  
Love, Noah  
P.S. For my phone to have wi-fi on it

Dear Santa,  
Last Christmas I asked for a baby brother. Thank you so much for my baby brother Caden! I love to snuggle with him. Could you being me some gluten-free yummy snacks this year?  
Love Riley

hamock, goprow, trapset, Minecraft Java edition amp  
from Will

violin, choklit, hedphon, books, candy canes  
from Stella

Dear Santa. I have been very good this year also I want for Christmas a pokemon legos and something nice also a singing gingerbread man and I would like a three wheeled scooter for my brother also have a nice day.  
From Brielle

(continued on page 6A)

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**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

## We asked you

Will you be spending the holidays with family this year?

Due to technical difficulties on our website, there will be no poll results for this week. Check back next week for this and an additional question!

## Now we want to know

This week's poll question: What is your favorite kind of Christmas cookie?

Sugar  
Snickerdoodle  
Chocolate chip  
Fudge

Vote online at [www.sewardindependent.com](http://www.sewardindependent.com) and share the question on Facebook, then check next week's edition of the Seward County Independent for results.

## Pay it forward this year

by Jill Martin  
Seward County Independent

We moved to Seward in 2008 with very little in our bank account. In our early years of marriage, we lived paycheck to paycheck in our small 900-square-foot, two-bedroom home near downtown Seward. Unexpected costs like medical bills or something breaking down on the car put a lot of stress on our new marriage. We were happy, though. We did a lot with the little we had, and our children didn't really understand how poor we were at the time.

A bright spot during those years was an envelope of \$100 that arrived one day in our mailbox. It was labeled as a random act of kindness and came at a time when we were feeling a lot of financial stress. I don't know who was behind the action, but I am forever grateful. Over the years, we have worked to pay that kindness forward to others, even in the smallest ways.

Something unexpected happened last Friday, a week before Christmas. My husband works at Hughes Brothers, and as many local residents know, the company is extremely generous to its employees, especially at Christmas. Along with an annual

bonus, he received a sealed envelope with \$100 in it to pay it forward to someone in need or an organization important to us. The letter asked employees to pass it along to someone else who has not been as fortunate, especially during the pandemic.

First of all, I am grateful for places like Hughes Brothers who truly value its employees, families and community. When people ask where my husband works, I often use it to brag hardcore. In a hard year for so many, this business chose not only to heap a financial blessing on its employees but also provide an opportunity to pay it forward.

That night around the supper table, our family of five discussed our options of paying it forward that night around the supper table. We discussed organizations, individuals and families ultimately deciding that we wanted to pay it forward to a young family. We also used it as a teaching moment with our daughters explaining that we aren't doing this for recognition. It is purely about sharing the gift that thoughtful individuals provided for us. To give is to receive, and we are grateful for our village this holiday season.

Happy holidays to all of you.

## Christmas looks different in 2020

by Caitlyn Nelson  
[caitlyn@sewardindependent.com](mailto:caitlyn@sewardindependent.com)

With COVID-19, no one knew how Christmas plans would play out. Families had to plan and decide how to make this unconventional situation normal for the holidays.

I knew in January that my Christmas would look different, though.

For most of my winter breaks growing up, I would travel to Washington state to stay with my aunt and celebrate Christmas with her. We had traditions of going on Christmas morning hikes, opening presents, exploring her town and even taking treats to staff at the hospital she worked at.

In January she moved to Germany,

leaving my Christmas plans up in the air.

Typically, my immediate family would celebrate Christmas in conjunction with Thanksgiving, in preparation for me to travel and because it was easiest for us all to get together then. So that's what we did this year too.

I have been asked quite a few times what my Christmas plans are and truth be told – I don't know. I have had a whole year to plan for what I am going to do this Christmas and I am still not sure; I probably won't be until the day of.

But, I think this is a really cool opportunity for me. I get to start making my own traditions this year.

Will my dog and I continue the Christmas morning hike/walk? Probably.

Will we drive around and look at Christmas lights on Christmas Eve? Absolutely.

Will we binge watch

Christmas movies in bed all day? Maybe.

Will we travel to my hometown to see my family? Doubtful because just my luck something will happen that as a reporter I need to be close for, but maybe.

Will I spend it with my best friend's family because they are closer? Possibly.

This Christmas is neat for me – a chance for me to decide how I want to celebrate my favorite holiday. I have always loved Christmas – the lights, the music, the movies, the season of giving. I get the chance to find out how I really want to spend the holiday without having prior plans for it.

I know this holiday season isn't how anyone quite expected it to be, but find the best in it. While things are different, embrace the change because you never know what new ways to celebrate you can find.

## Letters to the editor

### Students excel despite challenges

Congratulations on a job well done goes out to the Seward High School band for their performance last week. The culmination of nearly a year of modified (to say the least) rehearsals, went very well thanks to the dedicated efforts and leadership of Amanda Kenney, the director of instrumental music.

By splitting up the over 100 students into smaller ensembles, being mindful of CDC protocols, and performing spread out in the gym with a smaller spread out audience, the students were able to share their talents with us as a wonderful Christmas gift. The evening was also made available online for those that were unable to attend in person.

More importantly is the fact that this community continues to value, benefit from, and be blessed by strong music education programs at all levels, both instrumental and vocal. It has been shown that experiences with music go far beyond the classroom or performance stage to enhance student learning potential, cognitive ability, social skills, and civic engagement. We all benefit as a community when we encourage, support, and promote music in the lives of our students, in our schools, and in our community.

Jim Krutz  
Seward

### Seward continues to shine

The Seward Community did it again! Not only do the people of the community have an outstanding annual Fourth of July celebration, the best county fair anywhere, a Christmas parade, etc. Whatever the community does, it does it very well.

Now Seward has the 400,000 Magical Lights of Seward at the Seward County Fairgrounds to add to their list of accomplishments. It is something to behold and to be seen. We have seen similar light presentations in Wisconsin, Missouri and Iowa. Those presentations don't hold a candle to Seward's Magical Lights. It is a must-see!

One can only imagine all the work, time, talent and effort it takes to put on such an event plus the expense. Thank you, Seward, for all you do to make this a great community to live in.

Doris and Joe Huber  
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.

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

# Seward students work to combat global warming

*Kolterman-Wagner, Voehl develop "significant project" through FCCLA STAR leadership effort*

Hannah Kolterman-Wagner and Miriam Voehl, senior members of the Seward High Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, wanted to be part of the effort to change or stop worldwide global warming.

They hope do their part to help slow down this process by working with an advocacy effort, yet to be identified, and actively assist as local volunteers, assisting with recycling and raising funds to support the efforts to save the Amazon rain forest devastation.

This will serve as their FCCLA STAR leadership project. STAR is the Students Taking Action for Recognition FCCLA competition, and both girls have been involved with STAR projects every year of their high school career.

"We wanted to finish our high school senior year with a significant project," Voehl said. "Global warming is real and two ways to assist is to, first of all, advocate for the effort to stop global warming, and secondly, volunteer to help with the change, first by volunteering to physically help and also by raising funds to assist the campaign."

"In wanting to stop global warming, we wanted to focus on saving the Amazon rain forest, as that forest has a significant impact on the fight against global warming," Kolterman-Wagner said. "The Amazon rain forest is the world's largest tropical rain forest, the home of 40,000 plant species and 1300 bird species and covers 2% of the earth's surface, yet produces more than 10 times that



Seward High seniors Miriam Voehl, left, and Hannah Kolterman-Wagner prepare to distribute their containers seeking the change of the students to help change global warming by donating to save the Amazon rain forest. The collection ended Dec. 21.

amount worth of the world's oxygen. It assists in the effort to slow down global warming."

To save the Amazon rain forest, the local FCCLA Chapter, led by Kolterman-Wagner and Voehl, is sponsoring a "Change" drive, raising funds with a coin campaign, asking the local high school students to "Help change global warming with their pocket change—pennies,

nickels, dimes and quarters—even dollars!"

The girls placed identified, empty milk jugs in the classrooms around the school, library and the school office, in a pre-Christmas fundraising effort. The funds will be donated to the Rain Forest Alliance in Washington, D.C.

"Did you know the over the past 40 years, the Amazon rain forest has suffered a loss of 20% due to deforestation

and cattle ranching," Voehl said. "We want to be part of the change and hope to raise funds and, in our own small way, do our part to help save Planet Earth."

"We also volunteered to promote recycling, as we volunteered at the city's annual Clean-Up Day, where the city recycled steel and metal, and we also volunteered at the local City of Seward Recycling Center. Recycling is key to

changing the impact of global warming, and volunteering to assist with recycling programs is very important and something we all should be involved with worldwide."

"Planting trees is also very important to eliminating global warming, and we are re-potting small evergreen seedlings, raising them this winter inside, to be planted outside in the spring," Kolterman-Wagner said. "We know that trees are key to stopping global warming, and the simple effort of everyone planting trees will help with slowing down global warming. Our goal is to get those seedlings planted in the spring around Seward County."

"We have not identified which advocacy effort yet to support, but we feel all need to advocate to our legislative leaders promoting that Global Warming is real and we must work together to stop global warming," Voehl said. "FCCLA encourages students to advocate together to create awareness and educate the public. There are many legislative projects to support to assist with global warming and even those to save the Amazon rain forest. We are in the process of researching global warming legislation proposals and excited to support an organized campaign."

Coins can also be donated at the campaign collection jugs, placed in the Seward Civic Center or directly by contacting Voehl at miriam.voehl@sewardschools.org or Kolterman-Wagner at hannah.koltermanwagner@sewardschools.org.

## Pastor's column

### When the shepherds go home, the work of Christmas begins

by the Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty  
Seward United Methodist Church

Well, here we are. Just a couple of days before Christmas, even a pandemic will not stop Christmas. The holiday may look different, be different, but Christmas will come no matter what. The nativity story will be told of a babe to a manger born, of angels singing and shepherds going to check

things out.

And then before we have had time to truly take it all in, Christmas is done. The shepherds have departed. The shiny ornaments are getting dusty. It is precisely at this moment that Howard Thurman reminds us of "The Work of Christmas." His poem by this title has always inspired me. Maybe it will inspire you, too.

#### "The Work of Christmas"

"When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,

The work of Christmas begins:  
To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,

To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,

To make music from the heart...'

This year may we carry the wonder and spirit of Christmas with us as we enter a new

year, as we continue to make it through this pandemic, as we work on learning to be ever more compassionate and kind.



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## Santa Letters continued

(continued from 3A)

Dear Santa  
This year I was good. I would like Dronehome, fish, mouse trap, nerf ultra pharaoh, trumpet, hex but nano flash and a phone.

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
FROM: CORBIN

Dear Santa  
I would like a chalk easel for Christmas.  
Love, Bailey

Dear Santa,  
I want rally rally rally bad is an ipod thank you,  
Love, Heide

Dear Santa  
I think I have been a good girl this year. I hope you have a great Christmas this year. I made a list of things I want for Christmas down below so .... That is all I have to say I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I want the Nintendo switch light (pink)  
I want Nintendo switch games please (especially Mario cart).  
I want so many squishes.

I want makeup (any makeup and a lot of it) and can I have foundation?

I want fluffy pillows and fluffy blankets.  
I want new earbuds or air pods

Lol dolls and another things like that.  
And anything you think I might like.

PS I super dooper want the Nintendo switch light (pink) please. And the games that come with the Nintendo also.  
Love, Isabella

Dear Santa, sorry if my spelling is not correct. This is my Christmas wish.

Butter slime, Elf on the shelf pink, Nintendo switch light teal or pink, Lol, Got to go flamingo, Scuffles loves, Make up And any other thing wut I might want  
Love, Abigail

Dear Santa  
I have ben rile good this year. I want a AG Doll named Julie for Christmas.  
From ... Emerson

Merry Christmas  
Batman car and Joker, Transformer costume, Joker car, Stuffed animal bald eagle, Stuffed animal goat, Hulk costume  
Love, Drake

Dear Santa. I know I haven't been to good. I'm going to try to be better. Even though I haven't been to good here is what I want for Christmas. An American Girl doll that looks like me, art supplies, puzzles with 100 to 1,000 pieces, scrunchies and a no sew quilt to make and a hawkeye hat with a puffy ball on top, hawkeye pajamas and hawkeye sweat pants with pockets.

Merry Christmas  
Santa  
from Addison

Dear Santa  
Please bring race-track, bike, basketball, Playdoh kitchen set, Alphabet movie, walkie talkie, candy  
Love Wyatt

Santa  
Motorcycle toy, four wheeler, horses  
Love, Harper

Dear Santa, I want for Christmas please may I

have Baby Alive, Baby Grow Up and VIP Pets and a purple sparkling unicorn stuffed animal and curly girls.  
From: Kacey

Dear Santa  
This is Grayson and this year I am 4 years old. All year long I have been nice. For Christmas this year I would like a Power Ranger Robot, shark remote control monster truck, Rudolph toys and a bumble snow globe.  
Merry Christmas  
Santa  
Love, Grayson

dear SaNta  
I want a remote control monster truck  
I want a lego city great forest tractor  
Lego Jurassic world  
Lego skid steer  
Sometimes I help my sister when she gets hurt and sometimes I help my dad if he gets hurt and sometimes I'm good.

I promise to be a kind person.  
Jayce

Dear Santa  
I want an electric scooter and a dog.  
Abe

Dear Santa,  
drone, Fort Nite Nerf gun, watch, Nerf bullets, PC computer, Nerf rovoinator  
Love, Reid

Dear Santa  
yo yo, camera, hat, LOL  
Love, Reagan

Dear Santa  
How are you? How are your reindeer? How is the North Pole? This year for Christmas I want things to decorate my room. I have been really good this year.  
Love, Brooklyn

Dear Santa Claus.  
This year for Christmas I would like new clothes, a desk (white please!), a really soft blanket, some fancy art pens and markers (that my brother can't get to!!!) and a phone I really want one!!!! and the last thing is a puppy. I know that you're like a puppy, are you crazy!!!! but if you got me one I would be so happy and this would be the best Christmas ever!!!!  
From the girl who is hopefully on the nice list  
Adalee

Dear Santa Claus.  
This year for Christmas I would like my own scooter, a Mahomes football card, a desk (dark blue-please) accessories for the desk, a really soft blanket and the last thing is a weiner dog that would make my Christmas and it would be the best Christmas ever (if you would not mind, I would like it to be a boy!!!!).

Merry Christmas,  
Love, Easton

Dear Santa,  
This Christmas I am 9 years old and I have been nice. My Christmas wishes are NBA things and Google Play Store gift cards.  
Brock

Dear Santa,  
My name is Judge and I am 6 years old. This year, I have been very nice. For Christmas, please bring me Nerf guns, Marvel metal guys, Legos, waders, fishing lures and a pellet gun.  
Love, Judge

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Dear Santa,  
My name is Eastyn and I am 9 years old. This year, I have been very nice. For Christmas, please bring me legos, toy surprises, fidget toys, stress balls.  
Love, Eastyn

Hover Board, Xbox 360 games, foosball table, elbow/knee pads, ping pong table, pool table, 1,000 golf balls, big gold driver nice  
Miloww

Hover Board, foosball table, ping pong table, pool table, Xbox 360 games, Legos, cat, ski goggles, fruit by the foot, golf putter and golf balls driver  
Eli

Santa, my name is Landon. I am 5 years old. I would like Roblox toys to hold and play with. Also some coins - Robux  
Landon

Santa, I want a Bendi and the ink machine game for Xbox one, Peppa Pig, new tree house, Pop the Pig, a camera, a clock for my room, race car track, hot wheels, new clothes, gloves and hats, a new TV and remote.  
(unclear name) 5-year-old twin of Landon

Dear Santa, my name is Caleb. I am 8 years old. My phone screen is cracked from a sledding accident. Please bring me a new one, Iron Man



helmet, Iron Man suit, Spider Man webshooters and a Captain America electromagnetic shield.  
Caleb

Cora's Christmas list  
Surfboard and puppy, pogostick and paint set and Christmas clothes.

I am Cora

Dear Santa,  
I want a toy Bernese Mountain Dog. I have been good.  
Love, Hannah

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas this

year I want V-Bucks, I need shirts, I'll wear Adidas, I'll read Diary of a Wimpy Kid but I'd really love it if you would bring me V-Bucks.  
Love, Robert

The photos pictured throughout the numerous Santa Letter pages were drawn and submitted along with or in place of letters. The staff at the Seward County Independent picked just a few, but enjoyed looking at each one.



When you shop Seward, you shop local!

## Santa Letters continued

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas this year I want a PS4, I need pans, I'll wear Cio and I'll read Dirty of a Pug but I'd really love it if you would bring me a PS4.  
Love, Aiden

What I want for crims is for coronavirus to go away (unclear name)

Ayvah's list  
Most wanted, laptop that's not slow, motor bike (like Kalli), fake glue on nails, rose scented body soap, jewelry for neck/wrist and a Robux gift card.

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas I'd like an air hockey table, a squishy mate in my stocking, electric football and that's all the stuff I want.  
From Hunter

Dear Santa, I want a lot of football cards, baseball cards and basket ball cards. Maybe get something for Elley to.

Sincerely Riter  
Dear Santa  
I want a puppy and a crystal  
From: Josie

To Santa  
From Hazel  
LOL dolls, surprise bath bomb, cozy slippers, Ipad and charger, LOL ball, dress crown makeup and Barbies.

Go cart, phone, Pokemon cards, giant RC car, the password to my Robux account, hover board, 1 pad.

Love, Cassidy  
Dear Santa  
For Christmas this year there are lots of things I want but to make it easier for you, I picked out some that I really want. A telescope, body pillow, skateboard, an American Girl doll (with pierced ears), Jetson Plasma hoverboard, Elf on the Shelf, Echo Dot Kids Edition Panda, a guitar case for my guitar.  
The last thing I want

is a real life guinea pig, not a stuffed animal. It is OK if you can't get that for me though, Merry Christmas  
Love, Ella

Dear Santa  
My name is Beau and I'm 8 years old. For Christmas this year I want V-Bucks, I need pants, I'll wear clothes, I'll read dog man but I'd really love it if you would bring me a TV.  
Love, Beau

Dear Santa,  
I have bin vare good Santa. I have been some places to see you. Can you giv me a scooter?  
Acelyn

Dear Santa,  
I have been a good girl this year. I would like a Sonic Movie and Legos. I will leave treats for you!  
Love, Emerson

Dear Santa,  
My name is Cora and I would like a Rapunzel doll, color pencils, pens, a small gater, Christmas socks, Mickey Mouse clothes and a blanket.  
Love, Cora

Dear Santa,  
I want a tree car, 20 Pepsis, coal for a snowman, a Chiefs jersey and a Nerf Gun.  
Love, Henry

Dear Santa,  
My name is Jeplin and I am 11 years old. This year, I have been very nice. For Christmas, please bring me writing sheets, boots and a motor helicopter.  
Love, Jeplin

Dear Santa,  
For Christmas, I would like Pokemon cards, Diary of a Wimpy Kid, The Deep End, a Nintendo Switch, Nerf gun, BeyBlades, Hot Wheels track, Jurassic World Lego set, Pokemon action figures, PC please, Roblox gift card, Minecraft Lego set and gift card and Bakugan.  
Love, Luke

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# Shooting Stars 4-H'ers deliver gifts



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Shooting Stars 4-H Club collected gifts for residents of the nursing homes in Seward. They collected puzzles, playing cards, adult coloring books, colored pencils, word search books, greeting cards, stamps, lotion, warm socks, chapstick and lots of candy for BINGO prizes. The club members would like to wish the residents of the nursing homes a very Merry Christmas and hope that these gifts brighten their spirits. The gifts were delivered to the Ridgewood on Friday by, from left, Club Historian Joyah Warren, Community Service Chair Kinslee Meyer, Club President Hannah Roebke and Lori Gressley of Ridgewood. The club members also made a delivery to Kinship Pointe.

# Tabitha offering grief support groups online

Tabitha's industry-leading Senior Care provider, offers a variety of support groups throughout York, Seward, Saline, Butler, Polk, Fillmore and surrounding counties.

Online grief and support groups are open to anyone in the community and are a great way to find support while sharing common experiences and coping tips in the safety and comfort of home. Your loved one did not have to be with Tabitha. Participation is free; register online at [Tabitha.org/Hospice/Bereavement](http://Tabitha.org/Hospice/Bereavement).

- Grieving Gracefully Book Club, held the second and fourth Tuesdays, Jan. 12 and 26, from noon-1 p.m. The support group will read and discuss "Choosing to See: A Journey of Struggle and Hope" by Mary Beth Chapman, a book that focuses on moving through grief with faith. For questions, call Juanita Steenbakers at (402) 416-7365.
- Growing Through Grief Support Group, held every Tuesday beginning Jan. 19 at

3 p.m. This six-week support group is dedicated for those who recently lost a loved one. Share your story with others who are going through a common experience while receiving helpful tips to successfully move through the grief journey. For questions, call Abby Henre at (402) 486-8546.

- HOPE Book Club, held the first and third Thursdays beginning Jan. 21, from 10-11 a.m. The support group will read and discuss "The Year of Magical Thinking" by Joan Didion, a memoir of her first year after her husband's death. For questions, call Tabitha Hoffman at (402) 362-7739.

- Caregiver Support Group, held every Thursday beginning Jan. 21 at 2 p.m. This eight-week support group is dedicated for those who are caring for a spouse, parent or other loved one with a serious illness. Each week will cover a different caregiving topic. For questions, call Juanita Steenbakers at (402) 416-7365.



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SEWARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT



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Merry

# Christmas

And Happy New Year

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## Obituaries

### Marjorie J. Krzeneski

April 20, 1938 – Dec. 13, 2020

Marjorie Joan Krzeneski was born April 20, 1938, in Laydon, North Dakota, to Robert and Florence (Gladue) Storey and passed away Dec. 13, 2020, in Lincoln at the age of 82 years, 7 months and 23 days. Marjorie grew up in North Dakota where she attended school.

On Feb. 28, 1954, Marjorie was united in marriage to Lloyd Moulton in Grand Forks, North Dakota. The family moved to Walton in 1967 and then to Garland in 1969. Lloyd passed away Nov. 6, 1971. On Aug. 21, 1974, Marjorie married John Krzeneski at the Seward United Methodist Church. Marjorie worked at Memorial Hospital and Sundermann Nursing Home as a cook for many years, retiring in 2008. She loved working in her flower garden, sewing, making the kids their clothes and working on crafts. Marjorie and John enjoyed attending car shows on the weekends. One of her specialties was making homemade wine. She also loved going to garage sales with her sisters. Marjorie was a strong and wonderful lady and she was also a breast cancer survivor. Marjorie loved her family very much, especially her grandchildren.

Marjorie is preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Robert Storey, Ernie Storey and Wilfred Storey; brother-in-law, Al Teeters; and two infant grandsons, Adam Brose and Derek Moulton.

Survivors cherishing her memory include her husband, John Krzeneski, Garland; children, Kathy and husband Jerry Condon, Seward, Vicky and husband Bill Vandenberg, David City, Christine and husband Alan Brose, Seward, and Michael and wife Tessa Moulton, Concordia, Missouri; three sisters, Trudy and husband Jack Frost, Lincoln, Millie and husband Clay Finger, Fargo, North Dakota, and Kathy Teeters, Lincoln; 15 grandchildren, Lloyd Stolley, Roger Stolley, De-Maree Novak, Audrey Fischer, Andrea Metzner, Brian Brose, Lisa Steinbach, Justin Brose, Angie Vandenberg, Amber Vandenberg, Bradley Vandenberg, Brittany Hink, Cara Moulton, Megan Moulton, Gregory Moulton and Madison Moulton; 17 great-grandchildren; nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

A graveside service and interment were Dec. 17 at Germantown Cemetery in Garland. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Krzeneski family for future designations. Condolences may be left for the family at [www.zabkafuneralhome.com](http://www.zabkafuneralhome.com).



### Patricia A. Neuman

Dec. 3, 1931 – Dec. 11, 2020

Patricia Ann Neuman of Seward was born Dec. 3, 1931, in Schuyler to Dorsey and Mary (Koziol) Gainey. She attended Schuyler High School, graduating in 1949. On April 16, 1955, Patricia was united in marriage to Donald A. Neuman in Schuyler. She worked as the secretary for Neuman Organ Company for 25 years. She was also a homemaker who enjoyed taking care of her family.

Patricia passed away Dec. 11, 2020, at home surrounded by her family, at the age of 89 years and 8 days. She is survived by her husband, Donald A. Neuman, Seward; children, Pam (Warren) Snyder, Milford, Gregory (Dana) Neuman, Seward, Mary (Mike) Herout, North Platte, and Mark (Amy) Neuman, Bentonville, Arkansas; six grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; sister, Donna Jean Keith, Bella Vista, Arkansas; and sister-in-law, Mary Francis Gainey, Peoria, Illinois. Patricia was preceded in death by her parents, Dorsey and Mary Gainey; brother, Dennis L. Gainey; and brother and sister-in-law, William and Mary Alice Gainey.

A Rosary was Dec. 19 with inurnment at a later date. Memorial contributions are suggested in care of the Neuman family or the donor's choice. Condolences may be left for the family at [www.volzkefuneralhome.com](http://www.volzkefuneralhome.com).



### Donald L. Rondorf

Aug 30, 1949 – Dec 13, 2020

Donald LaVerne Rondorf was born Aug 30, 1949, in Thief River Falls, Minnesota to LaVerne Laurel and Olive Louise (Jorde) Rondorf and passed away Dec 13, 2020, in Seward, at the age of 71 years, 3 months and 13 days.

Don grew up in Thief River Falls, Minnesota, where he attended and graduated from Lincoln High School with the Class of 1967. He then attended the University of Minnesota where he was a member of FarmHouse fraternity, graduating in 1971. Don was united in marriage to Joyce Friday. He was a Vo-Ag teacher in Montevideo, Minnesota, where he taught for four years. In 1976, Don moved to Grand Island, where he worked for P-A-G Seeds.

On June 26, 1977, Don was united in marriage to Pamela Marie (Ballain) Dale in the church at Stuhr Museum in Grand Island. June 26 became "the family wedding date" as both his parents and his sister, Barb, were married on that date, too.

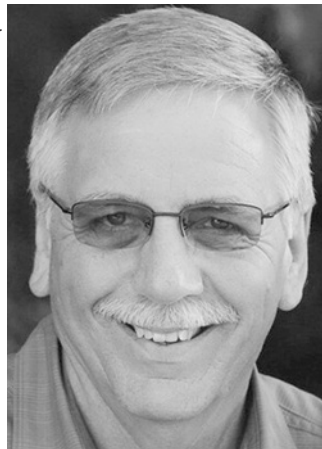
Don and Pam moved to Belmond, Iowa, where he was a district manager for Paymaster Seeds from 1984 to 1988 and then to Noblesville, Indiana, from 1988-1992. In 1992, they moved to Seward where Don was a district manager for Cargill Hybrid Seeds until 1999. He then began working as a financial associate for Thrivent in 2002. Don returned to Cargill in 2005 where he worked as a farm marketer in their grain division, retiring in 2017 after 33 years with Cargill.

Don was very active and served on the Seward County Planning Commission, Seward County Habitat for Humanity and Kiwanis Club of Seward. He was a member of Faith Lutheran Church for 28 years where he served many years on the church council. Most every Sunday, he would make freshly-ground coffee for fellowship time at church. Don loved helping people, especially those in need. He also enjoyed working in his yard and feeding the birds and squirrels. He had a love for photography and was the unofficial photographer at church. He had a passion for grilling, especially on his fire pit. Don also enjoyed hunting and fishing with friends and with his sons.

Don was preceded in death by his parents, LaVerne and Olive Rondorf (Olive passed 12/3/2020); parents-in-law, Clyde and Helen Marie Ballain; numerous aunts and uncles.

Survivors cherishing his memory include his wife, Pam Rondorf, Seward; children, Tyson Rondorf and fiancé, Gayle, Pillager, Minnesota, Jeremy and wife, Sara Rondorf, Andover, Maryland, and Rebecca and husband, Ben Goheen, St. Paul, Minnesota; three grandchildren, Belén, Frank and Walter; three step-grandchildren, Miah, Will and Nate; sister, Barbara and husband, Bill Pon, Norfolk, Virginia; brother-in-law, Tom and wife, Carol Ballain, Fort Collins, Colorado; two nephews, Sean and wife, Amy Ballain, Paul and wife, Colleen Ballain; seven great-nieces and nephews; numerous cousins and a host of friends.

A funeral service was Dec. 21 at St. John Lutheran Church in Seward with a graveside service and interment at Westlawn Memorial Park Cemetery in Grand Island. Memorial contributions may be made to Faith Lutheran Church, Seward County Habitat for Humanity or to the Kiwanis Club of Seward Backpack Program. Condolences may be left for the family at [www.zabkafuneralhome.com](http://www.zabkafuneralhome.com).



## Real estate

Information taken from records filed with the Seward County clerk.

### Nov. 12 – 17

Scott V. Spohn and Katherine J. Spohn to Wayne H. Milton and Lorraine C. Milton, an undivided 25% interest in the SW1/4 30-9-1. DS \$783

Norcla, LLC, to William J. White and Sharon D. White, Tract 1: N2/3 W1/2 SW1/4 4-9-3 and Tract 2: North 40 acres E1/2 SW1/4 and the W1/2 W1/2 SE1/4 4-9-3. DS \$1,721.25

Kelsey Ratkovec and Cody Ratkovec and Daniel L. Buss and Suzanne Buss to John Johnson and Katherine Johnson, north 45 feet of Tax Lot 73, part of Lot 5, in the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad Subdivision in the SW1/4 SW1/4 21-11-3. DS \$355

Bradley D. Bowen and Susan K. Bowen to Joseph W. Schluckebier and Trisha D. Schuckebier, east 60 feet of Lots 7-8, Block 67, Harris, Moffit and Roberts Addition to Seward. DS \$103.50

Todd A. Morrill and Diane M. Mandina-Morrill to Todd A. Morrill and Diane M. Mandina-Morrill, Lot 4 and the E1/2 of the

adjacent vacated alley, Block 6, Mary R. Spear's Addition to Seward. DS exempt

Ellis Holdings, LLC, to Elaine M. Mueller, Parcel 1: Lot 2, Block 1, Mueller First Addition, Seward. Parcel 2: S1/2 Lot 3, Block 1, Mueller First Addition, Seward. Parcel 3: N1/2 Lot 3, Block 1, Mueller First Addition, Seward. DS \$416.25

Shane Zywiec and Heidi Zywiec to Scott Prochaska and Becky Prochaska, Lot 1, Block 1, Country Club Heights Third Addition to Seward. DS \$830.25

Theodore C. Payne Buss to Patricia A. Payne to Theodore C. Payne and Patricia A. Payne, co-trustees of the T&P Payne Family Trust, Lot 13, Block 3, Hughes Addition to the City of Seward, DS exempt

Shirley J. Hernandez to Shirley J. Hernandez, trustee of the Shirley J. Hernandez Trust, a tract of land in the NE1/4 18-9-2. DS exempt

Jackson D. Friesen to Jackson D. Friesen and Tabbitha L. Friesen, trustees of the Friesen Family Revocable Trust, a tract of land in the S1/2 NE1/4 10-9-3. DS exempt

## Arrests

Information taken from arrest affidavits filed with the Seward County Court.

**Cody Campbell**, 27, Bradshaw, was arrested Aug. 5 in connection of driving under the influence (second offense.) He was transferred to the Seward hospital because of elevated blood alcohol content and then to the Seward County Jail. Ten percent of a \$10,000 bond was filed and Campbell was sentenced to 18 months of probation and a \$1,000 fine.

**Michael Gaytan**, 42, Toledo, Ohio, was arrested June 10 in connection with the offenses of possession of U.S. currency used to facilitate purchase of illegal narcotics. Ten percent of a \$250,000 bond was filed and Gaytan was arraigned Sept. 21. The case was then bound over to the

district court.

**Hunter Simmons**, 24, Knob Noster, Missouri, was arrested June 16 in connection with the offenses of making terroristic threats, disturbing the peace, use of a firearm to commit a felony and third-degree assault. Ten percent of a \$2,500 bond was filed and Simmons waived his right to a preliminary hearing Sept. 16. The case was then bound over to the district court.

**Daniel Petersen**, 22, Garland, was arrested July 4 in connection with driving under the influence. Ten percent of a \$5,000 was filed and Petersen was arraigned Sept. 2. A motion for suppression was filed Oct. 14 and a hearing is scheduled for Dec. 2.

**Frank Suarez**, 48, Seward, was arrested Oct. 4 in connection with the offenses of

driving under the influence and with an open alcohol container. Ten percent of a \$5,000 bond was filed and Suarez was arraigned Nov. 4. A pretrial hearing is scheduled for Dec. 2.

**William Plump**, 34, Des Moines, Iowa, was arrested Oct. 12 in connection with the offenses of possession of a controlled substances with intent to distribute and no drug stamp. Ten percent of a \$150,000 bond was set and Plump had his first appearance in court Oct. 28. A competency evaluation was ordered to be completed before anything is to be completed.

**Joey Rodriguez**, 22, Lincoln, was arrested Nov. 1 in connection with the offenses of third-degree assault, violating a domestic abuse protection order and first-degree trespassing. A bond of \$30,000 was

set and Rodriguez has a pretrial hearing scheduled for Nov. 18.

**Enrique Guadalupe-Corona**, 27, was arrested Sept. 9 in connection with the offenses of criminal mischief and theft. Ten percent of a \$10,000 bond was filed. He was arraigned Oct. 27 and the case was bound over to the district court.

**Valter Makovic**, 35, Brooklyn, New York, was arrested July 2 in connection with the offenses of a stolen motor vehicle and criminal impersonation. Ten percent of a \$1,5000 bond was filed. He plead not guilty Nov. 18.

**Simon Reyes**, 46, was arrested Aug. 4 in connection with the offense of disturbing the peace. A \$5,000 bond was filed and a warrant was issued again as he failed to appear in court Oct. 7.

## Traffic

Information taken from Seward County court records.

### Nov. 2 – 6

Fredrick M. McCallister Jr., 21, Houston, Texas, careless driving, \$100 fine.

Jeffrey A. Carrillo Esquivel, 26, Lincoln, speeding 11-15 mph municipal, \$75 fine.

Jason B. Weyard, 16, Crete, speeding 16-20 mph county/state, \$125 fine.

Jonathan E. Velasquez Sosa, 21, Lincoln, speeding 21-35 mph municipal, \$200 fine; no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.w

Makenna R. Beyer, 18, Central City, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.

Chandria S. Amidan, 51, St. Paul, Minnesota, failure to yield ROW entering roadway, \$25 fine.

Timothy S. Ainsworth, 61, Seward, improper turn, \$25 fine.

Spencer M. Clouse, 41, Utica, overtake/pass stopped school bus, \$500 fine.

**Nov. 23 – 27**  
David L. McCray Jr., 30, Lincoln, no operator's license waiverable, \$75 fine.

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

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

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

Sean T. Hansen, 33, Lincoln, speeding 11-15 mph county/state,

\$75 fine.

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

Damien R. Sabin, speeding 21-35 mph municipal, \$200 fine.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Douglas S. Robinson, 56, Lincoln, speeding 6-10 mph interstate, \$25 fine.

Silvestre Santos Cortes, 35, Fremont, no operator's license waiverable, \$75 fine.

Laura Juarez, 28, Lincoln, no operator's license waiverable, \$75 fine.

Michael A. Higley, 20, North Richland Heights, Texas, violate stop or yield sign, \$75 fine.

Casey L. Makey, 35, Seward, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.

Heather L. Wade-witz, 29, Ohiowa, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.



# Moisture needed before spring planting season

by Jenny Rees  
Seward/York counties Extension educator

The sun glistening on the snow holds such beauty after a warm, dry beginning to December. Moisture is very much needed.

For curiosity's sake, I looked at the Drought Monitor for this past week and compared it to the same week in previous years. The pics are shared at [jenreesources.com](http://jenreesources.com), and it's quite interesting comparing and thinking back through the years. Hopefully we can receive more precipitation prior to planting season.

If you missed it, the Farmers and Ranchers College program featuring Dr. David Kohl and Eric Snodgrass can be found for 30 days at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cFKs13i\\_Ak](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cFKs13i_Ak). I appreciate how Eric shares global weather and climate information in an easy to understand way. He also shared an interesting story of how El Nino is related to the Christmas season, so you'll have to watch the recording to learn that.

Some stats he shared

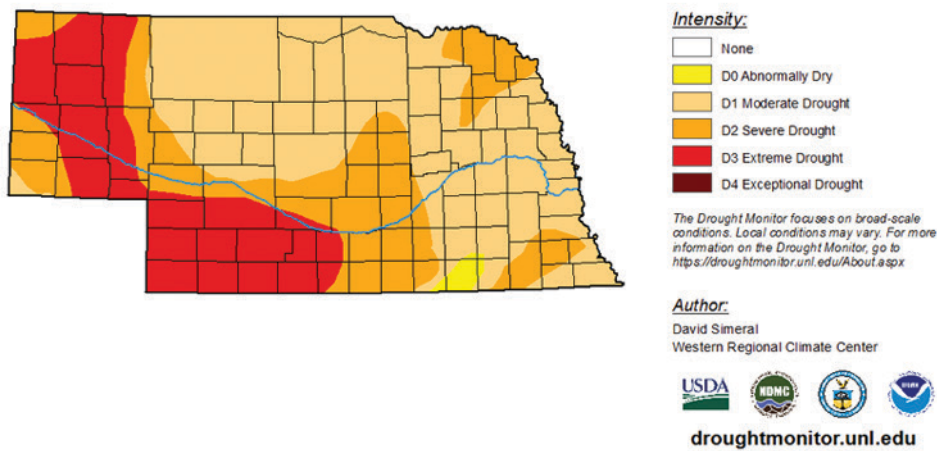
for Nebraska: June was the 18th driest on record followed by the wettest July on record. That was followed by the driest August on record with September as the 18th driest on record (would have been driest but thankfully we received precipitation after Labor Day weekend). He looked at weather data from 1901-2020 for Nebraska and the U.S. which showed a trend of 2.5 inches of precipitation gain from

April-October (with higher gains as one goes east in the U.S.). He also looked at the past 40 years, which showed heavy rainfall events (more than 2 inches per event) has tripled.

There was an effort my colleagues began a few years ago called "Weather Ready Farms" at <https://weather-ready.unl.edu/>. It was designed to improve or increase resilience towards the impacts of extreme weather on

## U.S. Drought Monitor Nebraska

December 8, 2020  
(Released Thursday, Dec. 10, 2020)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:  
David Simeral  
Western Regional Climate Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Nebraska's farms. A number of things go into that with some examples at the website.

A few examples of things farmers have done since the 2012 drought and the 2019 floods include keeping the ground covered with residue and cover crops to help reduce evapotranspiration, increase water infiltration and reduce wind/water erosion as we experience these more extreme events.

BeefWatch Webinar Series is designed to highlight management strategies in grazing, nutrition, reproduction and economics to increase cow/calf and stocker production efficiency and profitability. More information and registration for the BeefWatch Webinar Series can be found at: <https://beef.unl.edu/beefwatch-webinar-series>. Dates are Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26 with each webinar beginning at 8 p.m.

The focus for January's webinar series is "Preparing and Managing for the Calving Season."

**Jan. 5:** Preventing calf scours (Is there a way to reduce the likelihood of calf scours without adding additional vaccines or other cash expenses to your current program?)

**Jan. 12:** Calving tool box and record keeping (favorite tools and tricks for smoother season)

**Jan. 19:** Calving complications and when to call the vet

**Jan. 26:** Cow nutrition needs at calving and in early lactation  
Poinsettias: Kelly

Feehan shares the following, "It's Poinsettia time. Hard to believe these bright, colorful plants originated from a weed. And amazing what plant breeding and good marketing can do. To enjoy your Poinsettia as long as possible, place them in an area with bright sun for at least half the day. If possible, provide a night temperatures in the 50s or 60s. This is often the most challenging condition to meet in the home, but keep plants as cool as possible at night."

"If plants are near a window, don't let the leaves touch cold window panes and keep Poinsettias away from warm or cold drafts. Poinsettias need to be well-watered. Because they are in a lightweight soil-less mix, they will dry out quickly. Allow the soil to dry slightly between watering; then water thoroughly until water runs out of drainage holes. Be sure to punch holes in decorative foil wraps to prevent soggy soil conditions or at least pour excess water out of the foil after each watering."

## Troopers watching for impaired drivers during holiday season

Nebraska State Troopers will be working overtime during the holidays to keep Nebraska roads safe. The Nebraska State Patrol is teaming up with hundreds of law enforcement agencies across the country for the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" effort.

The campaign began Dec. 18 and runs through Friday, Jan. 1, and includes dozens of law enforcement agencies throughout Nebraska. Troopers will perform high-visibility patrols throughout the state, monitoring the roads for impaired drivers.

"As we close out 2020, we urge everyone on the road to work together to make these final weeks safe for those traveling," said Col. John Bolduc,

superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol. "We'll all have some interesting memories of this year, but losing a loved one in a traffic crash is a memory nobody should take from the holiday season."

NSP urges motorists to take advantage of many methods available to prevent impaired driving. Multiple organizations offer free rides during the holidays, in addition to options such as ride-sharing, taxi services or designating a driver.

This effort is made possible in part from a grant for \$23,000 from the Nebraska Department of Transportation - Highway Safety Office.

## Extension record-keeping course set for January

The next session of "Know Your Numbers, Know Your Options," Nebraska Extension's four-part record-keeping course, will be held virtually on Tuesdays in January from 10 a.m. to noon each week.

Participants should plan on attending each of the four workshops, scheduled for Jan. 5, 12, 19 and 26. The course requires participants to have an internet connection.

This course is designed to help farmers and ranchers understand their current financial position and how big decisions like large purchases, new leases or changes in production will affect their bot-

tom line. Participants will work through the financial statements of a case study farm, watching pre-recorded videos, completing assignments and participating in video chats. Upon completion of this program, participants will have a better understanding of how financial records can be used to make decisions and confidently discuss their financial position with their family, business partners and lenders.

The course fee is \$20 per participant and class size is limited to 20 people. Register online at [wia.unl.edu/know](http://wia.unl.edu/know). Registration closes Dec. 29.

# Have a safe and merry Christmas.

From all of us at Suhr and Lichty Insurance, we would like to wish you a joyous and safe Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Mark Suhr

Diane Lichty

Tyler Lichty

Jodi Barry

Thomas Suhr

Shelley Scheele

Liesel Pabian

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INSURANCE AGENCY

145 N. 5th St., Seward, NE • 402-643-2911 • [suhrlichty.com](http://suhrlichty.com)

Wishing You a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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## Dey to celebrate 90

Vernon Dey of Seward will celebrate his 90th birthday this month.

He was born Dec. 25, 1930.

To celebrate, his family is requesting a card shower. Cards may be sent to Dey at Ridge-wood Rehab and Care Center, 624 Pinewood Ave., #110A, Seward, NE 68434.



## Statsny to turn 90

Dennis Statsny of Bee will celebrate his 90th birthday this month.

He was born Dec. 27, 1930.

He and wife Arelen have four children including Annette and Curtis Hammeke, Judy and Bob Siedhoff, Joyce and Lyle Vrbka and Jane Statsny. He also has 10 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

To celebrate, his family is requesting a card shower. Birthday greetings may be sent



to 2110 Q Road, Bee, NE 68314.

## Students

**University of Nebraska - Kearney**  
Graduate and undergraduate degrees were conferred for 410 winter graduates at University of Nebraska at Kearney commencement exercises Dec. 17-18.

Students graduating with honors have the honors noted after their names. Honors, along with grade-point averages necessary to earn those honors, include:

summa cum laude, 3.90-4.00; magna cum laude, 3.80-3.89; cum laude, 3.70-3.79; and honorable mention, 3.50-3.69.

Malcolm—Brittini Pelrz, MAE in Reading PK-12

Seward—Cory Hartman, MAE in School Principalship Pre-K-8

Utica—Nolan Hahn, BS in Business Administration, Morgan Payne, BAED in Special Education, cum laude

**Announce Your Special Events, Anniversaries, Graduations, Birthdays, etc in the Seward County Independent.**  
402-643-3676

## DISABILITY: Advocating for You

No one in Nebraska knows more than the League of Human Dignity about advocating for people with disabilities or about helping them to become advocates for themselves.

Contact the League and see how we can help you get the services you need to maintain your independence.



Phone 833-800-5643

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Youth is a gift of nature, but age is a work of art.



Happy 60<sup>th</sup> on Jan. 1, 2021!

Love, Dad and Mom & the rest of the family

Together We Transform Lives

# TEAMMATES<sup>SM</sup>

## MENTORING SEWARD

### Brant (mentor)

**How long have you been part of the TeamMates program?**

This will be Brant's (my) fifth year.

**What is your favorite memory from TeamMates?**

Rather than a specific memory what comes to mind are the multiple conversations and experiences we have been able to share. I love to see a smile on Timmy's face and hear him laugh. We like to tease each other quite a bit.

**Why do you like being part of the TeamMates program?**

It is a great experience because it allows you to view life from another perspective. It is a way that I can invest in the future. My motive is to provide hope and truth for my mentee as well as a person who has the time to listen and care.

**If you could tell anyone about TeamMates what would it be?**

I would encourage more men to step in and offer their time, wisdom, and personality to another individual. The resources are solid and plentiful. The local leadership does all they can to help each mentor/mentee team be able to succeed. I have thoroughly enjoyed the experiences in TeamMates. Several of the experiences have been mutually beneficial!

### Timothy (mentee)

**How long have you been part of the TeamMates program?**

I have been in the Teammates Mentoring Program for seven years. I was with my first mentor Patrick for four years. I have been with Brant for 3 years.

**What is your favorite memory from TeamMates?**



With Patrick, my favorite memory was playing chess and checkers with him.

My favorite memory with Brant has been when it is nice out we go for walks around the building, enjoying the fresh air after being inside all day. And we talk about what all has been going on in our lives.

**Why do you like being part of the TeamMates program?**

I like being able to meet with Brant, and being able to talk about what all we have been doing that week. We actually haven't played a game recently, we just have been talking and walking around.

**If you could tell anyone about TeamMates what would it be?**

Being able to meet with a member of the community, who has some of the same interests as you, and you usually meet once a week, and you play games and talk about what is going on in your lives.

Dear friends,  
Thank you to everyone who remembered me with a wonderful card, letter, note or call for my 80th birthday. I am truly touched by the number of people that reached out to me. Each outreach brought special memories to me. Thank you all so very much. Blessings this Christmas season and Happy New Year to each of you.  
Emily Neujahr

**Our Sincere Thanks**  
The family of Ruth Olson wishes to thank everyone for their kindness shown to us after Ruth's passing, through their prayers, visits, phone calls, food, flowers, cards and memorials.  
Don Olson and family

Thank you to everyone who made the burden of grief a little easier by offering prayers, sending cards, memorials, phone calls, providing food, flowers and encouraging words. All was greatly appreciated. Volzke Funeral Home was a great help.  
**The family of Boyd Gabel**

The family of Brendon Riha would like to thank everyone for the prayers, phone calls, cards, masses, memorials and donations to the GoFundMe. Thank you to Msgr. Tucker for the beautiful memorial service and Brad and Jill Perdue for all their time, care and guidance to our family.  
Shelley, Haydan, Kennedy Scott and Cathy Whitney and Bradley Bill and Mary

**Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Rod & Priscilla Thonen**  
12.26.1970

With lots of love,  
Jennifer, Dave, Kasen & Kinley Heather, Shawn, Taneal Jamie, TJ, Makenna, Kambryn & Kraetyn Brandon, Sarah, Branick & Tenison

From lines to get into the bathroom, the pay phone on the wall or the family red van. (Actually, we voted and the van was orange.) We're so thankful for you and everything you've done for us.  
**Happy 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary, Mom and Dad. We love you.**  
Love, your 11 children and their spouses, 45 grandchildren and 51 great-grandchildren  
Cards of celebration may be sent to:  
Robert and Carolyn Gilbreath • 1327 294<sup>th</sup> Road • Seward, NE 68434

# Let it snow, let it snow, let it snowooooow



In taking a drive around the streets of Milford, one can get a sense that the Christmas season is upon us as many homes had outside decorations set in place. Reporter and office assistant Craig Jones spent a snowy afternoon checking out the sights around town. Do you have some festive photos to share? Let's see them! Email [craig@sewardindependent.com](mailto:craig@sewardindependent.com) to potentially have your jolly photo in the SCI.

# Mark your calendars

## 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](http://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, and Thursdays, Dec. 24 and 31.

should be submitted to Clark Kolterman, 660 East Pinewood Ave., Seward, or email him at [clark.kolterman@sewardschools.org](mailto:clark.kolterman@sewardschools.org). A panel will compile the nominations and a committee cross section from throughout Seward County will vote on the honoree. Committee reports will be heard at the Jan. 21 meeting and details for the 2021 event are being planned. For more information, contact Kolterman at [clark.kolterman@sewardschools.org](mailto:clark.kolterman@sewardschools.org)

## 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](mailto:stjohntrivia@gmail.com) or call Michelle Meyer at (402) 219-3008. Also, contact Meyer to be a corporate or memorial sponsor for a team or trivia round. The backup date is March 26.

## THURSDAYS

### Family history questions? Society can help

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

## JANUARY 21

### Committee plans January meeting

The monthly meeting of the Seward Fourth of July Celebration Committee will be held on Thursday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. in the West Fireplace room of the Seward Civic Center at 616 Bradford Street. The meeting is to plan and organize the 2021 Fourth of July Celebration and select honorees and committee chair. Volunteers are welcome and the meeting is open to the public.

The 2021 July 4 will honor the centennial of Hughes Brothers, Inc., founded in 1921, and the theme is "Made in America!" The committee also plans to honor the centennial of the Rivoli Theater, who was to be the honoree last year but the celebration was physically canceled and held only virtually. The theme for the Rivoli Centennial is "The Magic of Movies!" So, this year we hope to host a double celebration.

Nominations are still being sought for the Seward County Community Service Award for 2021. Names and resumes

### TOPS meets weekly

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

## 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@seward-library.org](mailto:info@seward-library.org) with requests or questions. The staff will be happy to have items ready for you to pick up when they are available.

# Stay safe this holiday season!

# Warmest Wishes



Sending you and yours tidings of comfort and joy at Christmastime! May the spirit of the season warm your heart and home at the holidays and throughout the New Year.

When the weather outside is frightful, we thank you for choosing us to keep your home feeling delightful. Serving you is our pleasure, and we appreciate your loyal support.

# Happy Holidays!

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May the Christmas season deliver an abundance of peace, love and joy to you and your family.

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**Merry Christmas and thank you for your support in 2020!**

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## NSAA announces fall honorees

The Nebraska School Activities Association announced the student recipients of the Fall 2020-21 Nebraska Chiropractic Physicians Association Academic All-State Awards. Since 2006 this NSAA award program has recognized students who meet the criteria for nomination by their school in the season of their activity.

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

### Centennial

Boys' cross country—Clinton Turnbull  
Football—Logan Cast and Cooper Gierhan  
Play production—Madison Avery and Carson Richters

Softball—Madison Avery and Kailey Ziegler  
Unified bowling—Jacob Bargen and Daylee Dey

Volleyball—Kate Hirschfeld and Jaycee Stuhr  
**Malcolm**

Boys' cross country—John Boesen and David Swotek

Girls' cross country—Grace Schleining and Lauren Shafer

Football—Gavan Dunse and Malcolm Saltzman  
Play production—Archer Moody and Grace Schleining

Softball—Mikayla DeBaets and Josephine Holliday

Unified bowling—Madeline Day and David Swotek

Volleyball—Kaitlyn Dostal and Ashlynn Sehi  
**Milford**

Boys' cross country—Maddox Baack and Ben Copley

Girls' cross country—Mattie Mullet and Alayna Piening

Football—Nick Beel and Nathan Bennett  
Play production—Collin Piening and Isaac Voboril

Softball—Abby Houk and Makena Stutzman  
Volleyball—Hannah Kepler and Savannah Spahr

### Seward

Boys' cross country—Nathan Nottingham and Michael Peery

Girls' cross country—Keegan Beisel and Samantha Hughes

Football—Nathan Miller and Hunter Novacek  
Girls' golf—Remi Christensen and Claire Novak

Play production—Ella Gray and Hannah Helmer

Softball—Claire Geidel and Lauryn Parra  
Volleyball—Anna Hughes and Abbey Ringler

## CHS wins county clash

by Stephanie Croston  
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Centennial girls' basketball team faced a tough road last week, with three Southern Nebraska Conference opponents on the schedule.

The Broncos emerged unscathed, beating Fairbury 29-27, Milford 51-44 and Superior 47-4.

"We just take it game by game," Coach Jake Polk said.

The Broncos fought through a poor shooting performance at Fairbury Dec. 15 but found a way to win, Polk said.

"They were good shots. They just weren't falling," he said.

The Broncos also struggled from the free throw line, making just 11 of 26 attempts.

Kate Hirschfeld led Centennial with 14 points, eight rebounds and four steals.

On Dec. 18, the Broncos hosted Milford in a cross-county clash and got the 51-44 win.

"It's been awhile since we'd beaten them," Polk said, adding that the last CHS win was in 2014. "It was a fun game. We were happy to be the ones on top."

Hirschfeld led CHS with 16 points and nine rebounds. Asia Nisly added 15 points, and Jaycee Stuhr delivered six assists.

The teams combined to make 19 three-pointers in the game. Centennial made 10, which is a school record, Polk said.

He was pleased with Nisly's performance. The senior had been struggling with confidence after missing almost two years, but



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Kiley Rathjen of Centennial turns into the lane and has the ball stolen by Makena Stutzman of Milford Dec. 18.

she's starting to find her game, he said.

The Broncos had a quick turnaround, visiting Superior on Saturday.

"We used a lot of gas against Milford," Polk said.

The Broncos came

out flat, letting Superior build a 16-point lead. In the second half, CHS kept its composure and started chipping away at the Wildcat lead. The Bronco defense held Superior to four points in the third quarter and trailed by one at the end

of the period. Daylee Dey made a three-pointer at the buzzer to cut the lead to one, and CHS went on a 9-0 run to start the fourth.

"The momentum shifted in the third and fourth quarters," Polk

(continued on 2B)

## Milford tops Broncos, Bluejays on court

by Stephanie Croston  
scroston@sewardindependent.com

"It was a good weekend for us," Milford Coach Tony Muller said.

His Milford boys' basketball team won both its games, beating Centennial 49-37 and Ashland-Greenwood 56-53.

The Eagles and Broncos matched up Dec. 18 in Utica.

"It's always a tough game," Muller said.

Both teams shot well to start the game, with Centennial leading after one quarter 15-14. Things cooled off in the second quarter, but Milford took a 19-18 lead into halftime.

Muller said the Eagles started out playing man-to-man defense, but MHS couldn't slow Centennial junior Jake Bargen, who finished the game with 18 points. Milford switched to a 1-3-1 zone defense with about three minutes to play, and that slowed the Broncos somewhat, Muller said.



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Seth Stutzman of Milford fights through the Centennial defense Dec. 18.

"We felt that was the best option for us," he said.

After halftime, the Eagles outscored Centennial 14-8 in the third quarter and 16-11 in the fourth.

Micah Hartwig led Milford with 18 points, and Jaxon Weyand added 13. Seth Stutzman finished with eight points, five rebounds and three steals.

Milford didn't have much time to recover, as the Eagles hosted Ashland-Greenwood Dec. 19. Again Milford started out in its man-to-man defense but AGHS built a 10-point lead. Milford switched to the 1-3-1 zone, and that was very effective, Muller said.

The Eagles cut the lead to one with 20 seconds to play in the first half, but after getting a rebound, the Bluejays stripped the ball and got their own layup and free throw to hold a 30-25 halftime lead.

Milford continued to cut into the lead and

went ahead with about 1:30 to play in the game.

Stutzman was the scoring leader with 19 points and also grabbed eight rebounds. Hartwig added 11 points. Both had three steals and three assists.

Milford (5-0) was to host Bruning-Davenport-Shickley Dec. 21 and travel to North Bend Dec. 22 before the Christmas break.

Milford 49, Centennial 37					
MHS	14	5	14	16	49
CHS	15	3	8	11	37
MHS—Isaac Yeackley 2-4 1-3 5, Micah Hartwig 6-14 3-4 18, Jaxon Weyand 4-6 4-4 13, Kaleb Miller 1-2 1-2 3, Seth Stutzman 4-7 0-0 8, Cobe Schluckebier 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 18-35 9-13 49.					
CHS—Totals 14-35 6-7 37.					
Three-point goals—MHS 4-11 (Yeackley 0-2, Hartwig 3-5, Weyand 1-2, Stutzman 0-2), CHS 3-13. Rebounds—MHS 22 (Stutzman 5), CHS 16. Assists—MHS 9 (Weyand 4). Steals—MHS 12 (Yeackley 4). Turnovers—MHS 11, CHS 14. Fouls—MHS 6, CHS 11.					

Milford 56, Ashland-Greenwood 53					
AGHS	15	15	13	10	53
MHS	12	13	16	15	56
AGHS—Totals 19-36 8-13 53.					
MHS—Yeackley 3-7 1-2 7, Hartwig 4-7 2-2 11, Bryce Jakub 1-1 1-2 3, Maddox Baack 1-2 0-0 2, Weyand 3-7 2-2 8, Miller 2-2 2-3 6, Stutzman 6-18 3-3 19, Schluckebier 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 22-43 11-14 56.					
Three-point goals—AGHS 7-18, MHS 1-5 (Yeackley 0-2, Hartwig 1-2, Stutzman 0-1). Rebounds—AGHS 20, MHS 20 (Stutzman 8). Assists—MHS 10 (Hartwig, Stutzman 3). Steals—MHS 9 (Hartwig, Stutzman 3). Blocked shots—MHS 2. Turnovers—AGHS 19, MHS 11. Fouls—AGHS 17, MHS 12.					

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# Mistakes cost Eagles in two

by Stephanie Croston  
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Milford girls' basketball team battled in its two games last week but couldn't get the wins. The Eagles came up short against Ashland-Greenwood 45-42 and Centennial 51-44.

Coach Phil Stauffer said MHS outplayed Ashland-Greenwood for three quarters, but the third quarter was the team's downfall.

"The third quarter we didn't score," he said. "We had open shots, just didn't make anything."

He said turnovers (Milford finished with 18) played into the defeat.

"We played much better offensively in the first half, and to come out and have a third quarter like we did was disappointing," he said.

Hannah Kepler scored 15 to lead Milford. Kaitlin Kontor finished with 10 points and six assists.

Stauffer said Milford's game against Centennial

was much better than its last three. Even though Centennial shot well from the three-point line, the Eagles stayed composed and battled.

"I think we took a big step forward in this game in our play with only six turnovers," he said. "We just need to be a little better on defense and not allow a team to get open looks from the three-point line."

Kontor scored 15 and was 5-8 from three-point range. Kepler finished with 16 points, Taylor Roth grabbed nine rebounds.

The Eagles (2-3) were to host Bruning-Davenport-Shickley Dec. 21 in the first round of the holiday tournament and then travel to North Bend Dec. 22 in their last game before Christmas.

**Ashland-Greenwood 45, Milford 42**  
AGHS 14 7 16 8 45  
MHS 18 13 0 11 42  
**AGHS—Totals 15-34 12-18 45.**  
**MHS—Makena Stutzman 1-8 0-0 3, Kaitlin Kontor 3-9 1-2 10, Hannah Kepler 6-13 0-0 15, Kaitlyn Klug 1-1 0-0 2, Taylor Roth 0-3 0-0 0, Sydney Stelling 1-2 0-0 2, Abby Houk 3-7 0-0 8, Mariah Richards 0-1 2-2 2. Totals 15-44 3-4 42.**  
**Three-point goals—AGHS 3-9, MHS 9-29 (Stutzman 1-7, Kontor 3-8, Kepler 3-8, Houk 2-6).**



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI  
Sydney Stelling of Milford drives to the hoop against Centennial Dec. 18.

**Rebounds—AGHS 21, MHS 30 (Kepler, Stelling 6). Assists—MHS 13 (Kontor 6). Steals—MHS 9 (Kontor, Houk 3). Blocked shots—MHS 1 (Klug 1). Turnovers—AGHS 16, MHS 18. Fouls—AGHS 9, MHS 17.**

**Centennial 51, Milford 44**  
MHS 11 9 15 9 44  
CHS 14 10 14 13 51  
**MHS—Stutzman 2-8 0-0 6, Kontor 5-12 0-0 15, Kepler 4-15 7-9 16, Klug 0-1 0-0 0, Roth 1-5 0-0**

2, Stelling 2-3 0-0 5, Houk 0-4 0-0 0. Totals 14-48 7-9.  
**CHS—Totals 17-36 7-13 51.**  
**Three-point goals—MHS 9-24 (Stutzman 2-6, Kontor 5-8, Kepler 1-7, Stelling 1-1, Houk 0-2), CHS 10-20. Rebounds—MHS 24 (Roth 9), CHS 29. Assists—MHS 9 (three with 2). Steals—MHS 8 (Kepler 3). Turnovers—MHS 6, CHS 11. Fouls—MHS 11, CHS 10.**



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI  
Centennial's Asia Nisly looks for the hoop as Kaitlin Kontor of Milford jumps to block her shot Dec. 18.

# Broncos

(continued from 1B) said.

Nisly finished with 15 points to lead the Broncos. Hirschfeld recorded 12 points and eight rebounds.

"We were able to come away with the win," Polk said. "They worked

hard, and I'm proud of their effort."

Centennial (5-0) is now off until the holiday classic at Malcolm starting Tuesday, Dec. 29. Polk said he'd like the team to stay active during the break, study the playbook and try not to get too rusty.

CHS will open competition Tuesday, Dec. 29, at 6 p.m. against Wilber-Clatonia. The Broncos will play Malcolm on Wednesday at 6 p.m.

**Centennial 29, Fairbury 27**  
CHS 5 9 8 7 29  
FHS 2 11 4 10 27

**CHS—Kate Hirschfeld 4-12 6-12 14, Kierra Green 1-7 0-0 3, Daylee Dey 1-4 0-2 3, Jaci Opfer 1-1 2-2 4, Kiley Rathjen 0-2 0-0 4, Asia Nisly 0-4 1-4 1, Jaycee Stuhr 0-6 2-2 2, Kailie Ziegler 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 8-37 11-26 29.**  
**FHS—Totals 11-38 3-12 27.**

**Three-point goals—CHS 2-15 (Hirschfeld 0-1, Green 1-7, Dey 1-1, Nisly 0-2, Stuhr 0-4), FHS 2-20. Rebounds—CHS 28 (Hirschfeld 8), FHS 24. Assists—CHS 5 (Dey 2). Steals—CHS 9 (Hirschfeld 4). Blocked shots—CHS 2 (Dey, Rathjen 1). Turnovers—CHS 11, FHS 17. Fouls—CHS 15, FHS 18.**

**Centennial 51, Milford 44**  
MHS 11 9 15 9 44  
CHS 14 10 14 13 51

**MHS—Totals 14-48 7-9 44.**  
**CHS—Hirschfeld 6-9 1-2 16, Green 2-5 0-0 6, Dey 2-7 0-0 6, Opfer 1-2 0-0 2, Rathjen 0-1 0-4 0, Maddie Avery 1-1 0-0 3, Nisly 4-7 6-7 15, Stuhr 1-2 0-0 3. Totals 17-34 7-13 51.**

**Three-point goals—MHS 9-24, CHS 10-19 (Hirschfeld 3-3, Green 2-6, Dey 2-6, Avery 1-1, Nisly 1-3, Stuhr 1-1). Rebounds—MHS 24, CHS 24 (Hirschfeld 9). Assists—CHS 14 (Stuhr 6). Steals—CHS 2 (Hirschfeld, Opfer 1). Blocked shots—CHS 3 (three with 1). Turnovers—MHS 6, CHS 14. Fouls—MHS 11, CHS 10.**

**Centennial 47, Superior 40**  
CHS 6 11 12 18 47  
SHS 9 17 4 10 40

**CHS—Hirschfeld 3-9 6-12 12, Green 0-4 0-0 0, Dey 1-3 4-6 7, Opfer 0-2 0-0 0, Rathjen 4-6 0-2 8, Nisly 6-11 3-5 15, Stuhr 0-3 2-2 2, Ziegler 1-4 1-3 3. Totals 15-42 16-30 47.**  
**SHS—Totals 17-46 5-16 40.**

**Three-point goals—CHS 1-8 (Green 0-4, Dey 1-1, Nisly 0-1, Stuhr 0-2), SHS 1-14. Rebounds—CHS 31 (Hirschfeld 8), SHS 27. Assists—CHS 9 (Stuhr 3). Steals—CHS 9 (Stuhr 3). Blocked shots—CHS 1 (Stuhr 1). Turnovers—CHS 17, SHS 19. Fouls—CHS 13.**

battle," Klepper said. "They have some talented young players and they have size in places that will create matchup issues for us."

"We won't be able to mess around and expect to get an easy win. We have to show up and play clean ball."

**Malcolm 56, Raymond Central 22**  
MAL 24 6 7 19 56  
RC 10 0 11 1 22

**MALCOLM—Joslyn Small 1-9 0-0 2, Reagan Wondercheck 1-4 0-0 3, Alanea Babb 0-1 0-0 0, Jasmine Small 0-6 0-0 0, Ashlynn Sehi 2-3 0-0 4, Kiley Elkins 0-0 0-0 0, Jordan Denton 0-4 2-4 2, Alyssa Fortik 7-17 3-5 20, Diamond Sedlak 5-8 0-0 15, Emma Brown 3-5 1-2 7, Lauryn England 1-3 0-0 2, Cora Schweitzer 0-0 1-2 1.**

**RC—8-23 3-8 22.**  
**Three-point goals—MHS 9-40 (Jo. Small 0-7, Wondercheck 1-3, Babb 0-1, Ja. Small 0-5, Denton 0-4, Fortik 3-11, Sedlak 5-7, England 0-2) RC 3-9. Rebounds—MHS 29 (Brown 4, Sehi 4) RC 28. Assists—MHS 13 (Fortik 3) RC 7. Steals—MHS 22 (Fortik 6) RC 4. Turnovers—MHS 8 RC 33. Fouls—MHS 12 RC 12.**

**Malcolm 43, Weeping Water 29**  
WW 2 6 13 8 29  
MAL 8 12 17 6 43

**MALCOLM—Jo. Small 0-7 0-0 0, Wondercheck 0-2 0-0 0, Ja. Small 2-6 0-0 5, Sehi 2-8 2-4 9, Elkins 1-1 0-0 2, Denton 0-4 0-0 0, Fortik 4-11 1-3 12, Sedlak 1-3 2-2 5, Brown 4-7 2-5 10.**

**WW—11-33 4-5 29.**  
**Three-point goals—MHS 5-26 (Jo. Small 0-4, Wondercheck 0-1, Ja. Small 1-4, Denton 0-4, Fortik 3-10, Sedlak 1-3) WW 3-18. Rebounds—MHS 34 (Brown 7) WW 22. Assists—MHS 13 (Fortik 5) WW 8. Steals—MHS 14 (Sehi 3, Sedlak 3) WW 5. Turnovers—MHS 15 WW 22. Fouls—MHS 11 WW 13.**

**Malcolm 32, Elmwood-Murdock 20**  
E-M 4 6 6 4 20  
MAL 8 13 10 1 32

**MALCOLM—Jo. Small 2-10 1-2 6, Ja. Small 0-2 0-0 0, Sehi 2-5 7-9, Denton 2-5 0-0 5, Fortik 3-8 1-3 8, Sedlak 0-3 0-0 0, Brown 2-5 0-0 4, England 0-1 0-0 0.**

**E-M—7-32 2-4 20.**  
**Three-point goals—MHS 3-21 (Jo. Small 1-6, Ja. Small 0-1, Denton 1-4, Fortik 1-6, Sedlak 0-3, England 0-1) E-M 4-23. Rebounds—MHS 25 (Sehi 7) E-M 30. Assists—MHS 4 E-M 5. Steals—MHS 14 (Fortik 4) E-M 8. Turnovers—MHS 12 E-M 21. Fouls—MHS 7 E-M 11.**

# Clippers find groove in early season

by Heath Kramer  
Seward County Independent

When the rest of the state got a two-and-a-half week head start to their season, the Malcolm girls' basketball team knew that there would be some rust to shake off in the first few games. The fact that five games in, not only are they undefeated, but none of the games have been close, shows this team has a lot of upside.

The Clippers picked up three wins last week including its most convincing so far, a runaway 56-22 victory at Raymond Central on Dec. 19.

Malcolm jumped out to a 14-point lead in the first quarter before shutting the Mustangs out in the second frame to go up by 20 at the break.

The Clippers took the bulk of their shots from long-range, as they attempted a season-high 40 three-pointers.

"They really packed it in on the inside and pretty much dared us to beat them from the outside," Malcolm head coach Andy Klepper said. "Fortunately, a couple of our girls were hitting."

Diamond Sedlak had her best night of the season. The sophomore went 5-of-7 from behind the arc to score



DOUG CARROLL/SCI

Malcolm's Emma Brown drives to the basket as Elmwood-Murdock's Lexi Bacon tries to defend during the Clippers' 32-20 home victory.

15 points. Alyssa Fortik knocked down three from long distance and led all scorers with 20.

"We need our scorers to continue to develop their confidence," Klepper said. "Across the board, our shooting needs to improve."

The previous night,

coach for the Axtell boys' team where he earned his first 64 wins.

"It was nice to get that win at home and against a team that got the best of us twice last year," Klepper said. "The girls and the parents made it a special night."

Fortik led Malcolm with 12 points while Emma Brown added 10.

Malcolm started the week on Dec. 15 with a hard fought, 32-20 win over Elmwood-Murdock.

"That was a rough one," Klepper said. "I'm not sure we were all dialed in mentally that night. We did enough to get the win but we can't get away with many nights like that."

Ashlynn Sehi led her team with nine points and seven rebounds.

"Ashlynn has taken some big strides this year," Klepper said. "She was one of our hardest workers during the summer and she really transformed herself physically."

"She's doing a lot of things right now that really help us."

The No. 5 Clippers (5-0) have one more game before the holiday break as they host Louisville (4-3) Dec. 22.

"That one will be a

# Bluejay boys fall short at Norris

by Stephanie Croston  
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Seward boys' basketball team couldn't find its offense Dec. 18 in a 66-22 loss at Norris.

"Norris out-played us Friday," Coach Trevor Menke said. "We need to continue to string together good practices and keep getting better every day."

The Jays trailed 4-1 after the first quarter, but Norris outscored them 23-8 and 27-9 in the second and third periods to put the game out of

reach. Leighton Limback led the Jays with eight points.

Seward (0-5) was to host Lincoln Lutheran Dec. 22 in the final game before the Christmas break.

**Norris 66, Seward 22**  
SHS 1 8 9 4 22  
NHS 4 23 27 12 66

**SHS—Drew Covalt 1-3 0-0 2, Traetyn Schaefer 2-7 0-0 5, Jackson Trost 0-3 0-0 0, Gavin Sukup 1-2 0-0 2, Leighton Limback 4-7 0-0 8, Cameron Dyer 0-2 0-0 0, Sam Schroeder 2-7 1-2 5. Totals 10-31 1-2 22.**

**Three-point goals—SHS 1-10 (Covalt 0-2, Schaefer 1-3, Trost 0-1, Sukup 0-1, Limback 0-2). Rebounds—SHS 13 (Schaefer 3). Assists—SHS 4 (Schroeder 2). Steals—SHS 2 (Schaefer, Schroeder 1). Turnovers—SHS 21. Fouls—SHS 9.**

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CAITLYN NELSON/SCI

Caleb Courter of Malcolm fights against Crete's Henry Vicente Vasquez to pin him during the 182-pound match up at the dual at Crete on Dec. 18.

# Malcolm wins dual, wrestles at tournament

by Heath Kramer  
*Seward County Independent*

Tempered expectations are the new norm in a COVID-19 world. With all the delays and missed experiences brought on by the pandemic, setting too lofty of goals can prove to be disappointing.

The shutdowns and restrictions robbed the Malcolm wrestling team of its usual summer camp season in which the grapplers get in dozens of matches. Add in the two-and-a-half week delay to the start of the season brought on by the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department's directed health measure, and the Clippers are even further behind schedule.

After Wahoo canceled its Dec. 19 meet due to Covid cases, several schools re-routed to Grand Island to compete in the quickly thrown together Northwest Invitational. Malcolm placed seventh out of eight teams by scoring 45 team points.

"Even our most experienced guys aren't where they would normally be by this point in the year," Malcolm head coach Matt Coufal said. "You can do a lot of running and conditioning when you're shut down, but you just can't make up for lost mat time."

Gavin Zoucha had the best finish for Malcolm. After getting two early pins, the 160-pound junior was pinned late in the second period of his championship match against Nolan Eller of Aquinas Catholic.

"That's a match that later in the season, I fully expect Gavin to win," Coufal said. "He knows what to do to win and he has the ability to beat him. More time on the mat this season will make him better and he'll get to where he needs to be."

After losing his opening match against Centennial's Carson Fehlhafer, 285-pound junior Kale Nordmeyer fought his way back to earn a bronze medal. Nordmeyer earned first

period pins in both of his wins.

The Clippers picked up a pair of fourth-place medals as Josh Stewart (170) and Caleb Courter (182) each went 1-2 in their brackets.

"Caleb is in his third year of wrestling at any level," Coufal said. "Most high school wrestlers have six or more years of experience before they get to high school."

"Caleb has done some pretty impressive things considering his lack of experience. He's an example of someone that really needed the summer work we all missed out on. The more he learns on the mat, the better he'll be."

The Clippers traveled to Crete on Dec. 18 and earned a 47-36 dual win over the Cardinals. Zane Zoucha (120), Brice Wilkie (126), Colt Reiling (138), Courter (182) and Nordmeyer (285) all pinned their opponents.

Malcolm will take some time off for Christmas and return to the mat Dec. 31 when they travel to Tecumseh to compete in a quad with Lincoln Lutheran, Lincoln Christian and Johnson County Central.

#### Malcolm 47, Crete 36

195-Riley Donahoo (M) win by forfeit; 220: Kennedy Vicente Vasquez (C) win by forfeit; 285: Kale Nordmeyer (M) pin Ivery Hoyos (C) 5:19; 106: Jaime Ramos (C) win by forfeit; 113: Wyatt Clarke (C) pin Cyndee Loos (M) 0:21; 120: Zane Zoucha (M) pin Marlon Gomez (C) 2:11; 126: Brice Wilkie (M) pin Jeffrey Kunt (C) 4:44; 132: Cesar Linares (C) pin Bryce Teut (M) 1:11; 138: Colt Reiling (M) pin Conner Lomax (C) 3:10; 145: Anthony Frim (C) pin Cayden Witzel (M) 1:03; 152: Emmanuel Valdivinos (C) pin Luke Walters (M) 3:40; 160: Gavin Zoucha (M) def. Zachary Binder (C) 21-6; 170: Josh Stewart (M) win by forfeit; 182: Caleb Courter (M) pin Henry Vicente (C) 3:34

#### Northwest Invite

120—Z. Zoucha (MAL) def. by Zander Kavan (AQU) 8-1; pinned by Garrison Schernikau (CEN) 1:58

132—Teut (MAL) pinned by Ryan Payne (CEN) 0:47; pinned by Max Yendra (GINW) 1:34

138—Reiling (MAL) pinned by Jarrett Dodson (CEN) 0:59; pinned by Colton Ruff (GINW) 3:20

145—Cayden Witzel (MAL) pinned by Bo Bushhouses (GINW) 0:26; pinned by Ty Beetsen (AG) 0:27

152—Walters (MAL) pinned by Ethan Schmidt (AQU) 2:53; def. by Cyrus Songster (CEN) 13-7

160—G. Zoucha (MAL) pin Cannon L. McCarty (OW) 1:48; pin Owen Brennan (OGC) 2:56; pinned by Nolan Eller (AQU) 3:58, second

170—Stewart (MAL) def. by Cailly Weekley (GINW) 12-4; def. Cade Garcia (OW) 12:6-5; def. by Marcus Eickmeier (AQU) 5-1, fourth

182—Courter (MAL) pinned by Tommy Gilbert (OGC) 3:43; pin Austin Patchin (CEN) 1:58; pinned by Joseph Stein (GINW) 0:52, fourth

195—Donahoo (MAL) def. by Victor Iselle (GINW) 7-4; pin Jake Garcia (OGC) 2:54; pinned by Paul Buresh (AQU) 1:54

285—Nordmeyer (MAL) pinned by Carson Fehlhafer (CEN) 5:11; pin Billy Schleichardt (GINW) 1:22; pin Salvatore Nacarelli (OGC) 0:46, third



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Samuel Payne of Centennial works on a takedown against Raymond Central during a triangular Dec. 17.

# Broncos improve on mat

by Stephanie Croston  
*scroston@sewardindependent.com*

The Centennial wrestling team hosted a triangular Dec. 17 and competed in a new tournament Dec. 19. The Broncos lost both duals Dec. 17, falling to Raymond Central 60-18 and to Cross County/Osceola 37-30.

Coach Phil Payne said Raymond Central has good wrestlers at every weight.

"I thought we could've gotten a couple we didn't," he said.

Jarett Dodson (138 pounds) and Samuel Payne (195 pounds) won their matches, and Carson Fehlhafer got a forfeit at 285 pounds.

Coach Payne was pleased with the effort from Tyson Rodewald, as well. Rodewald lost his match 4-3, but the coach said he's starting to put things together.

Against CCO, Dodson was the Broncos' only winner in a contested match. Rodewald was in danger of losing by technical fall to Bryce Reed but put Reed on his back and scored nearfall points to make the final 16-10.

"Saturday we wrestled even better," Coach Payne said.

CHS was scheduled to wrestle at Wahoo Dec. 19, but the tournament was canceled because of COVID-19. Eight teams that were to be at Wahoo, including Centennial, met at Grand Island Northwest instead.

Centennial finished fourth in the team standings and had six medalists – four seconds and two fourths. Keenan Kosek, Ryan Payne, Rodewald and Fehlhafer each placed second, and Garrison Schernikau and Dodson were fourth.

Dodson was leading his third-place match 9-0 in the first period and was cruising, Coach Payne said, but ran out of gas, losing the match 13-11. The coach said Dodson's first matches of the season were the triangular on Thursday.

Fehlhafer picked up a pin in the semifinals over a wrestler from Malcolm but then got pinned in the finals.

Ryan Payne lost to a wrestler from Aquinas 3-2 in the 132-pound final. Coach Payne said he just couldn't get a takedown to get the win.

Kosek got pinned by an Aquinas wrestler in the finals, as well.

The Broncos are getting there, the coach said.

CHS was scheduled to wrestle in a dual tournament at Sutton Dec. 22 to close the pre-Christmas part of the season.

"We expect to go out and win duals," Coach Payne said.

Garett Schernikau (C) 0:49; 170: Gavin Soden (RC) over Tyson Rodewald (C) 4-3; 182: Logan Jelinek (RC) pin Austin Patchin (C) 0:48; 195: Samuel Payne (C) pin Colby DenHartog (RC) 1:44; 220: Skylar Sterns (RC) pin Nickolas Keith (C) 2:16; 285: Carson Fehlhafer (C) win by forfeit

#### Cross County/Osceola 37, Centennial 30

106: Double Forfeit; 113: Tyler Shoup (CCO) pin Stewart (C) 1:57; 120: Garr. Schernikau (C) win by forfeit; 126: Kosek (C) win by forfeit; 132: R. Payne (C) win by forfeit; 138: Double Forfeit; 145: Dodson (C) pin Dalton Noble (CCO) 0:50; 152: Channer Marsden (CCO) pin Songster (C) 2:33; 160: Cameron Graham (CCO) pin Gare. Schernikau (C) 0:42; 170: Bryce Reed (CCO) def. Rodewald (C) 16-10; 182: Jakob Hogan (CCO) pin Patchin (C) 2:46; 195: S. Payne (C) win by forfeit; 220: Conner Jones (CCO) pin Keith (C) 1:20; 285: Kyle Sterup (CCO) def. Fehlhafer (C) 17-3

#### Northwest Invite

Team scores—Aquinas Catholic 224.5, Northwest 163, Omaha Westside 144, Centennial 95, Ashland-Greenwood 89, Omaha Gross Catholic 66.5, Malcolm 45, East Butler 17

106—Stewart (CEN) pinned by Gavin Ruff (GINW) 0:44; pinned by Henry Nobsch (OGC) 0:16

120—Garr. Schernikau (CEN) def. Rex Floerchinger (OGC) 10-0; pinned by Grady Arends (GINW) 0:49; pin Zane Zoucha (MAL) 1:58; def. by Rex Floerchinger (OGC) 5V-1 10-8, fourth

126—Kosek (CEN) pin Caleb Vokes (GINW) 1:32; pinned by Zach Zitek (AQU) 1:53, second

132—R. Payne (CEN) pin Bryce Teut (MAL) 0:47; pin Kender N. Gonzales (OW) 4-11 2:34; def. by Noah Scott (AQU) 3-2, second

138—Dodson (CEN) pin Colt Reiling (MAL) 0:59; def. by Treyton Tweton (AG) 10-6; pin Angelo Nacarelli (OGC) 0:59; def. by Colton Ruff (GINW) 13-11, fourth

152—Songster (CEN) pinned by Shane Allington (AG) 1:23; def. Luke Walters (MAL) 13-7; pinned by Eli Arends (GINW) 0:40

160—Gare. Schernikau (CEN) pinned by Austin Cooley (GINW) 1:56; pinned by Nathan Upton (AG) 0:34

170—Rodewald (CEN) pin Logan Sobota (AG) 2:51; pin Marcus Eickmeier (AQU) 3:50; def. by Cailly Weekley (GINW) 4-3, second

182—Patchin (CEN) pinned by Michael Andel (AQU) 1:19; pinned by Caleb Courter (MAL) 1:58

195—S. Payne (CEN) def. by Paul Buresh (AQU) 6-0; pin Joshua Christian (EB) 0-5 2:15; def. by Luke Lambert (AG) 10-0

220—Keith (CEN) pinned by Braxton Buck (AG) 2:18; def. by Brandon Kabourek (OGC) 17-1

285—Fehlhafer (CEN) pin Josiah Berezina (AQU) 1:06; pin Kale Nordmeyer (MAL) 5:11; pinned by Cade D. Haberman (OW) 0:34, second

# SHS wrestlers 3-2 in dual tournament

by Stephanie Croston  
*scroston@sewardindependent.com*

Seward's wrestling team finished its December competitions at the Platteview Duals Dec. 18. Seward was 3-2 with wins over Falls City, Lincoln North Star and Louisville and losses to Millard West and Raymond Central.

Coach Bob Core took 10 wrestlers, and all wrestled well, he said. "I saw improvement from the previous week," Core said. "I hope we can keep that momentum."

Cash Duncan, Cameron Schrad and Nolan Hill were all 5-0 on the day. Duncan finished with three pins, Schrad with four and Hill with two.

Core said everyone won at least one match.

The Bluejays are back in action Friday, Jan. 8, at Ashland-Greenwood.

Core said he hopes all the wrestlers stay active over the break.

#### Platteview Duals 2020

**Seward 54, Falls City 18**  
106 - Double Forfeit; 113 - Ray Feek (FC) win by forfeit; 120 - Cash Duncan (S) win by forfeit; 126 - Wyatt Oiberding (FC) win by forfeit; 132 - Xander Fouk (S) win by forfeit; 138 - Conner Rosendale (S) win by forfeit; 145 - Cameron Schrad (S) pin Kadyne Strecker (FC) 1:40; 152 - Brekin Schoepf (S) win by forfeit; 160 - Boone Duncan (S) pin Calvin Crouse (FC) 0:44; 170 -

Nolan Hill (S) pin Cameron Schramm (FC) 2:38; 182 - Hunter Novacek (S) pin Kemper Foster (FC) 2:43; 195 - Thomas Fields (FC) pin Dustin Hurley (S) 0:29; 220 - Ethan Woolard (S) win by forfeit; 285 - Double Forfeit

#### Millard West 54, Seward 27

113 - Avery Russell (MW) win by forfeit; 120 - C. Duncan (S) win by forfeit; 126 - Levi Buelit (MW) win by forfeit; 132 - Harrell Jackson (MW) pin Fouk (S) 3:16; 138 - Rosendale (S) win by forfeit; 145 - Schrad (S) win by forfeit; 152 - Kaden Williams (MW) pin Schoepf (S) 1:37; 160 - B. Duncan (S) win by forfeit; 170 - Hill (S) def. Brecken Wallace (MW) 3-2; 182 - Noah Blair (MW) pin Novacek (S) 1:47; 195 - Charlie Nosal (MW) pin Hurley (S) 3:13; 220 - Colton McGahan (MW) pin Woolard (S) 2:49; 285 - Ryan Kovocsky (MW) win by forfeit; 106 - Enrique Haynes (MW) win by forfeit

#### Raymond Central 51, Seward 25

120 - C. Duncan (S) pin Cameron Shultz (RC) 2:36; 126 - Mitch Albrecht (RC) win by forfeit; 132 - Logan Bryce (RC) pin Fouk (S) 1:28; 138 - Rosendale (S) pin Brock Skeahan (RC) 5:20; 145 - Schrad (S) pin Jeremiah Karpov (RC) 3:31; 152 - Schoepf (S) def. Tucker Maxson (RC) 12-10; 160 - Kaden Parde (RC) pin B. Duncan (S) 1:54; 170 - Hill (S) def. Gavin Soden (RC) 16-4; 182 - Jace Lickliter (RC) pin Novacek (S) 3:57; 195 - Logan Jelinek (RC) pin Hurley (S) 0:56; 220 - Colby DenHartog (RC) def. Woolard (S) 8-3; 285 - Skylar Sterns (RC) win by forfeit; 106 - Sophia Shultz (RC) win by forfeit; 113 - Jordan O'Conner (LNS) win by forfeit; 120 - C. Duncan (S) pin Ethan Hallett (LNS) 5:27

#### Seward 43, Lincoln North Star 30

126 - Double Forfeit; 132 - Fouk (S) win by forfeit; 138 - Connor Dillavou (LNS) pin Rosendale (S) 0:37; 145 - Schrad (S) pin Aden Bourassa (LNS) 0:45; 152 - Schoepf (S) pin Zachary Friedenburt (LNS) 5:11; 160 - B. Duncan (S) def. Callen Hauschild (LNS) 8-2; 170 - Hill (S) def. Thiep Nuot (LNS) 14-2; 182 - Novacek (S) win by forfeit; 195 - Hurley (S) pin Jaberis Hinds (LNS) 1:08; 220 - Dallas Paxton (LNS) pin Woolard (S) 0:16; 285 - Andrew Henning (LNS) win by forfeit; 106 - Paxton Maynard (LNS) win by forfeit; 113 - Jordan O'Conner (LNS) win by forfeit; 120 - C. Duncan (S) pin Ethan Hallett (LNS) 5:27

#### Seward 54, Louisville 15

132 - Niklas Sorensen (L) def. Fouk (S) 13-11; 138 - Rosendale (S) pin Brock Hudson (L) 1:49; 145 - Schrad (S) pin Blake Dickey (L) 1:10; 152 - Schoepf (S) win by forfeit; 160 - B. Duncan (S) pin Cody Gray (L) 1:22; 170 - Hill (S) pin Reed Toelle (L) 0:48; 182 - Novacek (S) pin Jake Wood (L) 1:02; 195 - Hurley (S) win by forfeit; 220 - Woolard (S) pin Tyson Warner (L) 3:48; 285 - Tommy Krejci (L) win by forfeit; 106 - Double Forfeit; 113 - Double Forfeit; 120 - C. Duncan (S) pin Garron Double (L) 3:55; 126 - Nicholas McCaul (L) win by forfeit

# SHS bowlers open season with three duals

by Stephanie Croston  
*scroston@sewardindependent.com*

The Seward bowling teams opened their 2020-21 season Dec. 17 with duals against Lincoln Pius X. The boys lost 17-4, and the girls won 19-2.

Ty Wehrs led the boys' team with games of 192 and 215. Coach Steve Conner said that's about where he should be. The boys' averaged 190 per game.

Conner said Pius is ranked No. 1 in the state. The Bluejays were

also battling first-meet jitters. "Everyone was over-anxious," he said. "It was a long time to just practice."

RaeLynn Sugden bowled a 287 series for the girls, and Olivie Benes finished with a high game of 145, Coach Julie Benes said.

On Dec. 19, the boys shut out Ogallala 21-0. Dane Conner, Ashton Conner and Wehrs averaged over 200 per game, Coach Conner said.

Seward also beat Lexington 20-1, with Ashton Conner and Dane

Conner leading the way.

"We are right where we need to be," the coach said.

The girls had just five bowlers and lost to Lexington 16-5 but beat Ogallala 20-1. Audrie Davis bowled the high series against Lexington with 278 and Maddie Viger had the high game with 148. Alexis Pallat had the high game and series with 184 and 339, respectively, against Ogallala.

Seward was to bowl Dec. 21 in Omaha.

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## ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

**Kaitlin Kontor** of Milford scored 25 points over two games for the Eagles last week. She scored 10 points in a loss to Ashland-Greenwood and added six assists and three steals. She also scored 15 points and was 5-8 from three-point range in a loss to Centennial.

**Honorable Mention**  
**Abbey Ringle** - Seward  
**Asia Nisly** - Centennial  
**Ashlynn Sehi** - Malcolm

**Jake Barga** of Centennial helped the Broncos to a 2-1 record in three games last week. He scored 24 points to go with three rebounds and two assists against Fairbury, had 18 points, five rebounds and two steals against Milford and notched five points, three rebounds and two assists against Superior.

**Honorable Mention**  
• Cameron Schrad - Seward  
• Micah Hartwig - Milford  
• Drew Johnson - Malcolm

SEWARD COUNTY

# INDEPENDENT

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# CHS boys win two on road

by Stephanie Croston  
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Centennial boys' basketball team hit the ground running this week with three games on the schedule. CHS was 2-1 with wins over Fairbury 52-38 and Superior 36-35 and a loss to Milford 49-37.

CHS played good defense against Fairbury Dec. 15, Coach Cam Scholl said. The Broncos took advantage of what the Jeffs gave them, he said.

Jake Bargaen scored 24 in the win. Cooper Gierhan added 11 points and six rebounds. Lane Zimmer also grabbed six boards.

"It was a good team win," Scholl said. "We hope we can build off that."

The Broncos hosted Milford Dec. 18 and came up short 49-37. Scholl was pleased that the Broncos held Milford's post Seth Stutzman to eight points.

"I thought we did a nice job on him," he said. "What hurt were turnovers and offensive rebounds."

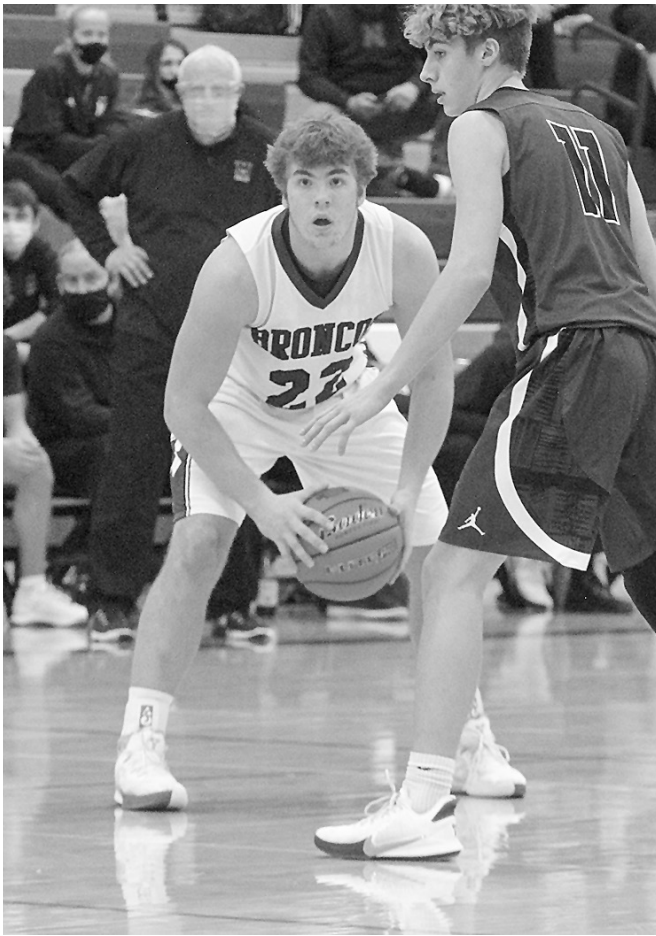
Centennial committed 14 turnovers in the game.

Bargaen finished with 18 points, and Gierhan scored 11.

CHS got off to a good start against Superior Dec. 19 but had to hold on for the win.

"We went cold and couldn't buy a basket," Scholl said. "We had to scrape away with the win."

Superior did a good



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Centennial's Cooper Gierhan looks for an open teammate in the lane against Milford Dec. 18.

job changing up defenses, he said.

Gierhan scored 14 to lead the team.

The Broncos are off until the holiday classic at Malcolm. CHS will play Wilber-Clatonia Tuesday, Dec. 29, at 7:30 p.m. and Malcolm Wednesday, Dec. 30, also at 7:30 p.m.

CHS	10	20	10	12	52
FHS	11	5	14	8	38

**CHS**—Michael Nisly 1-1 0-0 3, Maj Nisly 3-8 0-2 6, Jake Bargaen 11-14 1-1 24, Cooper Gierhan 4-9 2-3 11, Lane Zimmer 4-4 0-0 8, Jayden Hartshorn 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 23-37 3-6 52.

**FHS**—Totals 13-33 1-2 35.

**Three-point goals**—CHS 3-10 (Mi. Nisly 1-1, Ma. Nisly 0-2, Bargaen 1-2, Gierhan 1-5), FHS 8-24. **Rebounds**—CHS 24 (Gierhan, Zimmer 6), FHS 10. **Assists**—CHS 10 (Hartshorn 3), **Steals**—CHS 4 (Gierhan 2), **Blocked shots**—CHS 1 (Zimmer 1).

**Turnovers**—CHS 12, FHS 9. **Fouls**—CHS 6, FHS 10.

MHS	14	5	14	16	49
CHS	15	3	8	11	37

**MHS**—Totals  
**CHS**—Alex Hirschfeld 0-2 0-0 0, Ma. Nisly 2-4 0-0 4, Bargaen 8-12 1-1 18, Gierhan 3-15 3-3 11, Zimmer 1-4 1-1 3, Hartshorn 0-1 1-2 1. Totals 14-38 6-7 37.

**Three-point goals**—CHS 3-14 (Hirschfeld 0-2, Ma. Nisly 0-1, Bargaen 1-2, Gierhan 2-9). **Rebounds**—CHS 18 (Zimmer 7), **Assists**—CHS 6 (Ma. Nisly 2), **Steals**—CHS 5 (Zimmer 3), **Blocked shots**—CHS 1 (Zimmer 1), **Turnovers**—CHS 14, **Fouls**—CHS 11.

CHS	15	8	2	11	36
SHS	8	9	8	10	35

**CHS**—Mi. Nisly 0-1 0-0 0, Hirschfeld 0-1 0-0 0, Ma. Nisly 2-6 2-4 7, Bargaen 1-7 2-3 5, Gierhan 5-16 0-1 14, Zimmer 2-3 3-4 7, Hartshorn 1-2 1-2 3. Totals 11-36 8-14 36.

**SHS**—Totals 12-38 9-17 35.

**Three-point goals**—CHS 6-17 (Hirschfeld 0-1, Ma. Nisly 1-3, Bargaen 1-4, Gierhan 4-9), SHS 2-10. **Rebounds**—CHS 25 (Zimmer 7), SHS 21. **Assists**—CHS 10 (Mi. Nisly 4), **Steals**—CHS 4 (four with 1), **Blocked shots**—CHS 1 (Hirschfeld 1), **Turnovers**—CHS 18, SHS 12, **Fouls**—CHS 15.



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Seward's Tarryn Hartman tries to keep the ball away from the Elkhorn North defense Dec. 15.

# Jays drop two on court

by Stephanie Croston  
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Seward girls are still searching for their first win of the 2020-21 season.

The first part of the Bluejays' season is full of top-notch opponents, and this past week was no exception. Seward lost to Elkhorn North 71-52 Dec. 15 and to Norris 53-28 Dec. 18.

"Both are at the top in the state," SHS Coach Beth Bohuslavsky said. "It was a tough week."

Elkhorn North got out to a fast start and led 24-9 after the first quarter. Abbey Ringler scored nine and grabbed seven rebounds to lead the Jays. Anna Hughes added seen rebounds, as

well.

Bohuslavsky said she saw growth in the Jays between Tuesday and Friday.

"Our goal is to improve," she said.

She said the defense held Norris's best player to 13 points, which was encouraging. The offense also did a good job handling the Titan pressure, as well, she said. That's been a challenge for the Bluejays, so Bohuslavsky was happy to see that improvement.

Ringler led the way with eight points and five rebounds. Tarryn Hartman added six points, and Ona Stutzman scored five and grabbed two steals.

The Bluejays (0-6)

were to host Lincoln Lutheran Dec. 22 to close the pre-Christmas schedule.

ENHS	24	14	22	11	71
SHS	9	7	3	13	32

**SHS**—Tanya Miller 0-1 0-0 0, Keira Litteras 0-1 0-0 0, Dalaney Anderson 0-1 1-2 1, Hannah Benedict 1-7 2-2 5, Ona Stutzman 1-3 0-0 3, Haylie Sloup 0-2 2-2, Abbey Ringler 2-6 5-7 9, Ava King 1-2 0-0 2, Eden Schulz 1-8 1-1 3, Madison Dominy 1-2 0-0 3, Ellie Greisen 0-2 0-0 0, Tarryn Hartman 1-3 2-2 4.

**Three-point goals**—SHS 3-17 (Miller 0-1, Benedict 1-6, Stutzman 1-1, King 0-1, Schulz 0-4, Dominy 1-2, Greisen 0-2). **Rebounds**—SHS 23 (Ringler, Anna Hughes 7), **Assists**—SHS 5 (Benedict 2), **Steals**—SHS 6 (Benedict 2), **Blocked shots**—SHS 3 (three with 1), **Turnovers**—SHS 24, **Fouls**—SHS 14.

SHS	5	8	5	10	28
NHS	5	12	14	22	53

**SHS**—Benedict 0-3 0-0 0, Stutzman 2-5 0-0 5, Ringler 3-7 2-4 8, Hughes 0-3 1-1 1, Schulz 2-5 1-2 5, Dominy 0-1 0-0 0, Hartman 3-6 0-0 6.

**Three-point goals**—SHS 1-15 (Benedict 0-2, Stutzman 1-3, Ringler 0-1, Hughes 0-2, Schulz 0-3, Dominy 0-1, Hartman 0-3). **Rebounds**—SHS 18 (Ringler 5), **Assists**—SHS 4 (Hughes 2), **Steals**—SHS 3 (Stutzman 2), **Blocked shots**—SHS 1 (Ringler 1), **Turnovers**—SHS 21, **Fouls**—SHS 14, **Fouled out**—Hartman, Ringler.

# Clippers down Knights, upset by Mustangs

by Heath Kramer  
Seward County Independent

After back-to-back blowout wins, the Malcolm boys' basketball team let its guard down. The result was a 59-57 upset loss on Dec. 19 at previously winless Raymond Central.

The Clippers dug themselves a deep hole as they went down 12 points in the opening frame.

"Sadly, I saw it coming," Malcolm head coach Chris Lewandowski said. "Before the game, we weren't as focused as we needed to be, and we were slow out of the gate."

The Mustangs took advantage by getting off to their best start of the season.

"I knew they'd be hungry," Lewandowski said. "They've lost to some good teams, and they view us as a rival."

After the slow start, the Clippers settled down and closed the Raymond Central lead to just five by halftime.

"In the first quarter, it was a lot of little things that added up to big things," Lewandowski said.

Malcolm went on a run in the third quarter that put them up by one point heading into the final frame. The Mustangs won a defense heavy fourth quarter and kept the Clippers from getting a great look at the end of the game as they held on for the two-point win.

Maclain Beach led Malcolm with 17 points, while Malcolm Saltzman and Hayden Frank added 14 and 13 respectively.

The previous evening,



DOUG CARROLL/SCI

Malcolm's Connor Zegar battles for a loose ball with Elmwood-Murdock's Reid Fletcher during the Clippers' 63-33 home victory Dec. 15.

the Clippers jumped out big early on their way to a 64-25 rout of Weeping Water. Frank was one of four Malcolm players in double figures that night as the sophomore led the way with 17 points while classmate Drew Johnson added 13, including three baskets from beyond the three-point arc.

A pair of seniors also scored in double digits as Beach had 11 and Malcolm Saltzman scored 10. Ethan Robotham — also a senior — grabbed 10 rebounds.

"Ethan is a hard worker and he knows his role," Lewandowski said. "He doesn't force

things. He goes out there and does the little things that help our team succeed."

The Clippers started the week with a convincing 63-33 win over Elmwood-Murdock. Johnson had the hot hand as he dropped in six three-pointers in the first half against the Knights. The sharpshooter finished with seven from long range and a career high 23 points.

"Drew is probably the most pure shooter I've coached," Lewandowski said. "He put in a lot of work over the summer, and it's showing up here early in the season."

"Our guys saw that he was feeling it and they kept working to get him open and feed him the ball."

Before taking it's Christmas break, Malcolm (2-3) will host Louisville (5-2) Dec. 22.

"That's going to be a tough match up for us," Lewandowski said. "They've got good guards and one of the best post players in our conference."

"They're playing really good ball right now."

MAL	11	15	22	9	57
RC	19	12	16	12	59

**MALCOLM**—Hayden Frank 13, Malcolm Saltzman 14, Maclain Beach 17, Jacob Schweitzer 2, Drew Johnson 9, Ethan Robotham 2.

**Rebounds**—Frank 3, Saltzman 8, Gavan Dunse, Beach 5, Schweitzer 5, Johnson 2, Connor Zegar 2, Robotham 6. **Assists**—Frank 6, Saltzman 2, Beach 2, Schweitzer, Johnson 2, Robotham 2. **Steals**—Frank 2, Saltzman 2, Johnson, Zegar. **Blocks**—Robotham.

WW	4	9	8	4	25
MAL	18	19	12	15	64

**MALCOLM**—Frank 17, Saltzman 10, Brayden Boehle 2, Maddox Meyer 3, Beach 11, Schweitzer 5, Johnson 13, Zegar 1, Robotham 2.

**Rebounds**—Frank 5, Saltzman 2, Boehle 3, Meyer, Dunse 3, Lucas Christiansen, Beach 8, Schweitzer 6, Johnson 2, Robotham 10. **Assists**—Frank 2, Saltzman 4, Dunse, Beach 2, Zegar, Robotham. **Steals**—Frank 3, Boehle, Meyer, Schweitzer, Zegar 2, Robotham. **Blocks**—Schweitzer, Johnson.

E-M	9	3	6	15	33
MAL	13	24	18	8	63

**MALCOLM**—Frank 6, Saltzman 6, Meyer 3, Karter Kopecky 1, Beach 12, Schweitzer 2, Johnson 23, Anthony Kouma 3, Zegar 3, Robotham 4. **Rebounds**—Frank 4, Saltzman 2, Boehle 7, Meyer 2, Dunse 2, Trentyn Beekman, Beach 4, Schweitzer 3, Johnson 4, Zegar 5, Robotham 5. **Assists**—Frank 2, Saltzman 4, Beach 6, Schweitzer 2, Zegar 2. **Steals**—Saltzman 2, Johnson, Kouma, Robotham. **Blocks**—Schweitzer, Johnson 2, Robotham.

# Eagles top two

by Stephanie Croston  
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Milford wrestling team added to its trophy case last week by winning the Axtell Invitational Dec. 15 and the Logan View Invitational Dec. 19.

The Eagles had eight champions at Axtell — Conner Kohout, Konner Schluckebier, Eli Vondra, Jack Chapman, Trent Stauffer, Carter Springer, Christopher Sedoris and Lorenzo Temple.

The tournament at Logan View always provides a tough test for the Eagles, Coach Joe Schluckebier said. The early start time means an early bus ride, and Schluckebier said he thought the Eagles were a little sluggish early.

"We were getting the job done in the first round but I didn't think we were wrestling to our ability," he said.

The Eagles bumped up the intensity in the semifinals, when eight wrestlers qualified for the finals. That ensured the first team title at this tournament for the Milford wrestlers.

Vondra, Springer, Sedoris and Hunter Oborny all took first place by beating ranked opponents in the finals, while Konner Schluckebier took his first loss.

Milford was scheduled to host Twin River, Syracuse and David City Dec. 22.

# Enjoy the Christmas break, athletes

# Concordia University

## Honors

### Wrestling

A victory over a nationally-ranked opponent has led to junior Issiah Burks being named the GPAC/Hauff Mid-America Sports Wrestler of the Week, as announced Dec. 16.

A leader and team captain, Burks came through with one of the more significant wins of his career as part of the dual with Morningside on Dec. 10. At 157 pounds, Burks edged NAIA 13th-ranked John Diener, 3-2. A late takedown put Burks in front of Diener, who had pinned Burks at the Doane Open on Dec. 5. A native of Hemet, California, Burks ran his season record to 12-5. He owns a career overall record of 32-26. Burks placed fifth in the GPAC at 165 pounds last season.

### Volleyball

For the second year in a row, standout setter Tara Callahan has garnered selection as a first team all-conference honoree. Callahan highlighted a list of five Bulldogs to be recognized with 2020 All-GPAC volleyball team awards, as announced by the conference Dec. 17. Concordia teammates Gabi Nordaker and Camryn Opfer garnered second team all-conference accolades while Arleigh Costello and Marissa Hoerman were named honorable mention performers.

Head Coach Ben Boldt's team went 12-3 in the GPAC and placed third in the 2020 conference regular season standings. The season will continue in the spring semester when both the GPAC tournament and NAIA national tournament are scheduled to be played.

A senior from Brady, Callahan has played a starring role in the program's rise to national prominence. In 15 matches (50 sets) this fall, Callahan accumulated 552 assists, 86 digs, 22 kills, 21 blocks and 13 service aces. Callahan ranks fifth among all NAIA setters with an average of 11.04 assists per set.

In a win over Mount Marty, Callahan surpassed 3,000 career assists, making her the third player in program history to accomplish that feat. While leading the Bulldogs to the NAIA national round of 16 in 2019, Callahan earned NAIA honorable mention All-America status. She is a four-time All-GPAC selection (two first team and two honorable mention awards).

A sophomore from Seward, Opfer has landed on the All-GPAC second team for the second year in a row to begin her collegiate career. The Seward High School product played in all 50 sets this fall and produced 140 digs, 122 kills (.159 hitting percentage), 24 blocks and 12 service aces. Statistically, Opfer enjoyed her best performance of 2020 when she pounded 12 kills and hit .579 from the outside in a home win over Hastings. In her first season with the Bulldogs, Opfer was named the GPAC Freshman of the Year and the AVCA West Central Region Freshman of the Year.

Nordaker, a freshman from Omaha, immediately stepped into the starting middle blocker role and excelled. The former Millard West High School star appeared in all 50 sets



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Concordia University freshman Jeaven Scdoris pins his opponent during duals at CU Dec. 19.

this fall and racked up a team high 61 blocks to go along with 135 kills and a .287 hitting percentage. After hitting .500 or better in back-to-back early season matches, Nordaker was voted the NAIA National Attacker of the Week on Sept. 22. She posted a season high 19 kills at Dakota Wesleyan on Oct. 17.

Costello, a junior from Gothenburg, put together her best season as a Bulldog. She floored 126 kills (2.52/set) and has hit .256 from the right side in 2020. She notched a season high 13 kills in the win over Midland on Sept. 30. Costello recorded 10 or more kills in four separate matches this fall.

A senior from Evergreen, Colo., Hoerman is now a two-time honorable mention All-GPAC choice. Hoerman has been a rock in the back row over her four years with the Bulldogs. This season, Hoerman has averaged career bests of 4.34 digs per set and 4.76 service receptions per set. She has totaled 229 receptions and 217 digs while passing serve receive at 96.2% clip. In 357 career sets played, Hoerman has recorded 1,256 digs.

### Men's soccer

A quartet of representatives from the Concordia University men's soccer team landed on the 2020 All-GPAC second team, as announced by the conference Dec. 18. The group of Bulldog second team honorees includes freshman Iker Casanova, sophomore Moises Jacobo, junior Carlos Orquiz and freshman Federico Simonetti. In addition, senior Garrett Perry earned recognition as an honorable mention all-conference selection.

Head Coach Jason Weides' squad went 9-3-2 overall (7-2-2 GPAC) this fall and placed fifth in the GPAC regular season standings. The 2020-21 season is slated to continue in the spring when the conference postseason tournament will be held.

A native of Grand Island, Jacobo moves up to the second team in 2020 after collecting honorable mention accolades in 2019. One of the team's top strikers, Jacobo was named the NAIA National Offensive Player of the Week on Sept. 29 following a hat trick in the win at Dordt. Jacobo shares the team lead with five goals on the season. He has also added four assists. In 32 career games at Concordia, Jacobo has totaled 11 goals and nine assists.

In the midfield, Orquiz has provided a

consistent high level of play. The native of Chihuahua, Mexico, has picked up all-conference mention for the first time in his career. While playing in all 14 games this fall, Orquiz amassed four goals (one game winner) and four assists. In the victory over Jamestown, Orquiz produced a goal and two assists. Over 47 career games, Orquiz has put up nine goals and eight assists while also contributing heavily to typically strong team defensive performances.

Simonetti stepped into the starting keeper role in his first collegiate season and solidified the role. The native of Crema, Italy, started 12 of 14 games this fall and notched 38 saves, a .776 save percentage and a .930 goals against average. Simonetti was credited with three shutouts. He made a season high five saves in three separate outings. Simonetti was named the GPAC Defensive Player of the Week on Sept. 29.

Casanova stepped into a starting center back position and thrived. Casanova and Simonetti are two of five GPAC freshmen to be named to either the first or second team. A native of Mexico City, Mexico, Casanova played a key role in the team's four shutouts and also contributed three goals and two assists this fall. He was honored as the GPAC Defensive Player of the Week in back-to-back weeks in October.

Perry is an honorable mention selection for the second year in a row. He has equaled Jacobo for a team high five goals on the year. The native of Corona, Calif., recording the first hat trick of his career in the home win over Northwestern. Perry has also chipped in with three assists. Over 62 career games as a Bulldog, Perry has totaled 13 goals and 11 assists.

### Women's soccer

After contending for a GPAC regular season title, the Concordia University women's soccer program has been rewarded with eight 2020 All-GPAC awards, as announced by the conference Dec. 17. The group includes a pair of first team All-GPAC honorees in junior Mikeila Martinez and sophomore Grace Soenksen, as well as a second team choice in sophomore Allee Downing. Five Bulldogs picked honorable mention accolades: sophomore Jaiden Beecher, senior Lindsey Carley, junior Madeline Haugen, junior Cheyenne Smith and senior

Michaela Twito.

In his first season leading the Bulldogs, Head Coach Thomas Goines guided the 2020 team to a league record of 9-2-1 (9-3-1 overall) and a tie for second place in the GPAC standings. Concordia has earned the right to host a GPAC quarterfinal game when the postseason takes place in the spring of 2021.

A native of Fairfield, California, Martinez enjoyed a breakout season in an attacking midfield role. The first team recognition marks the first all-conference award of her career. Martinez paced the Bulldogs with seven goals, including two game winners, this fall. She also added three assists. Martinez produced two goals in separate games against Mount Marty, Jamestown and Midland. Her PK goal in the season finale lifted Concordia over GPAC regular season champion Briar Cliff.

One of five siblings to have played soccer at Concordia, Soenksen moved up from honorable mention status as a freshman. From her center back position, the Lincoln native has been a key factor in the program's ability to limit opposing attackers. Soenksen played in 12 games this fall while contributing to eight clean sheets. She also added a goal and two assists and was named the GPAC Defensive Player of the Week on Sept. 29.

A native of Sioux City, Iowa, Downing joined Soenksen along the back line as an outside back. Following 1-0 wins over College of Saint Mary and Hastings, Downing was honored as the GPAC Defensive Player of the Week. As Goines noted, Downing very rarely was beaten by the opposition via dribble or service. In 32 career games at Concordia, Downing has recorded two goals and one assist.

Named the 2017 GPAC Defensive Player of the Year, Carley has added yet another honor to her impressive career ledger. The Urbandale, Iowa, native ended the fall with a shutout of Briar Cliff and was tabbed GPAC Defensive Player of the Week. On the season, Carley has made 34 saves, owns an .810 save percentage and ranks 25th nationally in goals against average (.630). On the program's all-time goalkeeper record book, Carley ranks No. 1 in goals against average (0.91), second in games played (67), second in minutes played (6,113), second in shutouts (22),

second in save percentage (.811) and third in saves (266).

A four-year starter, Twito has earned four All-GPAC honors in her career. The midfielder from Ames, Iowa, started all 13 games this fall as one of the team's most dependable players. In 73 career games, Twito owns five goals. Smith (Alpine, Calif.) has twice been named honorable mention all-conference as a Bulldog. Smith has posted three goals and two assists this season. Meanwhile, Beecher (Omaha) and Haugen (San Diego, Calif.) both picked up All-GPAC honors for the first time. Beecher ranks second on the team with four goals. Haugen has chipped in with two goals and four assists.

### Men's basketball

Host Midland had few answers for how the Concordia University men's basketball team executed on the offensive end in Dec. 15's meeting in Fremont. While netting 10 first half treys, the Bulldogs built a lead as large as 19 points and coasted to a 95-81 victory. Concordia shot a blistering 60.7 percent from the floor and earned a regular season sweep of the Warriors.

It's a good sign when Carter Kent is knocking down jump shots. He carried over his hot shooting from the second half at Morningside this past weekend and collected a game-high 21 points on a 7-for-11 performance from the field. There may have been some breakdowns on the defensive end, but Concordia was in control throughout the evening. It maintained a double-digit advantage for the final 29 minutes of game time.

Eight different Bulldogs made at least one triple in the sizzling first half performance. Concordia even managed to score just before the buzzer on Sam Scarpelli's in-bounds to Kent with 0.4 seconds remaining. Scarpelli dished out six assists without turning the ball over (turnovers were even at eight apiece).

This looked much more like the Bulldogs who won eight games in a row.

The likes of Gage Smith and Justin Wiersema gave their typical non-stop motor efforts. Smith put up 18 points and eight rebounds in 21 minutes. Wiersema notched 14 points and six rebounds. Three additional Bulldogs chipped in with eight points or more:

Ryan Holt (nine), Jackson Hirschfeld (eight) and AJ Watson (eight).

This one hurts. Concordia led by as many as 17 points in a contest that became a GPAC meat grinder down the stretch. Jamestown made more plays after halftime and pulled out an 89-87 overtime victory in North Dakota Dec. 18.

Head Coach Ben Limback's squad missed out on an opportunity to earn a pair of GPAC road wins on the week (won at Midland on Tuesday). The Bulldogs slipped to 10-4 overall (7-3 GPAC).

Leading 76-72, Concordia failed to get a key defensive rebound and committed two critical fouls, including one that came 85 feet from the basket. The momentum had flipped. Jamestown (10-3, 6-2 GPAC) never trailed in an overtime session that saw the Jimmies make hay at the foul line. Meanwhile, the first three Bulldog possessions of OT went like this – one-and-done – turnover – turnover. The Bulldogs will now enjoy an extended break for Christmas. Next up on the schedule is a nonconference matchup at Peru State College (6-5) slated for 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 30.

### Women's basketball

This game could not have been more different than the meeting that unfolded a month earlier inside Friedrich Arena. A re-commitment on the defensive end in the final quarter paved the way for the Concordia University women's basketball team's most impressive road win of the season. In action Dec. 15, the Bulldogs avenged a Nov. 10 defeat and won, 67-59, over one of the strongest Midland teams in several years.

This was the response Head Coach Drew Olson hoped for during a run of difficult road outings. After back-to-back losses in Sioux City, Concordia (7-5, 6-3 GPAC) got back into the win column.

The fourth quarter was a complete reversal of the third. While making 6-of-9 attempts from 3-point range in the third period, the Warriors (9-3, 6-3 GPAC) erased what had been a 37-25 halftime deficit. Over the final stanza, the Bulldogs held Midland to 3-for-10 shooting and outscored the home team, 19-7. A three-point play by Rylee Pauli and a trey from Taylor Cockerill jump-started the attack to begin the final quarter.

Bulldog freshman Taysha Rushton put her side up for good (61-59) with a clutch 3-pointer down the stretch. She then salted the game away with four free throws in the closing 30 seconds.

In a reserve role, Pauli provided a solid inside presence in scoring 13 points on 6-for-8 shooting from the floor. Cockerill led all players with 17 points while adding six rebounds in 31 minutes. Rushton finished with 14 points and four assists. Mackenzie Koepke got the start and grabbed a game high nine rebounds.

Two additional keys on Tuesday were the hot start for the Bulldogs and a plus-eight margin in turnovers. Rough opening quarters at Briar Cliff and Morningside had forced Concordia to play catch up for the entirety of those defeats. This was a definite step

(continued on 6B)



# Concordia

(continued from 5B) forward for the growing Bulldogs.

Concordia's clutch free-throw shooting played a major factor down the stretch in Dec. 18's 55-50 victory over Jamestown. The Bulldogs went 7-for-8 from the free-throw line in the final 30 seconds of play to fend off any comeback chances Jamestown had in store. The Bulldogs now won back-to-back games after suffering back-to-back losses last week. Concordia (8-5, 7-3 GPAC) will look to build on this momentum coming out of Christmas break.

Freshman Taysha Rushton looked like a seasoned veteran when she stepped up to the free-throw line in the contest's final minutes. The Lubbock, Texas, native sank all eight of her free-throw attempts in the fourth quarter, including six in the final thirty seconds to ice the game. Overall, the Bulldogs shot an impressive 92.3 percent (12-for-13) from the charity stripe.

Concordia forced 19 Jamestown turnovers and locked down the Jimmies on the perim-

eter as Jamestown shot a subpar 4.5 percent (1-for-22) from behind the arch. The shooting mark was the lowest Jamestown has put up this season. The Jimmies came into the contest ranked 46th nationally in three-point percentage as they were converting on 33.3 percent of their attempts from downtown.

Rushton led a balanced Concordia scoring attack with 12 points. Mackenzie Koepke just missed out on double figures as she finished with nine points. Pauli (seven points and 11 rebounds) and Taylor Cockerill (seven points, ten rebounds and six assists) also were significant contributors in the win.

The Bulldog bench was the difference-maker, outscoring the Jimmies 20-0. Taylor Farrell led the reserves with six points, while Conrad (five points) and Sadie Powell (six points) also provide a chunk of the scoring off the bench.

Concordia will break for the holidays before returning on Dec. 30 as they host Mount Marty (3-6, 1-5 GPAC) for a 7 p.m. tipoff from Friedrich Arena.

## Wrestling

Junior Mario Ybarra put together a sparkling day near the top of the lineup while starring for the Concordia University Wrestling program, which hosted the Concordia Bulldog Duals on Dec. 19. The action took place inside Friedrich Arena and featured eight NAIA teams squaring off in 16 total duals. The Bulldogs earned a 27-24 victory over Oklahoma Wesleyan University to open up the day.

Third-year Head Coach Levi Calhoun's squad went 1-3 at the Bulldog Duals with the losses coming at the hands of Arizona Christian University, 27-14, No. 15 Montana State University-Northern (MSUN), 41-3, and Texas Wesleyan University, 39-6. Concordia now sports an overall dual record of 3-5 on the season.

Ranked fourth in the NAIA at 133 pounds, Ybarra backed up his lofty rating on Saturday. After a forfeit victory in the morning dual, Ybarra proceeded to defeat Arizona Christian's Bryce Bernard (major decision), MSUN's Carl

Cronin (decision) and Texas Wesleyan's Jacob Garcia (pin). Ybarra (12-1) has won 12-straight matches since a loss to begin the 2020-21 campaign.

The Scottsbluff, Neb., native has been on a mission to reach the podium come March. Said Ybarra, "I try not to get too caught up in the win streak and the record and everything. My dad's really helped me with my mentality. He always says, 'wrestle the match, not the name.' It doesn't matter who you are wrestling, stay true to you. There have been some close ones, but I know I'm always in the match. I feel comfortable and confident even when it's a close scoring match."

In the win over Oklahoma Wesleyan, freshmen Javeen Scodris (pin at 149), Mason Garcia (decision at 197) and Jacob Telles (pin at 285) each claimed contested victories. Newly minted as the 16th-ranked heavyweight in the NAIA, Telles produced the triumph with bonus points the Bulldog needed to secure the team win. Concordia was spotted 12 points off the bat with two Eagles

forfeits.

Telles (18-5) captured wins in two of three matches on Saturday and continues to perform at an exceptional level for a collegiate rookie. The Albuquerque, N.M., native competed in front of his parents this weekend. Telles was one of six freshmen in Saturday's youthful lineup. The Bulldogs were weakened by the absences of veteran standouts in junior Issiah Burks (reigning GPAC Wrestler of the Week) and senior Gabe Crawford.

In the loss to Arizona Christian, Scodris (decision at 149), sophomore Tavoris Smith (major decision at 165) and Telles (decision at 285) picked up individual wins. In particular, Smith's attacking style stood out in a performance that saw him put 18 points on the board. Ybarra and company know there will continue to be growing pains.

Said Ybarra, "It's a lot of mentality, I feel like. I'm in the room with them all the time. We have the work ethic for sure. It's another level when you come out here to compete and

step on that mat. It's a lot of growing as a team. We're never comfortable with where we're at. There's a lot to be discussed for sure as a team. They're giving the effort, but there's a lot to be improved on."

Three NAIA top-rated wrestlers were on display at the Bulldog Duals: Doane's Baagii Boldmaa (141) and MSUN's Nick Kunz (125) and Isaac Bartel (197). MSUN went 4-0 as a team. Its run included a squeaker, 22-21, over Doane.

Concordia is finished for the calendar year 2020. The Bulldogs are slated to resume action after New Year's with the Hastings College Cusatis Open on Jan. 9. As Ybarra noted, the team is looking forward to having Coach Calhoun back in the room. Calhoun had spent time away from the team due to the loss of his mother.

The Concordia Bulldog Duals represented the largest collegiate wrestling event on campus since the program hosted the GPAC Championships in 2016. Concordia won the conference title that season in front of the home fans.

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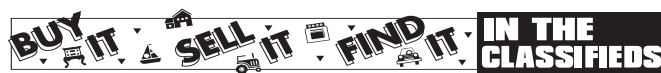
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# Baldwin remembered for service

by Gerald D. "Jerry" Meyer  
*NEBG Historian*  
 and Nick Tuma  
*UNO Intern*

In July, 2019, the Nebraska delegation stood at the base of Sugar Loaf Hill and the memorial to 68 soldiers of the 35th Division that were killed in battle in September, 1944. The group laid flags and flowers at the memorial in a shady park outside of the village of Agincourt.

On top of the hill, Stapleton native Ralph Greeley received the Distinguished Service Cross (posthumously) for his stand at his machine gun. One of the severely wounded on the hill was Sgt. Floyd Baldwin. His son, Seward Police Chief Alan Baldwin, is planning to stand at the very spot his father was wounded as part of the Liberation Tour 2021 Nebraska Delegation to France.

Floyd Baldwin was born May 22, 1915, at Palmyra. The Nebraska National Guard called him to federal service of one year on Dec. 23, 1940, and sent him to Fort Robinson, Arkansas, for training. He was part of a large contingent of Nebraskans who volunteered or were drafted into federal service in February, 1941. They were used to fill out the 35th Division to 100% strength.

Baldwin was assigned to Company A, First Battalion, 134th Infantry Regiment (formerly of Nebraska City). He was trained on the M1919A4 air cooled 30 caliber machine gun. His call up was extended, like the rest of the regiment, following Pearl Harbor (Dec. 7, 1941). He was in for the duration or until hostilities ceased. He was part of the unit as it moved to California after Pearl Harbor to protect the West Coast. Following that mission, they continued stateside training for deployment to the European Theater of Operation. They trained for over 40 months before boarding transports for England in May, 1944.

On July 6, 1944, Baldwin and his fel-

low soldiers set foot on Omaha Beach (D-Day was a month earlier) from transports from England. Company A marched about 20 miles to relieve units north of Hill 122 and St. Lo. They attacked on the morning of July 15, 1944, to seize Hill 122 and take the city of St. Lo. They advanced 2,100 yards through the dense hedgerows capturing more ground than the 29th Division (the units they relieved) did in three weeks.

They made it to the base of Hill 122 on the first day and fought over the hill over the next day with the regiment suffering 792 casualties. Baldwin was in the thick of the fighting with Company A and Company C (formerly of Beatrice). The American machine gunners dualed the German gunners equipped with the MG-42 (very high cyclic fire rate - 1,200 rounds per minute). The Americans pushed the Germans off Hill 122 and made advances down the southern slope and toward the city of St. Lo.

On the early morning of July 18, the Americans sent patrols into the city and noted the rout of the Germans in the sector. On July 19, the units began occupation duty with elements of the 29th Division in the city. The Americans paid a high price for the city with over 900 killed or wounded (53 were from Nebraska).

The 134th Infantry Regiment consolidated its combat power (brought up replacements) and prepared to move out in August. The last major battle in the hedgerows was around Mortain to help relieve a trapped unit of the 30th Division. The seven days of fighting around the city cost the regiment nearly 500 casualties, including over 130 killed.

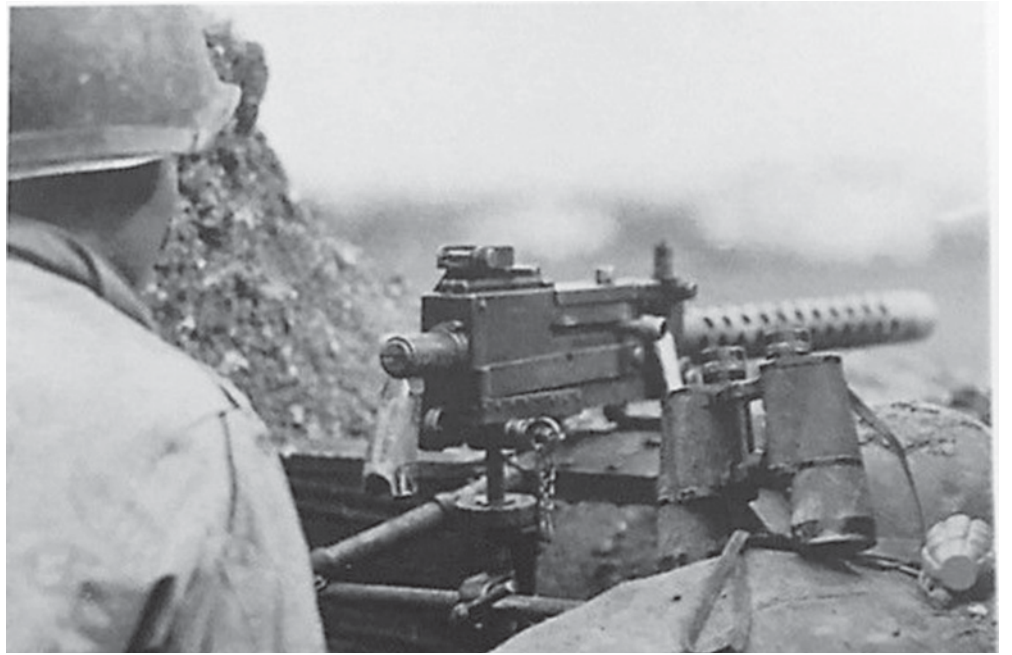
Once the battle was over, the regiment was entering tank country and the race was on to eastern France and the city of Nancy (capital of Lorraine). They liberated Le Mans, Janville, Montargis and Joigny. On Sept. 15, 1944, the

regiment was heralded as the "Liberators of Nancy." The Germans were waiting for the Americans outside the city.

Sugar Loaf Hill dominates the village of Agincourt about 5 miles from Nancy to the north-east. The Americans moved out of Nancy, crossed over the Meurthe River and advanced up the valley towards Agincourt on Sept. 18. The regiment noted the high point of Sugar Loaf and quickly pushed the German forces off the hill. The Germans knew whoever controlled Sugar Loaf Hill could direct fires down onto any forces in the valley. They quickly assembled forces and launched assaults in the evening and early morning of Sept. 18-19.

Ralph Greeley (Company D) and Baldwin (Company A) provided the machine gun fire onto the Germans to blunt the attack and allow the Americans to retrograde off the hill (they were overwhelmed by sheer German numbers). During the defense on the hilltop, Greeley fell mortally wounded and Baldwin was severely wounded and carried to the aid station. The next day, the regiment attacked up and defeated the Germans on Sugar Loaf Hill in textbook fashion using a rolling barrage with artillery. Baldwin was evacuated for medical treatment and did not return to his unit until March, 1945 and the drive to Elbe River in Germany.

Greeley died of his wounds and is buried at the Lorraine-American Cemetery in St. Avold, France. Baldwin passed away on Dec. 8, 1998, and is buried in the Rosewood Cemetery in Palmyra. You can learn more about Ralph and Floyd and the 134th Infantry Regiment in World War II at the Nebraska National Guard Museum in Seward. If you know someone who served in the regiment and have artifacts, the Museum would like to hear from you. Call (402) 309-8763.



Picture of World War II machine gunner (M1919A4 air cooled .30 caliber) in Europe. Sgt. Floyd Baldwin of Company A, First Battalion, 134th Infantry Regiment (formerly Nebraska City-Nebraska National Guard unit) was a crewman on this type of weapon during the Battle of Sugar Loaf Hill near Nancy, France, on Sept. 18-19, 1944. He was severely wounded during the battle and didn't return to his unit until March, 1945. He is the father of Seward Police Chief Alan Baldwin. Floyd Baldwin passed away in 1998 and is buried in Palmyra.

## AREA CHURCHES

**Some churches have resumed services with restrictions. Please check with the church before attending any services.**

### Calvary Baptist Church

208 East Bek Ave. • Seward • 402-643-3575  
 www.cbcseward.com  
 Pastor Timothy A. Ruegg  
 Sunday School (all ages).....10:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Morning Worship .....11:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Evening Worship .....5:00 p.m.  
 Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study .....7:00 p.m.

### Church of Christ

1422 Kolterman Ave. • Seward • 402-643-5802  
 www.sewardchurchofchrist.com  
 Pastor: Dr. Mike Case  
 Sunday Worship .....9:30 & 10:30 a.m.  
 Wednesday Bible Study .....Small groups

### Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)

1245 North 2nd St. • Seward • 402-643-6116  
 www.faithiseward.org  
 Pastor Greg Gabriel  
 Sunday Worship .....9:15 a.m.  
 Sunday School for all ages.....10:45 a.m.

### Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

2668 Hwy 6 (1 mi. West of Milford) • 402-761-3416  
 www.goodshepherd-milford.org  
 Pastor Steve Stork  
 Sunday Adult Bible Study .....9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship .....10:00 a.m.  
 Monday Worship .....6:30 p.m.  
 Adult Bible Study.....Thurs., 8:30 a.m.  
 Kids' Bible Classes, Pre-K through 6th grade .....  
 ..... (during school year) Wednesday, 6:30 p.m.  
 Confirmation Class.....  
 ..... (during school year) Wednesday night

### Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)

746 Pinewood Ave. • Seward • 402-643-4131  
 www.graceseward.org  
 Pastor Mark A. Haefner  
 Sunday Bible Class .....8:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship .....8:45 a.m.  
 Sunday School and Fellowship .....9:45 a.m.

### Great Plains Community Church

1155 May St. • Goehner • 402-730-2594  
 Pastor Galen Skinner  
 Sunday Worship .....10:00 a.m.  
 Wednesday Night, Adult Bible Studies,  
 Children and Teen Activities .....7:00 p.m.

### Hillcrest Evangelical Free Church

2433 Progressive Rd. • Seward • 402-643-2316  
 Senior Pastor Curt Coddington  
 Administrative Pastor Brant Taylor  
 Associate Pastor Brad Johnson  
 Worship Pastor Kyle Soffin  
 Youth Pastor Zach Mulvihill  
 Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes....9:45 a.m.  
 Sunday Worship .....8:15 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
 Wednesday  
 Children and Teen Activities .....6:30 p.m.

### Holy Cross Lutheran Church (LCMS)

1042 May St. • Goehner • 816-308-7859  
 Pastor James Dahlke  
 Sunday Worship .....9:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School & Adult Bible Class Following Worship

### Lighthouse Pentecostal Church

201 S. 11th • Seward • 402-641-3494  
 Pastor Timothy Daywitt  
 Sunday Worship .....10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.  
 Wednesday Worship (Deaf Signing) .....7:00 p.m.

### Living Word Lutheran Church (LCMC)

1300 West Hillcrest • Seward • 402-643-6445  
 www.livingwordsew.org  
 Following Worship  
 Pastor Scott Krohn  
 Saturday Worship (1st & 3rd Sat.) .....5:30 p.m.  
 Relaxed Worship  
 Sunday Worship .....9:00 a.m.  
 Traditional; Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays  
 Bible Study .....11:00 a.m.  
 Words on Wednesday (WOW).....6:30 p.m.  
 Varied activities by age, from youth to adults

### Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church (AALC)

Partner in ministry with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod  
 252 N. 6th St. • Seward • 402-953-FORT (3678)  
 www.mightyfortress.us • Like us on Facebook  
 Sunday Worship .....11:00 a.m.

### Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (LCMS)

3.5 miles west of Staplehurst • 402-535-2625  
 Pastor Shawn Kitzing  
 Worship (church in the country).....9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School (school in Staplehurst).....10:30 a.m.  
 Bible Class (school in Staplehurst) .....10:30 a.m.

### Sacred Heart Catholic Church

401 Dimery • Beaver Crossing • 402-532-2545  
 Msgr. Mark Huber  
 Saturday Worship .....5:00 p.m.  
 Mon., Tue., Thurs., Fri. Mass.....8:00 a.m.  
 Confessions 30 minutes before every Mass

### Seward United Methodist Church

1400 N. 5th St. • Seward • 402-643-4156  
 Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty, Lead Pastor  
 Rev. JoEllen Axthelm, Associate Pastor  
 Sunday Traditional Worship  
 (in person and online) .....8:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Small Groups .....9:15 a.m.  
 Sunday Praise Worship  
 (in person and online) .....10:30 a.m.

### St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

6th & Hillcrest • Seward • 402-643-3829  
 Rev. Pam Williams  
 Sunday Worship .....10:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School .....10:30 a.m.  
 Clergy office hrs.....Wed. by appt.

### St. John Lutheran Church (LCMS)

919 N. Columbia • Seward • 402-643-2983  
 www.stjohnseward.org  
 Pastor Scott Bruick • Pastor Andy Schermbeck  
 Pastor David Rempfer  
 Saturday Worship .....5:30 p.m.  
 Sunday Worship .....8:30 & 11:00 a.m.  
 Sunday Education Hour .....10:00 a.m.

### St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)

200 Paris St. • Cordova • 402-576-3211  
 Pastor Brian Tuma  
 Sunday Worship .....9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School/Adult Bible Study .....10:30 a.m.

### St. Patrick's Catholic Church

110 3rd St. • Utica • 402-532-2545  
 Msgr. Mark Huber  
 Sunday Mass .....9:00 a.m.  
 Wednesday Mass .....7:00 a.m.  
 Confessions 30 minutes before every Mass

### St. Paul Lutheran Church

1100 'D' St. • Utica • 402-534-2200  
 Pastor Jon Dunbar  
 Pastor of Visitation: Pastor Richard Gudgel  
 Sunday Worship .....9:00 a.m.  
 Sunday School & Adult Bible Study .....10:15 a.m.

### St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

152 Pinewood Ave. • Seward • 402-643-3421  
 www.stvincentseward.org / See our FB page  
 Msgr. Robert Tucker  
 Saturday Evening Mass .....5:30 p.m.  
 Sunday Mass .....8:00 & 10:00 a.m.  
 Confessions 30 minutes before each Mass

### The Rock (LCMS)

237 S. 3rd • Seward • 402-643-6624  
 therockseward.org • info@therockseward.org  
 Pastor Michael Meyer  
 Sunday Worship .....10:00 a.m.

### Zion Lutheran Church (LCMS)

370 Fourth Street • Garland • 402-588-2229  
 Zionlcms@revdobb.com  
 Pastor David Dobbertien  
 Sunday Worship .....9:00 a.m.

## Mark your calendar and mark ours, too.

You can be part of the **Seward County Community Calendar**

Go to [www.sewardindependent.com](http://www.sewardindependent.com), click on "Calendar" and "Post your event."

Once all your information is entered and you click "submit your event," you're done.

Community events that may be included on our calendar are musical performances, theatrical productions, meetings, fundraisers (soup dinners, spaghetti feeds, pancake feeds, etc.) and other non-profit events.

## 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**

129 S. 6th St., Seward, NE | 402-643-3676



**Memorial**  
Health Care Systems  
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# HERE FOR YOU HERE FOR LIFE

## Natasha Andersen, Physician Assistant, joins MHCS

Memorial Health Care Systems welcomes Natasha Andersen, PA-C, who will be joining the team of medical providers at Seward Family Medical Center.



Natasha is a graduate of Seward High School. She attended the University of Nebraska at Omaha for her undergraduate studies and graduated with her Master of Physician Assistant Studies degree from Union College in Lincoln. Natasha has spent the last three years living in Seward and commuting to Lincoln to practice at St. Elizabeth Emergency Department. Natasha stated, "I am looking forward to providing care at the Seward Family Medical Center and Memorial Hospital Emergency Department." Natasha will begin accepting patients in mid-December.

When asked why she chose to work at Memorial Health Care Systems, Natasha said, "Growing up I always had an interest in returning to Seward and giving back to the Seward community. I am looking forward to building strong partnerships with patients to work on health and well-being for all ages."

When she's not working, Natasha enjoys family time, cheering on Husker sports, and running. Natasha has completed 5 full marathons and more half-marathons than she can even recollect. Natasha lives in Seward with her husband Tanner, son Talen, and two dogs.

**Natasha's Special Areas of Interest include:**

- Preventative Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Emergency Medicine

## Treatment for COVID-19 Patients

As the pandemic continues, Memorial Health Care Systems and health care organizations across the nation have begun administering monoclonal antibody treatment for COVID-19. "So far, this has been a very promising treatment for patients early in their diagnoses. This represents an exciting new tool your physician has in the war against the Coronavirus," said Robert Wergin, MD at Memorial Health Care Systems.

This medication provides outpatient treatment for specific high-risk COVID-19 positive patients. The procedure involves a one-time intravenous infusion and is not authorized for patients who are already hospitalized or who require additional oxygen therapy due to COVID-19.

Roger Reamer, Chief Executive Officer of Memorial Health Care Systems said, "For the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, these monoclonal antibody treatment options give our staff the ability to treat COVID-19 positive patients who have not yet progressed to the point where they need emergency care or inpatient hospitalization. This is extremely promising and gives hope to all of us to have an option to help treat COVID-19."

Patients must meet certain criteria (set

by the FDA through the emergency use authorization) to be eligible to receive the drug. This includes a **positive test for COVID-19 with symptom onset within the last 10 days AND** a high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19 and/or hospitalization.

**High risk is defined as patients who meet at least one of the following criteria:**

- Have a body mass index (BMI) ≥35
- Have chronic kidney disease
- Have diabetes
- Have immunosuppressive disease
- Are currently receiving immunosuppressive treatment
- Are ≥65 years of age
- Are ≥55 years of age AND have one or more of the following:
  - cardiovascular disease,
  - hypertension,
  - chronic obstructive pulmonary disease/ other chronic respiratory disease.
- Are 12–17 years of age AND have one or more of the following:
  - BMI ≥85th percentile for their age and gender-based on CDC growth charts, [https://www.cdc.gov/growthcharts/clinical\\_charts.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/growthcharts/clinical_charts.htm),
  - sickle cell disease,
  - congenital or acquired heart disease,

### Test NE Schedule

**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.

**Friday, January 8; 9–11 a.m.**  
**Tuesday, January 12; 9–11 a.m.**  
**Friday, January 15; 9–11 a.m.**  
**Tuesday, January 19; 9–11 a.m.**  
**Friday, January 22; 9–11 a.m.**  
**Tuesday, January 26; 9–11 a.m.**  
**Friday, January 29; 9–11 a.m.**



**Memorial**  
Health Care Systems



**test nebraska**

- neurodevelopmental disorders, for example, cerebral palsy,
- a medical-related technological dependence, for example, tracheostomy, gastrostomy, or positive pressure ventilation (not related to COVID-19),
- asthma, reactive airway, or other chronic respiratory disease that requires daily medication for control.

The number of doses allocated to Memorial Health Care Systems has been and continues to be limited. Other hospitals across Nebraska are also utilizing a limited supply of this treatment option with promising results. In addition to limited supplies, **the COVID-19 positive patient's primary care provider will make the final determination and referral for the drug.**

The medication itself is being provided to Memorial Health Care Systems and organizations across the nation at no charge through Operation Warp Speed. Patients are not charged for the medication itself.

Memorial Health Care Systems had an opportunity to utilize the medication in treating residents from a long-term care facility in Seward. "Many individuals across MHCS leadership were instrumental in quickly organizing a protocol and workflow

to administer the new treatment efficiently and to those truly at risk for hospitalization due to COVID-19, Dr. Wergin said. He continued, "Because of MHCS' quick and efficient response, no patients that received the new treatment required hospitalization due to COVID-19. The pandemic has certainly challenged all of us to be creative and flexible in how we partner with senior living, long-term care and to continue to provide care to all our friends and neighbors. It was our privilege to be able to help them in this way," Dr. Wergin added.

**Patients that have tested positive for COVID-19 and have further questions regarding eligibility for the medication can call the Seward Family Medical Center at 402-643-4800 Monday–Friday from 8 a.m.–4 p.m.**

"We are seeing great progress in the prevention and treatment of COVID-19. While we have outpatient and inpatient therapies available and a vaccine being distributed to the phase 1a groups, our fight against this pandemic is not over. We will continue to ask our community members to follow social distancing guidelines, wear masks, wash hands frequently, and avoid crowds," urges Mallory Gibreal, Director of Community Relations.

## Specialty Calendar January 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>4</b> Orthopedics Dr. Tewes Ryan Baumert, PA-C, ATC Podiatry Dr. Hahne	<b>5</b> Gynecology Dr. Heidrick Pain Clinic Dr. Daniel Wik Stefanie Leyden, APRN-NP	<b>6</b> General Surgery Dr. Fallick Urology Dr. Henslee • Casey Bock, PA-C	<b>7</b> Cardiology – Dr. Steuter General Surgery Dr. Windle Kelly Fields, APRN-NP	<b>8</b> Behavioral Health Trish Lenz, APRN-NP Bariatric Medicine Dr. Fermelia Vascular Dr. Robert Pitsch
<b>11</b> Orthopedics Dr. Tewes Ryan Baumert, PA-C, ATC	<b>12</b> Ear, Nose & Throat Dr. Mueller Gynecology Dr. Heidrick	<b>13</b> Cardiology Pioneer Heart Institute Orthopedics Dr. Gove • John Ayers, PA-C	<b>14</b> General Surgery Dr. Windle Kelly Fields, APRN-NP	<b>15</b> Behavioral Health Trish Lenz, APRN-NP
<b>18</b> Orthopedics Dr. Tewes Ryan Baumert, PA-C, ATC Podiatry Dr. Hahne	<b>19</b> Gynecology Dr. Heidrick Pain Clinic Dr. Daniel Wik Stefanie Leyden, APRN-NP	<b>20</b> General Surgery Dr. Fallick Urology Dr. Henslee • Casey Bock, PA-C	<b>21</b> Cardiology – Dr. Johnson General Surgery Dr. Windle Kelly Fields, APRN-NP	<b>22</b> Behavioral Health Trish Lenz, APRN-NP Bariatric Medicine Dr. Fermelia Vascular Dr. Robert Pitsch
<b>25</b> Orthopedics Dr. Tewes Ryan Baumert, PA-C, ATC	<b>26</b> Gynecology Dr. Heidrick Pain Clinic Dr. Staub	<b>27</b> Cardiology Pioneer Heart Institute Orthopedics Dr. Gove • John Ayers, PA Podiatry Dr. Hahne	<b>28</b> Cardiology – Dr. Steuter General Surgery Dr. Windle Kelly Fields, APRN-NP	<b>29</b> Behavioral Health Trish Lenz, APRN-NP

300 North Columbia Ave. Seward, NE 68434

**Seward Memorial Hospital**

402-643-2971

www.mhcs.us

### Family Medical Centers

**Memorial Physical Therapy**

300 North Columbia Ave.  
Seward, NE 68434  
402-646-4611

**Seward**

250 North Columbia Ave.  
Seward, NE 68434  
402-643-4800

**Milford**

119 South C St.  
Milford, NE 68405  
402-761-3307

**Utica**

100 4th St.  
Utica, NE 68456  
402-534-2081

**Seward Family Pharmacy**

250 North Columbia Ave.  
Seward, NE 68434  
402-646-4607

# Dance, DANCE, DANCE!



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

The Milford High School dance team entertains the (limited) crowd during a Dec. 11 home basketball game.

## A game-changer for the home orchard

by Sarah Browning  
Lancaster County Extension  
educator

Cherries have been a favored fruit for centuries, eaten by people since before recorded history.

Sweet cherries, *Prunus avium*, are native throughout most of Europe, western Asia and parts of northern Africa. Naturally, they have been used extensively in holiday cooking through the years.

But tart cherries, *Prunus cerasus*, are the most common and well-adapted cherry grown in Nebraska. Of the tart cherries, Montmorency is the long-time Midwest standard. Montmorency cherry grows into a medium sized tree, 15 to 18 feet in height and width. It has been in cultivation for more than 400 years.

Other varieties of tart cherry that grow well in Nebraska include Meteor and Balaton. There is also a naturally dwarf variety North Star available, which is extremely hardy and thrives in the harsh Midwest environment. But a new group of cherries, called bush cherries, offer great fruit, even better winter hardiness and much easier picking due to their short stature.

### History of shrub cherries

Development of bush cherries began in Canada in the 1940s and resulted in a variety



COURTESY PHOTO

Carmine Jewel reaches a height of six feet, with a similar width. Fruit yields increase as plants mature, starting at 15+ pounds per plant in the fourth year and 20-30+ pounds in the fifth year.

marketed as the Mongolian cherry. During the 1980s, breeders at the University of Saskatchewan made crosses between the Mongolian cherry and the naturally dwarf tree form North Star.

The result of these crosses were a group of shrub-form tart cherries that are very hardy, with the high fruit quality characteristics of North Star and increased sugar content. The Romance cherry series includes the following cultivars – Carmine Jewel, Crimson Passion, Cupid, Juliet, Romeo and Valentine.

Their breeding history makes bush cherries a lesser-known form of tart cherries. They are extremely hardy (Zone 2), suffer from relatively few insect and disease

problems and actually have a higher sugar content than tree-types of tart cherries.

### Fruit characteristics

Carmine Jewel reaches a height of six feet, with a similar width. Fruit yields increase as plants mature, starting at 15+ pounds per plant in the fourth year and 20-30+ pounds in the fifth year.

Crimson Passion blooms a few days before Carmine Jewel and has low fruit production compared to Carmine Jewel. Height 10 feet, width seven feet.

Juliet is slightly sweeter flavor, moderate fruit production compared to Carmine Jewel. Height five to eight feet.

Romeo is slightly sweeter flavor, moderate fruit production

compared to Carmine Jewel. Height six to eight feet.

All four cultivars are self-pollinating, meaning the flowers from one bush will pollinate each other, so technically a second pollinating plant is not needed. However, a second pollinating type of bush cherry can increase fruit set. Each plant should be spaced six feet apart in a row.

Unfortunately, Cupid and Valentine are not available to home gardeners.

### Fruit production

Bush forms of cherries begin producing fruit sooner than the tree forms. Fruit production begins at the third year, although there will only be a few fruits that year. Full production is achieved during the fifth year, if the plants have experienced good growing conditions. Carmine Jewel is the best producer with 20 to 30 pounds of fruit per plant once plants are well-established. Depending on the variety, harvest can be as early as late July or as late as September.

But don't get too rosy a picture of bush cherries. Yes, they offer a high level of winter hardiness and easy harvesting, but they are still susceptible to all the common cherry insect and disease problems.

Good site selection, regular care (water, mulch, pruning) and pest control will be required to produce high quality fruits.

## Cold weather? Try to avoid having foot traffic on frozen turf

by Nicole Stoner  
Gage County Extension educator

As I walk around my yard with my dog, through the snow, I wonder about the impacts it has on my turf for the spring. Walking on frozen turf can have detrimental effects.

Damage from walking on frozen turf

During the spring and summer, we can walk on our lawns and turf fields with no damage. During the growing season, turf plants can recover from traffic through active regrowth. However, during the winter the turf is dormant and cannot recover from the damage until the spring.

So, when we constantly walk in the same pattern, when we get the mail or take our dogs outside, the damage is recurring each time. This could be minor to our lawns that they can easily overcome in the spring, but in some cases, it would kill the turf plants in those commonly walked-on areas requiring overseeding in the spring.

If you walk on frozen turf, you may notice footprints through the lawn when the lawn starts to green back up in the spring. This can even occur on cold mornings when there is frost on the turf. The lawn will show where you walked that morning when the frost fades and the rest of the lawn looks green and healthy.

Traffic on frozen or partially frozen soils can also increase compaction to the soil. Wet, or frozen, soils will compact together if it is walked on or if traffic drives over it. The moisture in the soil moves through soil pores, so if traffic moves over wet soils, it will smash out any air pockets that remained in the soil, making it more compact. This will also take a while to alleviate through time, aeration and adding organic matter.

The best way to avoid the damage to frozen turf is to avoid traffic. This includes walking on it, driving vehicles on it and playing

ing outside on the turf. If you can walk in different paths each time you go outside, that would be better than walking in the same location each time you go to get the mail or take the dog outside.

If you can't avoid traffic on the frozen turf, you will likely have to reseed in the spring to get those areas to green back up. Mid to late April is a great time to overseed the lawn in the spring. Be sure to keep it well watered and don't use a crabgrass preventer next spring if you do need to overseed.

### Deicers

Also, be careful when using deicers around your turf and landscape. Deicers can negatively affect plants, soil, concrete and carpet. Select deicers wisely and use them according to direction.

Deicers applied to surfaces may run off and enter soil or be splashed onto nearby vegetation. These deicer salts reduce the availability of water to plants, which can increase water stress during spring and summer. This effect is referred to as chemical drought. Deicing products splashed onto foliage may burn and kill plants growing adjacent to roadways.

You can choose products that are less harmful to plants and cause less leaf burn in the spring. Choose products like beet juice, calcium chloride or calcium magnesium acetate which are less harmful to plants than sodium chloride.

However, these safer products are more expensive and more difficult to find, so applying a light layer of deicing salts in combination with gravel would be a good alternative to protect our plants.

Also, try to avoid piling the snow up in the same location on the edge of your lawn each time it snows so the deicers aren't always placed in the same spot on your landscape. Remember, deicers are not used to completely melt snow or ice, but to make their removal easier.

## Stay safe!



### Happy Holidays!

Wishing you a joyous holiday season!

#### Christmas Hours:

Thursday, December 24 - Closing at Noon

Friday, December 25 - Closed

Saturday, December 26 - Closed

#### MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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