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EMILY HEMPHILL/MT

The old Milford City Hall building and former Hills Country Inn restuarant were demolished on April 2.

STEPHANIE CROSTON/MT

Right: Konner Schluckebier of Milford won the title in Class C at 113 pounds at state wrestling earlier in 2020.



Let's talk 2020: here's our year in review

It's time for a quick review of 2020.

January

Ron Petsch retired from SCC-Milford on Dec. 20 after 41 years of service.

Milford senior K'lena Schnack represent Milford High and Key Club International in the Rose

Milford Elementary students and teachers returned from winter break and moved into the school's new addition, which included more classrooms and added lunchroom space.

Milford's new City Hall and Police Station is nearing completion. Over the past couple of weeks, glass was installed throughout the building, the exterior finishes have been applied and the signs on the front put up.

ESU 6 mental health counselors talked about opportunities for students.

February

Milford Elementary first graders celebrated the 100th day of school by making necklaces with 100 Fruit Loops on them.

As part of continued growth at Southeast Community College, a new 52,000-square-foot building was unveiled at a ribbon cutting for the Crete Carrier Diesel Technology and Welding Center on

Madeline Wittstruck of Milford High School was among the candidates for the 161 eventual award recipients for the United States Presidential Scholars Program, one of the nation's highest honors for students in the United States.

New city hall officially opens.

Milford High wrestlers Konner Schluckebier and Jeaven Scdoris were state champions in their respective weight classes, the first from MHS to claim the top titles in 31 years.

Main Street Market expands in Milford. For those who have been missing their morning coffee in Milford, the Dragonfly Cafe and Bakery is now open.

Milford Public Schools announced March 16 that it would close the rest of the week and the following week, through March 27, based on coronavirus recommendations from Public Health Solutions and Four Corners Health Department.

Kathy Eberly of the Milford American Legion Auxiliary Unit 171 presented a Prisoner of War flag to Webermeier Library Director George Matzen to display at the Webermeier Building. The Legion and Auxiliary celebrated 100 years of the organization with an open house at the Milford Senior Center March 15.

As of March 18, the City of Milford closed its offices to the public, but staff were still available to help customers over the phone, by mail and by

April

Milford may get a new 54-lot subdivision. School hallways are silent. Lockers have nothing in them. Classrooms are empty. And it's not summer vacation. Instead, students and teachers are working from home. After a week of online education, everyone's settling in.

The City Hall building that was built in the late 1800s came down a month after the new building was completed.

Changes are happening almost daily in the Milford Public Schools district. The Board of Education held its April 13 meeting via video conference. Superintendent Kevin Wingard gave an update on how COVID-19 is affecting the district.

The Milford City Council approved a TIME gift card match program at a special meeting April 21, and the Seward County Chamber and Development Partnership is working with Seward and Utica to follow suit.

May

Milford High School went virtual with its prom this year but still crowned a king and queen. This year's royalty are Devon Reitz and Ashley Kroese. Polling places will be open May 12.

Volunteers at the Milford campus of Southeast Community College have been at work making face shields that act as a "first line of defense" for people working in healthcare professions during the coronavirus pandemic.

Angela Schaneman is the new postmaster for the city of Milford and has been since the beginning of

Local American Legion and VFW posts had to change their Memorial Day plans. Some have canceled programs and services completely. Others are modifying their events to abide by the restrictions put in place because of COVID-19.

Questions abound but answers are few for school boards as districts begin to look ahead to the 2020-21 school year. Milford superintendent Kevin Wingard said the district is making plans with a rough idea of what the start of school in August might look like.

At the Milford United Methodist Church, the electric chimes ring loud in memory of the late Beverly TeSelle.

The Milford Chamber of Commerce announced on May 22 that the 2020 edition of the annual Milford Family Fun Days celebration won't continue in its typical form due to social distancing brought about by the spread of COVID-19.

Two lives were claimed in a pedestrian crash on May 29 in Friend. A pickup was

Check out more on page 2

County employees honored

by Hope Moural hope@sewardindependent.com

The Seward County Board of Commissioners honored county employees who have been with the county for 10, 15, 20 and 25 years during its Dec. 29 meeting.

The honorees are as follows: Timothy Huntington, 10 years; Jeff Baker and Craig Stava, 15 years;

Tanya Woosley, 20 years; and Deanna Boyer, 25 years. The board also honored those

who retired this year included Barb Liska, Rick Bell, Mike Janssen and Dave Pankoke.

Also during the meeting, the

 approved a bid from Eagle View Technologies regarding software and an imager to be used for the assessor's office primarily, among others. The total cost of the bid was \$172,783.78, and it was agreed at least 28,000 is to be paid every six years to

the technology. · heard from Seward County Sheriff Mike Vance regarding a volun-

teer community liaison position that was recently created and introduced the person filling the role, Sharon Dickinson.

· heard from Jeff Baker about the potential restructuring of the veterans service/public transit position for the person coming in to take his place. Baker said based on his experience, length in days and other matters, he would like to see both the veterans service officer position and public transit as full-time positions, requiring two people instead of one.

Commissioner John Culver spoke out against, saying he would like to keep it as one, at least until the summer, when the next fiscal year budget would be opened and worked on. After much discussion between the two, it was decided the position would stay as is, but that such a person would need to be compensated to fulfill such duties.

The board approved the recommendation of Matt Starkey as the new veteran service/public transit/ fleet director/general assistance director for Seward County.

Four Corners update

As of Friday, Jan. 1, the Four Corners Risk Dial has been reset and remains in the Orange Elevated COVID-19 Risk Level at 2.38, which is the same as the previous week. Public health recommendations and the COVID-19 dashboard are posted on our website at www.fourcorners.

Over New Year's Eve and Day (Dec. 31 through Jan. 1), there were 45 new cases of COVID-19 reported in the

Seward County had 23 new cases for a total of 1,635.

York County had 13 new cases for a

total of 1,386. Polk County had 6 new cases for 474

Butler County added 3 cases for 743 total cases.

As of Jan. 1, the total cumulative number of COVID-19 cases in the Four Corners District is 4,238. There were 269 new cases in the previous 14 days, with 131 of those cases recorded in the past seven days.

Over the prior seven days (Dec. 26-Jan. 1), the totals for each county are as follows:

Butler County—15 Polk County—11 Seward County—63 York County-42

Four Corners also confirmed three additional COVID-19 related deaths:

A Polk County man in his 80's, who had been hospitalized

A Seward County man in his 80's, who had been hospitalized

A Seward County woman in her 80's, who had been under medical care.

These deaths bring the Four Corners' cumulative total of COVID-19 related deaths to 58. Seward County increases to 22 total COVID—19 related deaths; Polk County to 16. York and Butler counties each remain at 10 total COVID-19 related deaths.





Paisley Petersen gets some height to launch her stomp rocket July 1 outside the Seward County Extension Office.



EMILY HEMPHILL/M7

Milford's new City Hall building stands in its full glory in January 2020.

Take a look back at Milford's 2020: review

(continued from 1) traveling northbound when the driver drifted into the southbound lane, hitting the two individuals. The pedestrians were Isaac Speece, 11, of Friend, and his caregiver, Crystal Gerdes, 53, of Milford.

Milford resident Bill J. White of The Austin Company was recognized by the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers for 50 years of membership.

Windstorm wreaks havoc around Milford.

Milford officially approved its scheduled sales of fireworks at the June 2 city council meeting, giving residents the opportunity to celebrate Independence Day.

The Milford Food Pantry will begin offering a food pick up service at the Milford United Methodist Church on the third Tuesday of every month from 6-7:15 p.m.

COVID-19 and its repercussions continue to lead the discussion at Milford school board meetings.

Milford pool nears opening

Nebraska Public Power District crews will begin upgrading electric meters for residences and businesses in Milford Monday, June 29.

July

Milford City Council members conducted a special meeting on June 25 to discuss preliminary city budgets going into the 2020-21 fiscal

Southeast Community College will start the Fall Semester on Aug. 24 as originally planned. All locations will have new safety protocols and procedures in place to help keep students and employees safe.

The Small Business Administration released details about 4,179 Nebraska businesses that took out Paycheck **Protection Program** loans of \$150,000 or more. Of them, eight are from Milford and the businesses planned in their loan paperwork to preserve 291 jobs with that money.

A caller walking their dog found what appeared to be a grenade in a field near Milford June 30. Seward County Sheriff's deputies responded to the 10:30 a.m. call and requested assistance from the Nebraska State Patrol. Officers determined that it was a toy grenade before the bomb squad arrived.

Kathy Densberger, general manager of the Runza Milford location, was honored with the Runza Rock Star Award.

Southeast Community College announced that Dr. Joel Michaelis will be the school's new vice president for instruction starting with the upcoming semester. Michaelis replaces Dr. Dennis Headrick, who retired from the position in the spring after decades of service.

Milford Public Schools announced in a letter to parents that it planned to begin in-person teaching and learning as scheduled Aug. 13.

Vehicles with license plates from locations across Nebraska and stretching into Iowa and Missouri parked in lines three-cars deep just off Interstate 80 for an entire Friday morning to gather information at a Hemp Forum.

After about \$1.5 million in renovations, Southeast Community College's Professional Truck Driver Training program is now operating at full speed on the Milford Campus after being in Lincoln since its inception.

August

Milford Class of 2020 finally got its graduation ceremony.

Tough decisions are on the horizon for the Milford City Council. There are issues with browning of the city's water supply, there's no confirmed plan to repair sewer lines and the council must determine how the city moves forward with its Downtown Revitalization Planning Grant. All of those issues were discussed at the city's Aug. 4 council meeting.

Milford students returned to in-person classes on Aug. 18 for the first time since the onset of the coronavirus pandemic five months ago. Students were originally scheduled to return to classes the week before, but construction on the elementary school

delayed the start to the 2020-21 academic year.

Milford hosted an open house for Seward County's Comprehensive Plan, a 20-year strategy to map the county's growth.

Mitch Boss was named Distinguished SCC Alumni.

A coronavirus outbreak caused the Eagles to cancel their first football game of the season.

September

Milford's historic downtown district faces two major issues going forward: how the city can earn the same Downtown Revitalization grant it was denied last year, and how can businesses return to sustainable levels of income as health restrictions lessen six months into a pandemic.

Milford resident and author Gretchen Garrison joined Genevieve Randall on NET Live Aug. 28 to talk about the release of her latest book, 100 Things To Do Die.

Milford's City Council unanimously adopted the 2020-21 budget Sept.

Eight members of Milford's Family, Career and Community Leaders of America chapter placed in the top 10 at the National FCCLA STAR competition. Sophia Birch won Leadership, Level 2, at the national convention for her project titled "Learning

to Love Leading.' Milford High School took one team to the State Literature Quiz Bowl at the Seward Civic Center and brought home the state championship for medium-sized schools.

It's been more than six months since Amy Salistean started delivering meals to the friendly faces she'd see at the Milford Senior Center. March 17, that was the day it all changed. Since then she's prepared and delivered more than 1,200 meals.

October

In nearly 20 years of operating the Milford Pharmacy, Charlie and Angie Pierce had only been closed one day. As the pandemic drifted into Nebraska and the first cases in Seward County were confirmed, the Milford Pharmacy remained open. Then the coronavirus came home with them. Charlie and Angie, as well as their son, all contracted COVID-19.

Educational Service Unit 6, headquartered in Milford, sponsored training on Oct. 5 for local substitute teachers as part of a consortium to support area schools.

Rep. Jeff Fortenberry gave a talk to Milford High School seniors.

Where others may see the vast emptiness of tilled soil and exposed dirt in south Milford for its current condition, Joe Schluckebier sees promise. That project is the Timber Creek subdivision, the first new subdivision added to Milford since the Jantze development in 1991.

The Milford boys won the Class C state cross country championship Oct. 23.

November

Community anticipation started building when the sign in front of the former Dairy Queen location changed to simply say "new restaurant coming soon." That was in July. Three months later, that location has finally opened its doors as the El Burrito restaurant.

Seward County eclipsed its total number of voters from 2016 with an 81% turnout for the 2020 General Election. Out of 11,531 eligible voters, a total of 9,285 people voted in Seward County. That's up from 8,053 in the 2016 General Election.

Milford City Maintenance Supervisor Gary TeSelle said the city was fortunate to endure only a light ice bath in the middle of the previ-

ous week. TeSelle said the significant number of downed branches sustained during consecutive summer storms meant there were few susceptible branches left to fall this time around. Had the city endured more than a half-inch of precipitation, it could

Kelli Keib is a stayat-home mother of many – nine to be exact. She doesn't hold a law degree. She's not one for power suits. She's not the archetype for politics. However, she won a seat during the November election on the Milford City Council.

have been much worse.

Patrick Kelley was elected mayor of Milford.

> December Milford Chiropractic

donated to the Backpack Program.

Luke M. Anderson, 20, of Lincoln, was pronounced deceased at the scene of an accident west of Milford. The preliminary investigation indicated that a motorcycle Anderson was driving westbound on Highway 6 collided with the rear of a 2005 Pontiac G6 that was disabled on the westbound shoulder.

New members of the Milford City Council were sworn into their first meeting on Dec. 1. Mike Roth took the oath of office to represent Ward 1 and Kelli Keib for the city's Ward 2 after winning in the Nov. 3 election.

The streets of Milford are covered after an approximate six-inch snowfall on Dec. 28.

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Tiffany Meints Advisor Associate office 402-761-2729 tmeints@wradvisors.com



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Real estate

Information taken from records filed with the Seward County clerk.

Dec. 10 – 28

Brandon L. Roth and Ashley J. Roth to Jacob Riley and Kelsie Riley, west 10 feet of Lot 2 and all of Lot 3, Block 1, Davison and Culver's Addition to Milford. DS \$371.25

Geoffrey Ben Ewing and Lillian Kathy Ewing to Alex D. Jorgensen and Crystal A. Jorgensen, Lot 11, Cannon First Addition to Seward. DS \$591.75

Melissa Reamer and James Reamer to Patrick E. Murphy, Lots A and B, Administrative Replat of Lots 7-9 and ½ of vacated alley abutting thereon, Harris Moffitt and Roberts Addition to Seward. DS \$348.75

Charlotte M. Besse to Robert E. Bounds and Debra L. Bounds, Lots 5-6, Block 84, Harris, Moffitt and Roberts Addition to Seward, DS \$236.25

Naomi G. Luebbe to Bruce Luebbe, SE1/4 13-10-1. DS exempt

Clayton D. Kent, Russel C. Kent and Mary Kent, Carlene M. Schulz and Sharon J. Mueller to James Reamer and Melissa Reamer, Lot 2, Wake Second Addition to Seward. DS \$661.50

Brian H. Imig and Briianne M. Imig to Brian H. Imig and Briianne M. Imig, Lot A, administrative replat of the N1/2 of Lots 2-4 and the south 15 feet of Lot 5, Block 4, Schleuter Heights First Addition to Seward, DS exempt

Micky A. Shepard and Brenda

H. Shepard to David A. Hofschulte and Jamie R. Hofschulte, Lots 15-16, Block 7, Milford. DS \$562.50

Benjamin C. Siebert and Jessie J. Siebert to Shawn Mortensen and Kimberly Mortensen, Lot 18, Seward Heights Fifth Addition to Seward. DS \$810

Jerry L. Rumery and Tracy L. Rumery to Jerry L. Rumery and Tracy L. Rumery, Lot 2, Wake 3rd Addition, Seward. DS exempt

Merle J. Beckler to Merle J. Beckler, Christopher Beckler and Cidric Beckler as trustees of the Merle J. Beckler Family Trust, E1/2 SE1/4 except Lot 1 in Merle's Addition, a subdivision in the SE1/4 SE1/4 2-11-3. DS exempt

Gary Jacobsen and Debra S. Jacobsen to Alvin H. Meyer and Pamela A. Meyer, Parcel 1: a tract of land in Tax Lot 5 in the SE1/4 4-11-4 and Parcel 2: a tract of land in the SE corner of Tax Lot 5 in the SW1/4 4-11-4. DS \$416.25

Richard F. Knuth and Nancy C. Knuth to Bradley R. Knuth and Daniel F. Knuth, Lot 1, Block 1, Country Club Addition to Seward. DS exempt

Mark A. Petri to Steven G. Soflin and Lori L. Soflin, Petri Addition, a subdivision in the NE1/4 NW1/4 18-11-4. DS \$542.25

Chris Dillon and Korene Dillon to Lois A. Upton, Lot 7, Thornridge Acres First Addition to Milford. DS \$573.75

Bromwich Enterprises, LLC,

to Stevie J. Kindrex and Haley N. Kindrex, Lot 1, Hive-West Addition in the SW1/4 SW1/4 14-12-3. DS \$65.25

Underwood Construction Co., LLC, to Pristine Rentals, LLC, Lot 2, Block 2, Shoal Creek Development Addition to Seward. DS exempt

Lyle Krska and Julie Lee Liska to Dorian Krska and Jared L. Kouma, a tract of land in the NW1/4 NW1/4 2-12-2. DS exempt

Patrick Goesch to George G. Seibert, Medow Addition, a part of the NE1/4 of 14-12-1. DS \$933.75

April Sears, Cynthia Sears and Shawn Judy and Arron Judy to Marysville Acres, LLC, a tract of land in the SW1/4 32-12-2. DS \$119.25

Clovis Colley and Stephanie Folan and Daniel Folan to Marysville Acres, LLC, a tract of land in the SW1/4 32-12-2 DS \$119.25

Roger Fritz, Dean Fritz and Bonnie J. Fritz, Gale Fritz and Rosemary Fritz, Sandra Fritz Patchin and Dennis Patchin and Rosilvn Fritz to Marvsville Acres, LLC, a tract of land in the SW1/4 32-12-2. DS \$618.75

Phillips Bros., Inc., to Jeramy Phillips and Janae Phillips, a tract of land in the NE1/4 25-10-1. DS \$285.75

Donald Steward and Carol A. Stewart to Kerwyn L. Stewart and Lisa L. Stewart, SE1/4 SE1/4 32-9-4 and the SW1/4 SW1/4 33-9-4. DS \$393.75.

mph county/state, \$75

20, Kyle, Texas, speed-

Zachary R. Murray,

fine.

Obituary

Janet Willis

April 19, 1955 - Dec. 28, 2020 Janet Willis was born April 19, 1955, in Pueblo, Colorado, to Duane and Evelyn (Sullivan) Wright

and passed away Dec. 28, 2020, in Lincoln at the age of 65 years, 8 months and 9 days.

Janet grew up on a ranch near Ordway, Colorado, where she attended Crowley County High School, graduating in 1973. On Dec. 1, 1972, Janet was united in marriage to Joseph Howard Willis, Jr. in Golden, Colorado. Janet was a stay-at-home mom for a few years until she began working as a waitress in a few restaurants in the



Denver metro area. In 1986, the family moved to Las Vegas where Joe worked in the concrete business and Janet started working at Sears Business Sales, selling computers and then moving on to a handful of other jobs before landing her favorite at Outwest Meat Co. There she developed several lifelong and cherished relationships. Once their children were grown, the couple purchased a fixer upper in northern Nevada in the town of Caliente. Janet and Joe spent countless weekends there hunting, fishing and enjoying the great outdoors. She also enjoyed two-step dancing, her gardening, flowers, singing, cooking and baking, especially bread. In 2013, she moved to Milford to be close to her daughter. She had a deep faith and love for Jesus and shared that with others every chance she got.

She was preceded in death by her brother, JD; father, Duane; and husband, Joseph.

Janet is survived by her children, Dawnia and husband, Ben Ramirez, Milford, and T.J. Willis, Utah; eight grandchildren, Jayk Willis, Randi Willis, Raquel Ramirez, Gabriel Ramirez, Kira Ramirez, Autumn Ramirez, Summer Ramirez and Heather Ramirez; two great-grandchildren, Trenton Kavan and Mayson Cauley; brother, John Wright; four sisters, Patsy and husband, Mike Thompkins, Linda Sullivan, Ginger Mitchell and

Tammy and husband, John Van Ort; mother, Eve-

lyn Wright; and her companion dog, Jimmi.

A Celebration of Life was Jan. 2 at the Milford Mennonite Church. Memorial contributions are suggested to the church. Condolences may be left for the family at www.zabkafuneralhome.com.

Traffic

Information taken from Seward County court records.

Dec. 7-11 Nixon T. Nerud, 24, Dorchester, speeding 16-20 mph county/state,

\$125 fine. Alexander Cardoso Zurdo, 40, Crete, no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine.

Connor J. Hinninger, 28, Seward, speeding 11-15 mph county/state,

Chelsa I. Ketelsen, 33, Seward, no valid registration-car/pickup/ stepvan, \$25 fine.

Allan H. Haug, 69, Clarinda, Iowa, speeding 16-20 mph municipal, \$125 fine.

Nathanael J. Thompson, 38, Seward, speeding 16-20 mph interstate, \$125 fine; no operator's license waiverable, \$75

Cale G. Phillips, 18, Hamburg, Iowa, speeding 11-15 mph municipal, \$75 fine.

Kiet H. Nguyen, 18, Lincoln, speeding 16-20 mph municipal, \$125 fine.

Jarrin E. Keller, 30, Lincoln, speeding 6-10 mph municipal, \$25 fine.

Liliana A. Alaniz, 18, Milford, speeding 6-10 mph municipal, \$25 fine. fine.

Garrett J. Bean, 19, Eaton, Colorado, speeding 6-10 mph municipal, \$25 fine.

Caitlyn A. Shafer Beckstrom, 21, Grand Is-cobar, 35, Crete, no land, speeding 6-10 mph interstate, \$25 fine.

Tiffany M. Sexton, 23, Elgin, Illinois, speeding 6-10 mph interstate, \$25 fine.

Francis W. Liban, 19, Grand Island, speeding 21-35 mph interstate, \$200 fine.

Caleb E. McCartney, 28, Ulysses, following too close, \$50 fine.

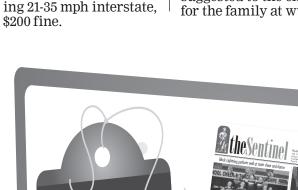
Jonathan W. Price, 43, South Elgin, Illinois, speeding 16-20 mph interstate, \$125 fine.

Katelynn M. Knox, 21, Seward, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75

Vincent V. Soucie, 33, Denton, no valid registration-car/pickup/ stepvan, \$25 fine.

Bernabe Tercero-Esoperator's license waiverable, \$75 fine.

Julie R. Walker, 53, Milford, speeding 11-15



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time, get a one-year **Milford Times** subscription at the **2020** rate, plus an extra month free!

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Seward County arrests

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

Devitti Borrayo, 29, Lincoln, was arrested Sept. 27 in connection with the offenses of speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol (second offense) with an open alcohol container. Ten percent of a \$10,000 bond was filed and Borrayo was arraigned Nov. 16. The case was bound over to district court.

Heather Daggett, 27, Omaha, was arrested Oct. 10 in connection with the offense of possession of a controlled substance. A \$10,000 bond was

filed and Daggett was to appear for a preliminary hearing Jan. 6.

James Alder, 55, Lincoln, was arrested Aug. 30 in connection with driving under the influence (second offense) and refusal to submit to a breath test. Ten percent of a \$10,000 bond was filed and Alder had a pretrial hearing Dec. 9. Another pretrial hearing is scheduled for Jan. 13.

Abdul Kapela, 24, Kentucky, was arrested Aug. 21 in connection with driving under the influence (second offense). Ten percent of a \$1,000 bond was filed and Kapela failed to appear for a bond hearing Nov. 23.

Marriage licenses

Information taken from records filed with the Seward County clerk. December

Lanessa Kerner, Seward, and Christopher James Jr., Seward Maria Mines, Milford, and Steven

Muller, Milford Anna Oetting, Lincoln, and Kip Jones, Pleasant Dale

Lilly Schleuter, Utica, and Daniel

Buser, Crete

Teresa Patrick, Dwight, and Mark Duffek, Dwight

Rhonda Frenzel, Lincoln, and Craig Magnuson, Lincoln Angel Wilson, Seward, and Joshua

Mandina, Seward Katelin Oborny, Seward, and Colby

VanDerslice, Seward.





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We asked you

Are you planning on making

a New Year's resolution for 2021?

Yes: 0

No: 6

Now we want to know

Would you take the Covid-19 vaccine if offered to you?

Yes:

No:

Vote this week on Facebook or at milfordtimes.net. Results will be published in next week's issue.

Nebraska saw success last year, despite pandemic

by Gov. Pete Ricketts

When the clock strikes midnight on New

Year's Day, many are going to be glad to have 2020 in the history books.

It's not been easy to endure the pandemic, but

I'm inspired by the way Nebraskans have pulled together to fight the virus.

Gov. Pete

Ricketts

Even though it's been a tough year, Nebraskans have shown great resilience as a state, and we've made vital contributions to the nation's response to the global pandemic.

Before anyone in our state tested positive for coronavirus, Nebraskans were already stepping up to help protect our fellow Americans from the disease.

On Feb. 7, Camp Ashland—an installation of the Nebraska National Guard—hosted 57 Americans who had been evacuated from the region of Wuhan, China, where the virus originated.

The quarantine operation was a success. All of the evacuees were cleared for release after a two-week quarantine period. On Feb. 17, UNMC took in more than a dozen Americans who had been rescued from a Diamond Princess cruise ship off the coast of Japan.

The patients were treated and monitored in the National Quarantine Unit, and all of them were released in good

health. With this experience behind us, protecting Nebraska's hospitals became the 'north star' guiding our strategic response to the coronavirus. We put together a six-part plan to help achieve this goal.

1. Testing

2. Contact Tracing

3. Purchasing and Distributing PPE

4. Setting aside space for people to quarantine 5. Protecting At-Risk **Populations**

6. Issuing Directed Health Measures

In addition to these steps, Nebraskans have been using tools to slow the spread of the virus such as social distancing, wearing a mask to the store, washing hands often and swtaying home when sick.

As we've protected hospital capacity, we've also been working to help Nebraskans recover. The state steered federal coronavirus relief towards \$411 million in grants for Nebraska's businesses and family farms.

This includes grants of \$12,000 to 12,214 small businesses and 9.209 livestock producers with 75 or fewer employees. The funds also include stabilization grants to hotels and convention centers, zoos, ethanol producers, event centers and sports arenas.

The strength of Nebraska's ag producers, food processors and transportation companies have helped feed the world throughout the pandemic.

Companies in our state have also played pivotal roles in the efforts to produce a safe and effective coronavirus vaccine.

Meridian Clinical Research in Omaha took part in the clinical trial to gather research on the Moderna vaccine, which arrived to our state last week. Becton Dickinson invested \$70 million to expand its capacity in Nebraska in order to manufacture the needles and syringes used to administer vaccines.

These are just a couple of examples of how Nebraska has played a leading role in the national response to the pandemic.

Throughout the pandemic, we've been cutting red tape to keep

Nebraskans working. From giving licensed professions more flexibility to allowing restaurants to offer carryout alcohol, we looked for ways to grow our healthcare workforce and help small businesses survive.

The jobs being created across our state have helped Nebraska to have the nation's lowest unemployment rate. At 3.1%, our unemployment rate for November 2020 is only slightly above where it stood one year ago (3.0%)—despite the pandemic.

In August 2020, we also celebrated a giant step forward in delivering property tax relief to Nebraskans. The bill the Legislature passed, and I signed into law, creates a refundable income tax credit based on your property taxes paid to schools.

Once the tax credit is phased in, the state will provide an additional \$375 million in property tax relief.

In early March, Vietnamese trade officials visited Lincoln as a follow up from our fall 2019 trade mission to Hanoi. They committed to buy \$3 billion of beef, corn, distiller's grains, soybeans and wheat from Nebraska in the next two to three years.

In spite of all the challenges, we have a lot we can be grateful for over the past year. We still have a ways to go before the pandemic is over, but Nebraskans can be proud of how the state has come together during this difficult

If you have questions about coronavirus vaccinations or our current Directed Health Measures, please email pete. ricketts@nebraska.gov or call (402) 471-2244.

Working together, I'm confident we'll also emerge from the coronavirus pandemic stronger than ever in 2021.

Happy New Year!

Top things I love about people

by Caitlyn Nelson for The Seward Independent

People are amazing. With how intricate and

unique each person is, there are things that humans do that just make me smile. For

Caitlyn Nelson Reporter example, when one person starts clapping, others join in whether or not they

ping. Or when it's icy outside and we just know we can't walk normal so we waddle around like penguins trying not to

know why they are clap-

fall. I love when someone holds the elevator for someone else and the person not in the elevator yet does a little run to get there faster.

I love when people get excited for their food at restaurants. When the

person can see the food coming and their face lights up and they start moving things on the table to prepare it for the

plate. I love when people are in a conversation and start laughing together, but not just any laughs - the laughs that don't stop and eventually when it dies down both people forgot why they even started laughing. Or if they do remember, the laughing starts all over again thinking about what made them laugh in the first place.

I love when people have animals and they get brought up in conversation and the owner stops the conversation to find a picture to show off their pet. I do this all the time, but it is so sweet how proud we are of our animals.

I love that people watch other people's lives, real or made up, on the television for fun.

I love that people love water. They gather on beaches and at lakes to

play in it and sometimes just sit by the body of water for relaxation.

I love when people "pay it forward." When something good happens to someone and they automatically want to go do something good for someone else so someone else can feel the same happiness is the sweetest thing I think people do.

I love when you're telling a story to someone and the other person hears a similarity you both have and you can see in their face they are waiting for you to stop talking so they can tell you the similarity.

This train of thought came from watching a trend on Tik Tok, but it really got me thinking about what humans do that I just find fascinating and cute. It is the small things that just make humans so amazing - the quirks, the similarities we share and the things we do but don't even realize.

Looking toward the new year

by Stephanie Croston scroston@sewardindependent.com

So it's 2021.

So what. I think everyone was hoping everything would magically be better once the calendar turned. After all, it's not 2020 any

more. The pandemic should be over. The presidential election fracas should be figured

out. We



Stephanie Croston sports editor

shouldn't have to remember to grab a mask when we leave the house.

Alas. None of those are the case.

In a shocking turn of events, 2021 started out the same way 2020 ended. The pandemic is still making headlines. The presidential election,

according to some, has yet to be decided. And pocket, just in case.

On the brighter side, a vaccine for the coronavirus is beginning to make inroads around the country. As of Jan. 20, someone will be sworn in as president of the United States. As for masks, well, the Lone Ranger liked them.

We all have big plans for 2021, right? We want to go places in person, see things up close, meet people not wearing masks. We don't want to worry about whether or not someone could transmit a contagion to us or our loved ones.

Among my goals for book series I'm plowing my way through. One series has just one book left. Two series have a handful or so. A couple other series are started, but I'm not far enough into them to say how

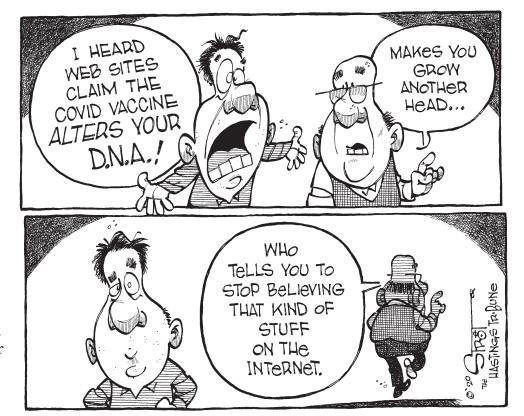
many are left.

I've also got several keep a mask in your coat TV series to catch up on and movies to watch. As the studios get productions cranked up again, that list will likely expand.

And then there are the counted cross stitch pictures I've got waiting for me. At some point, I need to get to them. And the stories floating around in my head that need to be written are still floating.

You'd think, during all that down time last spring and early summer, I would have checked some of those off my list. Not the case.

I'm looking forward to the new year, not just be-2021 is finishing a couple cause it's new and clean and shiny but because it's a chance to start over, review how last year's goals ended up and set new ones. Maybe more realistic, this time, though.



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Area Extension winter training sessions coming up

Seward/York counties Extension educator

This past week, I've received several questions about winter meetings so wanted to better clar-

ify what to expect. Also, area winter program brochures were mailed out last week. If you no longer wish to receive this,

Jenny Rees Extension educator

let us know and we'll update our mailing list.

Risk dial: For Extension programs, if the risk dial is 'Red,' in-person events are canceled. The risk dial is reset every Friday for many district health departments throughout the state. Thus, those who pre-register will be notified by Monday the following week of any cancellations and next options. This week, locally we are in 'Orange,' so pesticide training in York on Jan. 7 and chemigation training in York on Jan. 8 (both at Cornerstone Event Center at the fairgrounds) are thankfully on. UNL guidelines require masks when the risk dial is 'Orange.' Thank you to all who have called in to pre-reg-

Crop production clinics: Technically, these are all presented virtually whether you choose to watch online on your own or at an in-person location. I enjoy seeing people and catching up at winter meetings, so I'm grateful we still have in-person meeting options. The following website has the agendas and registration information: https://agronomy.

Jenny's REESources

unl.edu/cpc. There's not shipped directly to you an easy way to see where the in-person options are located unless you click on the 'Register' button and scroll. Thus, I will list them for you below.

For those of you who've attended in the past, you know there are two rooms which allow for various learning opportunities and CCA credits: certification/ pest management room and a crop/soil/water room. When watching virtually, you will have the option to switch between the different rooms. There are specific ways built in to ensure those who need recertification and are watching virtually are accounted for and to account for those desiring various CCA credits. Some in-person locations like Hastings, Aurora and Central City are hosting both rooms.

In York, on Jan. 14 and 21 at the Cornerstone building at the fairgrounds, for specific reasons I've chosen to only host the pest management room. That works if you only need certification or wanted to watch only those topics. Otherwise, if you needed soil/water credits, it would work best to choose a different in-person location or watch virtually. I just wanted you to be aware of that.

For the Nebraska Crop Management Conference, most of us are only able to provide two of the four rooms. When you register for CPC/NCMC this year, you will choose whether you have the weed guide or to a nearby Extension office where you can pick it up. In-person locations include:

Jan. 7: Eastern Nebraska locations: Lincoln, Geneva, Norfolk, Syracuse

Jan. 14: Eastern Nebraska locations: Lincoln, Norfolk, York, Syracuse

Jan. 21: Eastern Nebraska locations: Lincoln, Norfolk, York

Jan. 27: Nebraska Crop Management Conference locations: Seward in this area.

Chemigation: For those desiring to apply fertilizer and/or chemicals through irrigation systems, you can obtain your initial or recertification for chemigation at an in-person training or online. The online version is also for both initial and recertification and can be obtained at: https://water.unl.edu/ article/agricultural-irrigation/chemigation.

There is no charge for chemigation training. For those attending in person, pre-register and bring a calculator (can't use smartphone). Area January in-person trainings include Jan. 8 at 9:30 a.m. at the Cornerstone building at the fairgrounds in York.

Crop Budgets are updated for 2021 and available at https://cropwatch.unl.edu/budgets.

Extension survey: It's also that time of year for annual reporting. If you could please help me out by completing this five-question anonymous survey, I'd appreciate it: https://app.sli.do/ event/s8g48y8z.

Using LED lights for houseplants

by Sarah Browning Lancaster County Extension educator

A major challenge for good growth of houseplants indoors. particularly in winter, is poor light. Most homes are just too dark for plants to grow well in winter, especially those plants requiring high light.

Signs your plants are not getting enough light are small leaves, long thin stems, failure of blooming plants to flower and lighter-than-normal colored foliage. For example, a geranium grown in low light tends to be spindly and have light green leaves, while the same plant in bright light will be shorter, better branched, with larger darkgreen leaves.

Last January, I wrote about which light wavelengths plants need most for good growth, choosing the best window location for high light plants and compared the efficiency of traditional incandescent lights vs. fluorescent lights. Let There Be Light... For Your Plants, https://go.unl.edu/ houseplantlight.

Today, let's look at how fluorescent and LED lights compare for plant growth.

Fluorescent vs. LED lights Fluorescent lights have been the standard for many years. They are cool enough to be placed very close to plants. Standard cool-white fluorescent lights - whether tubes or compact fluorescent bulbs - produce mostly blue light and are low in red. Most foliage plants grow fine with this light spectrum, however, special horticultural-type fluorescent lights or "grow bars" are needed for blooming plants requiring higher levels of red-light wavelengths. Warm-white lights are less effective for plant growth.

LED or light-emitting diode lights can be customized to provide both blue and red-light wavelengths similar to a fluorescent "grow bar." They emit almost no heat and are very long-lived, up to 50,000 hours. In the past, LED lights were expensive so not a cost-effective choice compared to fluorescent lights. However, they are now common for many home and horticultural uses and are much more cost-effective.

Research at Purdue University has shown LED lights can provide a more beneficial light spectrum to greenhouse plants than conventional lights, while using 75% less electricity.

LED light fixtures A quick Amazon search of "LED house plant lights" will provide multiple LED light options for home growers, including light strips, floor or desk lamps, bulbs and hanging lamp fixtures. LED light bulbs can be inserted into a traditional light fixture or lamp.

Light intensity recommendations when using LED lights are 25W for high light plants in a one-square-foot grow space and 16W for low light plants. When using multiple lights or strips, they should be placed so their light coverage overlaps, providing enough light intensity for all

Light wavelengths in the range of 400 to 700 nanometers (nm) are consider ideal for plants. More specifically, 440 nm blue light, 660 nm red light and 730 nm far red light are important for good photosynthesis and plant growth. Some light fixtures give off pink/purple visible light, which may not be aesthetically pleasing for use in a typical home setting.

But others can be adjusted to give off warm or cool white visible light, which is more typical for home lighting, while still providing the necessary light spectrum for plant

One example of an LED light strip providing these wavelengths, is the Lightimetunnel LED Plant Grow Light Strips - Full Spectrum, which can be connected end-to-end. These types of light strips are becoming the standard for indoor production of lettuce, greens or herbs and can easily be used when growing your transplants for next year's garden. Many similar products by other manufacturers are also good options. Of course, there is still an upfront cost, but remember these lights will last for many years.

An example of a floor lamp for larger houseplants is the AgroBrite Hydrofarm Floor Plant Light. Many additional good floor light options are available, some with three or more light heads that can be directed and adjusted to provide light for several plants.

> Tips on using supplemental lighting

When growing transplants or seedlings in the winter months, position lights 3-6 inches above plant leaves and raise the lights as plants grow. Follow the instructions for your light system to determine correct placement and look for the signs of low light in plant growth listed above to determine if your lights are too far away.

Note: Reference to commercial products or trade names is made with the understanding that no discrimination is intended. These products are listed as examples only. No endorsement by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is implied.

We would like to thank our sons and

their families for the card shower in

honor of our 50th anniversary. We would

also like to thank all of our family and friends for

the many cards, calls, gifts and visits. We were

overwhelmed by your love and thoughtfulness.

Much love in Christ,

Dave and Nancy Jurgensen

Tabitha support groups to begin this month 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.

· 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 Steenbakkers 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 Steenbakkers at (402) 416-7365.

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Times

Seward County employees honored for service



Dave Pankoke, left, retired as a Seward County employee this year and was honored at the Dec. 29 county commissioners meeting.



Tanya Woolsey is awarded for 20 years as a county employee from Seward County Commissioner John Culver.

More photos next week!



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BRANDY JOHNSON

Above: Deanna Boyer is awarded for 25 years of service to Seward County from Commissioner John Culver.

Below: Barb Liska received a gift after retiring as a Seward County employee this year. She served as the E911 director.



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information. Please email

Keven at jcozzoc@yahoo.com.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Boards of Commissioner Meetings are held each Tuesday morning in the Seward County Courthouse at 9:00 a.m., except for the first Tuesday of each month when meetings will be held at 8:30 a.m. Notice of each meeting is posted on the Courthouse bulletin board and on the Commissioner's room door. The agenda for all meetings is kept continually current and is available for public inspection at the County Clerk's Office during normal business hours. The agenda is held open until one business day prior to the meeting for appearance before the Board. The Board has the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

CLAIMS ALLOWED

JANUARY 5, 2021

The Seward County Board of Commissioners convened on December 29,2020, at 9:00 a.m. Present: Chairperson: John Culver Members: Misty Ahmic, Ken Schmieding, Becky Paulsen County Clerk: Sherry Schweitzer Absent: Member: Bob Vrbka

Approved the minutes of December 22, 2020

Sheriff Vance gave a report of road conditions. Commissioners gave an update of their activities.

Approved a new Agenda Request Form effective January 1, 2021. Awarded Employee Recognition certificates for 10-25 years of service to Seward County.

Recognized those employees that retired in 2020. Accept a bid from Eagleview for

Ortho and Digital Oblique Imagery and Software Sheriff Vance introduced Sharon

Dickinson as Volunteer Community Liaison for the Sheriff's Office. The lease agreement for the Task Force Building will be put on a future meeting agenda.

Appointed Matthew Starkey as the Veteran's Service Officer/ Public Transit Director/ General Assistance Director/Fleet Director. Approved Nebraska Dept. of Transportation Agreement for Scheduling Software Project. Adopted the agenda for January 5, 2021 and adjourned at 11:02 a.m. Sherry Schweitzer, County Clerk

January 06, 2021

ZNEZ

Hearings

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasant Dale, Nebraska, will hold a public hearing and Special Meeting on Thursday January 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. for consideration of a Special Use Permit for 500 Cedar Street pursuant to Zoning Ord. section 5.74 (permitted special use) to conduct Light manufacturing operations, providing that such use is not noxious by reason of vibration or noise beyond the confines of the building, or by emission of particulate, fumes, gas, odor or smoke. The hearing and meeting will be held in the Pleasant Dale Community Hall, 110 Ash Street, Pleasant Dale, Nebraska. VILLAGE OF PLEASANT DALE Nebraska

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Amber Karel, Its Clerk

MT — January 06, 2021

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission of the Village of Pleasant Dale, Nebraska, will hold a public hearing on Monday January 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. MT — January 06, 2021 for consideration of a Special

Use Permit for 500 Cedar Street pursuant to Zoning Ord. section 5.74 (permitted special use) to conduct Light manufacturing operations, providing that such use is not noxious by reason of vibration or noise beyond the confines of the building, or by emission of particulate, fumes, gas, odor or smoke. The hearing will be held in the Pleasant Dale Community Hall, 110 Ash Street, Pleasant Dale, Nebraska. VILLAGE OF PLEASANT DALE Nebraska

Amber Karel, Its Clerk MT — January 06, 2021 **ZNEZ**

Meetings

REGULAR BOARD MEETING MILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT Notice is hereby given that the regular school board meeting of the Milford School District will be held Monday, January 11, 2021, at 4:00 p.m. at the Milford Elementary in the sixth grade room. The agenda for this meeting is kept current and is available during regular working hours at

the Superintendent's Office, 1200

West First Street, Milford, NE.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING The January meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit 6 will meet at the Educational Service Unit 6 main office, located at 210 5th St, Milford, NE, on Thursday, January 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. The agenda for said meeting is on file at that location and kept continually current.

MT — January 06, 2021

Seward County Ag. Society Monday, January 18, 2021 7 p.m. Ag. Pavilion Seward County Fairgrounds Michael J. Flyr Secretary

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE:

Seward Co. Ag. Society MT — January 06, 13, 2021



Saturday, Jan. 9 • 9:30 a.m.

4-H Building • Fairgrounds • Seward, NE

Quaker State DSP Tombstone Sign, (9) Pocket Watches, Wrist Watches, (50+) Belt Buckles, (50+) Knives, (50+) Barbie Dolls, (4) JD Pedal Tractors, Large Offering of Toys, Trucks, Cars, Tractors, Coin Banks, Husker Items, Vintage Racing Trophies, Glassware, Collectibles, 6 Gal RW Crock, Erector Set, Coffee & Tea Tins, & Many items yet to be unpacked.

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Eagle boys win holiday tournament

by Stephanie Croston scroston@sewardindependent.com

A pair of wins against tough competition gave the Milford boys' basketball team the championship of its holiday tournament Dec. 30.

Milford defeated Cross County 60-49 in the semifinals Dec. 28. Coach Tony Muller said the teams were evenly matched and it was a close game.

"It was a well-played game," Muller said.

The Cougars were also undefeated entering the game. Muller said one of the keys was limiting CCHS's three-point attempts, which MHS was able to do. CCHS was 3-16 from beyond the

Muller said the Eagles opened the game in its man-to-man defense but switched to a 1-3-1 zone, which allowed the defense more access to



Seth Stutzman

the passing lanes. Seth Stutzman paced the MHS offense with 20 points and seven steals, and Jaxon Weyand added 11 points. Micah Hartwig posted nine points, five rebounds, five assists and five steals, and Kaleb Miller

With the win, the Eagles advanced to the fi-

scored eight to go with

five boards.

nal against Central City. Another hard-fought battle ended with MHS winning 66-61 Dec. 30.

Central City connected on 8 of 27 three-point attempts and pulled down 40 rebounds. Milford hit 3-10 from three and had 26 rebounds.

Muller said it was good to see a win, despite not playing their best, against a good

The game came down to free throws, and Milford made 10 of 12 in the fourth quarter alone. Hartwig was 6-6 in the period. Weyand was 2-2 at the line and scored two field goals.

Again, MHS opened in man defense but switched to the 1-3-1 and then back to man.

The Eagles allowed the Bison 40 rebounds. with 15 of those offensive. However, the MHS defense forced 22 turn-

Weyand led the offense with 18 points, and Hartwig added 16, with Stutzman scoring 10. Stutzman finished the night with five rebounds, five steals and four assists, as well.

Muller was pleased to see both Cabe Schluckebier and Kaleb Miller record seven rebounds. They usually rotate so aren't on the court at the same time.

"This is the fifth year we've won this tournament," Muller said, adding that last year's finals were canceled because of weather but the Eagles won their half. "It's a good tournament

The Eagles headed to Auburn Jan. 2 to play Falls City and beat the Tigers 64-53. Hartwig notched a double double with 11 points and 10 assists to go with seven steals. He scored seven in the fourth quarter.

Stutzman led the offense with 25 points on 12-18 shooting. He just missed a double double with nine rebounds.

Weyand added 15 points, including six in the fourth quarter.

Muller was happy with Miller's play off the bench. The senior was steady in all three games for the Eagles, notching eight points and five rebounds against Cross County, three points and seven boards against Central City and eight points against Falls City.

"It was a good way to finish the break," Muller said.

The coach said Milford has some areas to smooth out going for-

The Eagles (10-0) are scheduled to visit Malcolm Friday, Jan. 8, for a 7:30 p.m. game and host David City Saturday, Jan. 9, with tip-off at 7:45 p.m.

Milford 60, Cross County 49 11 20 16 17 8 7

MHS—Isaac Yeackley 1-5 2-2 5, Micah Hartwig 2-8 5-7 9. Bryce Jakub 1-1 0-0 2. Maddox Baack 1-2 0-0 3, Jaxon Weyand 3-7 5-6 11, Kaleb Miller 3-3 2-4 8, Seth Stutzman 9-13 2-4 20, Cabe

Three-point goals—MHS 2-10 (Yeack-ley 1-2, Hartwig 0-4, Baack 1-2, Weyand 0-1, Stutzman 0-1). **Rebounds**—MHS 23 (Miller 5). **Assists**—MHS 11 (Hartwig 5). **Steals**—MHS 19 (Stutzman 7). **Turnovers**—MHS 15, CCHS 24. **Fouls**—MHS 16, CCHS 22.

Milford 66, Central City 61

17 15 16 18 9 20 16 16 –Yeackley 3-8 0-0 6, Hartwig 4-10 6-6 16, Baack 3-4 00-07, Weyand 5-12 8-9 18, Miller 1-5 1-2 3, Stutzman 4-7 2-5 10, Schluckebier 2-4 2-3 6. Totals 22-50 19-25 66. **CCHS**—Totals 21-41 11-19 61.

Three-point goals—MHS 3-10 (Yeackley 0-1, Hartwig 2-5, Baack 1-2, Weyand 0-2), CCHS 8-27. **Rebounds**—MHS 26 (Miller, Schluckebie 7), CCHS 40. Assists-MHS 17 (Yeacklev 6). Steals—MHS 13 (Stutzman 5). Turnovers-16, CCHS 22. Fouls—MHS 18, CCHS 21.

> Milford 64, Falls City 53 11 14 18 21 10 10 18 15

MHS—Yeackley 1-3 0-2 2, Hartwig 3-14 4-5 11, Baack 1-2 0-0 3, Weyand 6-11 1-1 15, Miller 4-4 0-2 8, Stutzman 12-18 0-0 25, Schluckebier FCHS-Totals 19-42 9-13 53

Three-point goals—MHS 5-15 (Yeackley 0-2, Hartwig 1-5, Baack 1-2, Weyand 2-4, Stutz-man 1-2), FCHS 6-16. **Rebounds**—MHS 28 (Stutzman 9), FCHS 23. Assists—MHS 15 (Hartwig 10). Steals-MHS 8 (Hartwig 7). Blocked Fouls—MHS 15, FCHS 13.

MHS girls earn third in holiday tourney

by Stephanie Croston

After defeating BDS in the opening round of the Runza Classic, the Milford girls came up short against Cross County 48-34 Dec. 28.

Coach Phil Stauffer said the Cougars shot well from long range (making 5 of 7) in the first half, digging a hole the Eagles couldn't climb out of.

Their height advantage also challenged MHS, he said.

Kaitlin Kontor paced Milford with 10 points.

The loss dropped the Eagles into the thirdplace game against Central City, and the team responded well, Stauffer

The Bison battled back from 12 down to take the lead in the middle of the third quarter, but the Eagles turned the tables.

"We outscored them 24-6 in the last 10 minutes to finish the game," Stauffer said. "Our defense got better as the game went along."

Hannah Kepler led the way with 16 points and seven rebounds. Kontor added 12 points and six assists. Sydney

Stelling added eight points, and Taylor Roth and Makena Stutzman scored seven each.

Stauffer was pleased to see how the Eagles converted turnovers in to 19 points.

"Hopefully we turned a corner offensively and can continue to get good shots like we did in this game," he said.

On Jan. 2, the Eagles went to Auburn to play Falls City and won 50-17. The MHS defense forced 27 turnovers that led to 26 points.

Kepler notched a double double with 29 points

"Sydney Stelling continues to get better each game she finished with 8 points and created a lot of havoc on the defensive end," Stauffer said.

The Eagles (5-5) are scheduled to play at Malcolm Friday, Jan. 8, and host David City Saturday, Jan. 9, at 6 p.m.

Cross County 48, Milford 34 6 12 12 4 14 13 11 10 CCHS MHS—Makena Stutzman 0-2 0-0 0, Kaitlin Kontor 4-12 0-0 10, Hannah Kepler 2-8 5-8 9, Kaitlyn Klug 1-1 0-0 2, Taylor Roth 2-6 0-0 4, Sydney Stelling 3-7 0-0 6, Abby Houk 0-3 3-4 3.

Totals 12-39 8-12 34.

CCHS—Totals 17-33 9-15 48. Three-point goals—MHS 2-14 (Stutzman 0-1, Kontor 2-7, Kepler 0-4, Houk 0-2), CCHS 5-12. Rebounds—MHS 23 (Kontor, Kepler 5), CCHS 22. Assists—MHS 4 (Kepler 2). Steals—MHS 5

(five with 1). Blocked shots-MHS 1 (Roth 1).



Hannah Kepler

Turnovers—MHS 12, CCHS 12. Fouls—MHS 15,

Milford 56, Central City 41

MHS—Stutzman 2-8 1-2 7, Kontor 4-10 1-1 12, Kepler 5-11 4-6 16, Alayna Piening 0-2 0-0 0, Klug 1-1 0-0 2, Roth 2-2 3-4 7, Stelling 3-3 2-4 8, Houk 1-4 0-2 2, Mariah Richards 1-1 0-0 2. Totals CCHS—Totals 13-38 5-7 41.

Three-point goals—MHS 7-23 (Stutzman 2-7, Kontor 3-8, Kepler 2-7, Houk 0-1), CCHS 10-28. **Rebounds**—MHS 27 (Kepler 7), CCHS 21. **Assists**—MHS 13 (Kontor 6). **Steals**—MHS 12 (Kepler, Stelling 3). **Blocked shots**—MHS 1 (Kontor 1). **Turnovers**—MHS 11, CCHS 15. Fouls-MHS 6, CCHS 13.

Milford 50, Falls City 17 16 11 9 7 0 4 14 MHS—Stutzman 1-8 0-0 3, Kontor 2-7 1-1 6,

Kepler 10-16 7-11 29, Addi Mowinkel 0-2 0-0 0, Piening 0-2 0-2 0, Roth 0-1 0-0 0, Celia Bontrager 0-2 0-0 0, Stelling 4-9 0-0 8, Houk 0-1 2-4 2, Richards 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 18-51 10-18 50. FCHS—Totals 8-39 0-6 17.

Three-point goals—MHS 4-19 (Stutzman 1-6, Kontor 1-5, Kepler 2-6, Mowinkel 0-1, Stelling 0-1), FCHS 1-12. **Rebounds**—MHS 35 (Kontor 6), FCHS 33. **Assists**—MHS 11 (Kontor 4). **Steals**—MHS 19 (Kepler 10). **Blocked shots**—MHS 1 (Roth 1). Turnovers—MHS 14, FCHS 27. Fouls—MHS 6, FCHS 12.

Results

Wrestling

Crete Invite (Dec. 12)

Team scores—Beatrice 195.5, Central City 193, Nebraska City 165, Milford 150.5, Adams Central 124, Ashland-Green wood 121, Norris 115.5, Syracuse 112, Malcolm 102, Seward

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

126—Schluckebier (MIL) def. Colton Jelinek (BTR) 15-0; pin Yusuf Mohamud (OB) 2:34; pin Sam Draus (NC) 1:14, first 132—Vondra (MIL) pin Bryce Teut (MAL) 0:45; pin Connor

Gerths (FBY) 3:15; def. by Drew Arnold (BTR) 15-0, second 132—Brody Mach (MIL) pinned by Jesse Rodriguez (NC) 1:57; pinned by Drew Arnold (BTR) 1:08; pin Bryce Teut (MAL)

138—Chapman (MIL) def. by Tommy Lokken (WC) 13-4; def. Colt Reiling (MAL) 5-1; pin Angel Reyes (OB) 2:29, third 145—Stauffer (MIL) pin Cayden Witzel (MAL) 1:05; def. by Tobin Wingender (OB) 4-3; pin Ethan McCown (FBY) 0:55; def. Zander Baker (WC) 8-1, third

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

160—Springer (MIL) pin Cael Kreifel (NC) 3:01; pin Jarrett Koch (BTR) 5:55; pinned by Gavin Zoucha (MAL) 3:34, second 170—Scdoris (MIL) pin Connor Nuemeister (NC) 0:52; pin Logan Hobbs (NC) 1:24; def. by Torrance Keehn (BTR) 14-7,

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

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

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

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

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

285—Lyon (MIL) pinned by Gavin Bailey (NC) 2:38; pinned

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Journal Star names fall season all-state athletes

The Lincoln Journal Star recently announced its all-state selections for the 2020 volleyball and football seasons.

In football, Nick Beel, a senior at Milford, was named first-team offense in Class C1 as an offensive lineman.

Additional Milford athletes recognized include:

Football honorable mention Eli Vondra, Cabe

Schluckebier, Seth Stutzman and Isaac Yeackley, Class C1

Volleyball honorable mention Hannah Kepler and Sydney Stelling, Class

NGPC plans pre-K Nature Tails

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is hosting a new, virtual series designed for preschoolers. The free Nature Tails will be at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, starting Jan. 12.

Each week, Game and Parks outdoor educators from across the state will kick off nature-themed sessions by reading a children's book tailored to the theme. Afterward, educators will lead a quick activity for children and their families. The themes are:

Jan. 12 - Mammals; Jan. 19 - Making Observations; Jan. 26 - Owls; Feb. 2 – Groundhogs; Feb. 9 – Seeds; Feb. 16 - Wintertime Fun No pre-registration is required. To

participate, visit bit.ly/NatureTails to login and join the fun.

Unable to attend a live event, but still want to do the activity and hear a book? Each virtual event will be recorded and posted to the Nebraska Game and Parks Education Channel on YouTube. Search "Nebraska Game and Parks Education" on the social platform and subscribe for future

For more information, contact monica.macoubrie@nebraska.gov.