



# SEWARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT

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January 20, 2021

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Seward, Nebraska  
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MALCOLM DOMINATES  
STARTS ON PAGE 8

BIDEN SWORN IN  
JAN. 20



## Fresh, new flags hang at park

by Greg Forbes  
editor@sewardindependent.com

Last week's wind allowed new flags at the Parade of Flags to fly to their fullest.

The Seward Kiwanis Club replaced 55 state and territory flags Jan. 13 at the Parade of Flags along Highway 34 on the east edge of Seward.

Lloyd Lipska, chairman for the Parade of Flags project, said the club aims to replace the flags twice a year. The COVID-19 pandemic

hampered last year's replacement efforts, Lipska said, but the group Wednesday was able to socially distance to safely adorn the poles with new flags.

Along with the 55 flags put in place last week, Lipska said the group will install an additional eight new flags for the military branches at a later date.

New flags, as well as additional features for the park, are purchased through donations and sponsorships. The Parade of Flags was installed in 2014.

## Wintry William prepares for wind



GREG FORBES/SCI

The William H. Seward statue in front of the Seward County Courthouse braced for cold, windy weather that hit the area last Thursday and Friday. Snow and gusts up to 55 miles per hour swept through Seward on Jan. 15. Unfortunately for Mr. Seward, the gusts last Thursday blew off the scarf he had been wearing that week.

## Seward school board hires new ag science teacher, approves calendar

by Greg Forbes  
editor@sewardindependent.com

The Seward Public Schools Board of Education at its regular meeting Jan. 11 approved the hire of a new agriculture science teacher at Seward High School for next school year.

Jessy Hilkmeier, who is currently the agriculture instructor at Orchard High School of the Summerland Public School District, will assume the role beginning in August 2021.

The board approved the appointment unanimously.

Superintendent Dr. Josh Fields said Hilkmeier's experience will be a valuable asset to the district.

"We are very excited about the hire," he said. "We had a great candidate pool and she comes with a lot of experience. Overall, we're very happy and excited to have her join us next school year."

Hilkmeier will replace SHS agriculture science instructor Craig Frederick, who will retire at the end of the school year. Frederick has served the district for nine years.

The board also approved the calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. The first day of school for students will be Thursday, Aug. 12. Winter vacation was set for Dec. 22 through Jan. 3. Graduation is scheduled for

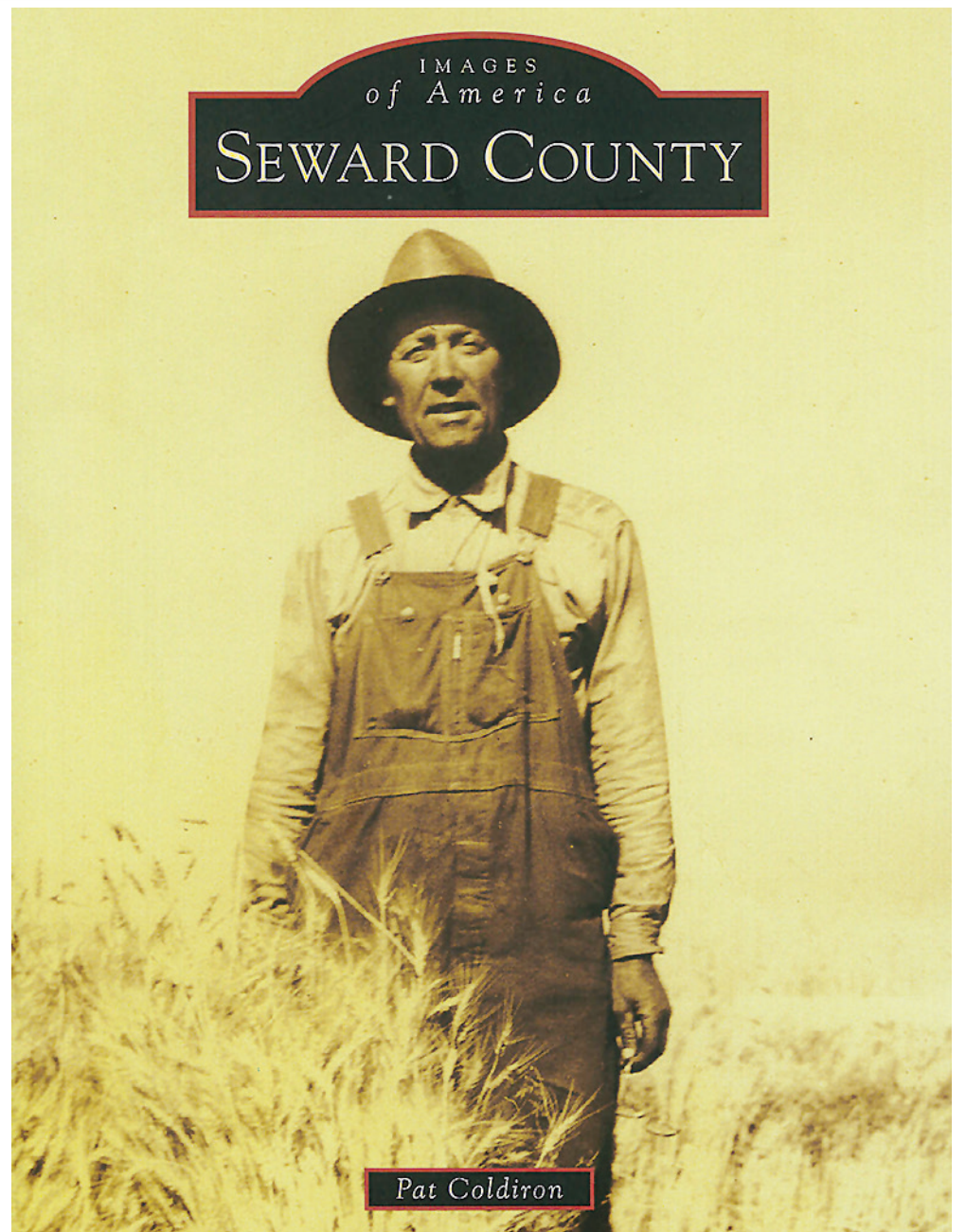


COURTESY PHOTO

Dr. Shawn Svoboda last Monday was sworn into service for the Seward Public Schools Board of Education.

May 15, 2022, and the last day of school for all students is May 19. Fields said four snow days have been built into the school calendar. If fewer than four snow days are called, the final day of school will be moved to an earlier date.

The meeting also served as the board's organizational meeting to appoint leadership for the coming year. The board appointed Rynne Seaman as president, Jana Hughes as vice president, Paul Duer as secretary and Heidi Covert as treasurer. Shawn Svoboda was sworn in as a new board member, as well.



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

The cover of the latest published book on Seward County, organized and assisted by Liberty House owner (and Seward resident) Pat Coldiron

## "A Community Effort..."

Coldiron assists with latest publication about Seward County and its history

by Stephanie Croston  
scroston@sewardindependent.com

Pat Coldiron loves history. She loves the old pictures, the family stories, the overall picture of how an area was built over time.

"History always sparked my interest," she said.

Three years ago, she started working on a Seward County project, collecting photos and stories of the early settlers for the Images of America project, spearheaded by Arcadia Publishing in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

In the end, Coldiron submitted 210 pages of photos and information. The book is 127 pages.

"I started with little bits and pieces gleaned when I was at the Chamber," Coldiron said. She is the former director of the Seward Area Chamber of Commerce.

Each incorporated town in Seward County has a section, and the ghost towns and unincorporated villages have their places, too.

Coldiron worked closely with Diane Rohren at the Seward County Historical Society Museum in Goehner to collect information and photos.

"She never failed," Coldiron said, adding that over 1/3 of the photos she collected came from the SCHS.

She described the Seward County book as "an archive of lives on the prairie."

Coldiron didn't just rely on the historical society, though. She drove her blue minivan to every town in Seward County and knocked on doors, looking for people willing to share their stories.

"I'm so appreciative of all the individuals who delved into their family pictures and stories and more," she said. "It was truly a community effort."

She said learning Seward County's history was fascinating. For example, while the westward movement was underway in the 1850s along the Platte River, Seward County lay quiet and pristine. Native American tribes traveled through along the Blue River, and the animals still roamed free.

The Homestead Act opened land for settlement in 1862, and Nebraska became a state in 1867. Civil War veterans moved west for the promise of free land in lieu of payment for services to the Union.

By 1873, the first train came to Seward with J.F. Goehner aboard. The Nebraska City bypass through Milford shortened the freight trails and allowed "a steady stream of humanity" to come through Seward County, Coldiron said.

Homesteaders generally took the Missouri River to Nebraska City or Brownville and walked with their wagons and livestock the rest of the way to their claims.

"When things were good, they were good. When they were desperate, they were desperate," Coldiron said.

As she researched the county, she drew on historians W.W. Cox of Seward, John Waterman of Beaver Crossing, William D. Smith of Seward, Eldon Hostetler of Milford and Jane Graff of Seward.

"I spent a lot of time reading," she said.

She was able to find some rare photos for the book, including one of a road ranch near Beaver Crossing taken by the Mormons. She also learned about Julia Steinheider Duncombe, who grew up in Goehner and worked at the U.S. Naval Observatory.

"It's poignant and sad, the little towns that didn't make it," Coldiron said, listing Lehigh and Oak Grove among them.

The book, "Images of America: Seward County," is filled with pictures, each of which has an explanation with it. Information about the Civil War statue and graves in Blue Mound Cemetery south of Milford, Victor Mills, Don Strinz, part of a plesiosaur skeleton found near Garland and a cattle drive in the 1930s west of Seward made the cut, along with dozens more pictures and stories.

"It's a small part of our history, and I hope it might spur the next generation to take a look and delve deeper," Coldiron said.



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## Ridgewood Rehabilitation celebrates 750 days injury-free

by Greg Forbes  
editor@sewardindependent.com

Ridgewood Rehabilitation and Care last week celebrated two-plus years of top notch employee safety.

Ridgewood's parent company, Vetter Senior Living, of Elkhorn, on Jan. 14 treated Ridgewood employees to a drive-thru dinner in recognition of 750 days without an employee injury. Employees had the choice of steak, salmon or a vegetarian option. Each meal included two servings, so employees were able to share with a friend or family member.

Peg Becker, administrator at Ridgewood, said that the milestone is significant because an injury-free workplace helps ensure Ridgewood is able to provide the best services possible.



GREG FORBES/SCI  
Ridgewood Rehabilitation and Care Center staff on Jan. 14 celebrated 750 days without an employee injury at the facility with a drive thru meal provided by Vetter Senior Living, Ridgewood's parent company.

"It's a big achievement for us because there aren't many places where this happens," she said. "It's important to celebrate this to get the word out and make sure we remind each other to be safe."

## Seward wins seven KNB awards

The Community of Seward and Seward civic and service organizations won seven awards at the Nov. 23 Keep Nebraska Beautiful state virtual awards presentation.

The Nebraska National Guard Museum's new West Park addition, featuring the new playground area with the helicopter and jeep climbing area, the new Cattle National Bank stage area and landscaping received the State of Nebraska's Jane Paulson Award for Outstanding Beautification efforts.

The award honored Paulson, the longtime CEO of Keep Nebraska Beautiful, who recently retired. This is considered one of the top beautification honors in Nebraska.

The City of Seward Seward Statue Courthouse Plaza on the Seward County Courthouse Square and Seward Downtown Revitalization was named Best Beautification Project in Nebraska for 2020, winning Seward the first place award in the Deanie Anderson Community Award for Communities Population 2,500-10,000.

The award for was named to honor the former executive director of Keep Nebraska Beautiful.

The Seward Courthouse Plaza, located on the Seward County Courthouse Square, features a life-size, bronze statue of William Henry Seward, donated by the Mark Kolterman family of Seward as a memorial to his wife, the late Suzanne Kolterman.

The finished plaza was funded by major donations from the GFWC Seward Woman's Club, the Seward Rotary Club, the Seward Kiwanis Club and the Seward Arts Council. Major business donors to the project included

Jones Bank, Hughes Brothers Inc., Hartmann Construction Bill and Doris Hartmann and TransCanada Keystone Pipeline, Inc., along with a host of other contributors both financially and with many in-kind services.

The Nebraska National Guard's Historical Society was named first place in the Outstanding Civic Organization by Keep Nebraska Beautiful for its beautification efforts throughout the museum grounds, along with its continued environmental programs to coordinate the efficiency of the museum programs and energy use.

The Seward Optimist Club and the City of Seward won the first runner-up award in the Great American Clean-Up competition for recycling and clean-up programs sponsored by the City of Seward Recycling Center, the Seward County Chamber and Development Partnership and Seward Optimist Club.

The Seward Clean-up Day coordinated by the SCCDP and the Seward Optimist Club was honored, as they led the citywide clean-up by modeling a major spring clean-up and plantings at Bemis Park in the spring of 2020.

The GFWC Seward Woman's Club received the first runner-up award in Civic Beautification Program for its support of the Seward Plaza Project and annual efforts to support local beautification, such as sponsoring various recycling programs including pop tabs and shoes.

The SHS Family, Career and Community Leaders of America was named first runner-up in the High School Civic Groups for its numerous recycling projects during the school year,

especially for their Recycled T-Shirt Drive held in conjunction with the annual Suicide Awareness and Prevention Campaign in the school, along with various recycling efforts.

Seward High was also complimented with the first runner-up in the High School Category for its annual recycling campaign and efforts, under the direction of Pat Piskorski and his fifth hour classes for recycling paper and plastic schoolwide.

The Keep Seward Beautiful Committee is under the longtime direction of Keep Seward Beautiful Chairman Betty Jean Kolterman, who serves as a volunteer and coordinated the application efforts for the annual awards contest and presentations.

The physical awards have not arrived yet, as they are en route, due to Covid-19 issues and will be delivered when they arrive.

## Board reorganizes, Zabrocki joins

by Hope Moural  
hope@sewardindependent.com

The Seward County Board of Commissioners meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 9 a.m. on the third floor of the courthouse. They are open to the public.

**2021 commissioner committees and liaison full list**

Aging Services: Bob Vrbka  
Assessor: John Culver  
County attorney: Misty Ahmic  
Building and grounds: Ken Schmieding  
County clerk: Culver  
County Court: Darrell Zabrocki  
Emergency 9-11 Center: Culver and Zabrocki  
Emergency Manager: Culver

Extension office: Schmieding  
Human Resources: Vrbka  
Highway Superintendent: Vrbka and Culver  
Probation office: Zabrocki  
Public defender: Schmieding  
Sheriff (and jail): Vrbka  
Surveyor: Culver  
Treasurer: Culver  
Veteran Service Office and Public Transit: Ahmic  
Zoning and weed department: Ahmic and Culver

Commissioner committees:  
Commissioner Culver  
Blue Valley Community Action; Courthouse Closing; Crete Joint Airport Zoning Board; E-911 Board; Legislature; Local Emergency Planning; Safety Committee; Seward/Saline

Response Act for county employees.  
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Commissioner Zabrocki  
BRIDGES board; City of Seward liaison; Courthouse Security; E-911 Board; Fourth of July Committee; General Assistance; Building and Grounds alternate; Blue Valley Community Action alternate; Crete Joint Airport Zoning Board alternate  
Commissioner Ahmic  
Abandoned Cemeteries; Four Corners Health Departments; Planning and Zoning; Seward County Chamber and Development Partnership; Seward County Housing Authority; General Assistance alternate; Veteran Service Committee; Seward/Saline County Solid Waste Management alternate; Upper Big Blue liaison alternate  
Commissioner Schmieding  
Legislature; Agenda Committee; Personnel Board; Region V Mental Health; Seward County Visitors/Tourism Committee; Southeast NE Development District  
Commissioner Vrbka  
Aging Services; Anti-Fraud program; CASA board member; Fair board liaison; Lower Platte South NRD liaison; Upper Big Blue NRD liaison  
Entire board committees  
Budget Authority and Finance; Highway Department; One-and six-year road plan; Insurance (NIRMA).

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## Success with houseplants: Fertilization

by Sarah Browning  
Lancaster County Extension educator

As with overwatering, over fertilization is a common problem, so an important step in winter houseplant care is understanding whether your plant needs fertilization.

Houseplants, like most other plants, need fertilizer containing three major plant nutrients: nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). The amount and frequency of fertilizer required depends on the type of plant, its growth rate, available light, soil media mix, frequency of watering and the type of fertilizer.

During winter, with its short days and low light conditions, some plants rest producing little new growth and need little, if any, fertilization during this period. However, if you have a very brightly lit south or west window, or have provided your plant with supplemental light, it may still be actively growing even in winter. In that case, treat it as an actively growing plant. Newly repotted, unrooted, dormant and wilted plants should not be fertilized.

How do you determine if your plant is actively growing? Look for new leaves being produced, flower buds or flowers. These all indicate the plant is still active and not resting (dormant).

Houseplant fertilization guidelines

Next, determine if the potting soil you used already contains slow-release fertilizer. If so, refer to the package guidelines for when additional fertilizer should be added. For example, one common potting soil states it feeds plants for up to six months. In that case, additional fertilizer

would not be needed any earlier.

Commercial fertilizers for houseplants can be purchased in granular, crystalline, liquid or tablet forms. Both quick-release water-soluble and slow-release products are available. Each should be used according to label instructions regarding frequency of application and dilution.

If you are using a quick release water-soluble product, actively growing plants should be fertilized every two months. You'll apply fertilizer less often if you are using a slow-release product.

Do not fertilize dormant plants since this could cause a harmful buildup of fertilizer salts in the soil.

Signs of overfertilization:

Reduced growth, brown leaf tips, dead root tips and wilting may be signs of fertilizer salt buildup in the soil (although they can have other causes, too). Excess salts accumulate on top of the soil over time, forming a yellow to white crust. Also look for a ring of white crusty salt deposits around the rim of clay pots or around the drainage hole.

Soluble salts are minerals dissolved in water. Fertilizer dissolved in water becomes a soluble salt. When water evaporates from the soil, minerals or salts stay behind. As soil salt concentration rises, plants find it harder and harder to take up water even if the soil is moist. If salt levels are extremely high, water will move out of plant root tips – being pulled into the soil water solution by the high salt level – causing root tips to dry out and die, resulting in the symptoms listed above.

High levels of soil salts damage roots directly, and because it is weakened, the plant becomes more susceptible to attack from insects and diseases. One of the most common problems associated with high salt levels is root rot.

Managing excess fertilizer salts  
Repotting with new soil is one way to eliminate excess salt in the soil.

Another method is periodic leaching with a large amount of water to flush excess salt out of the soil. As a standard practice, houseplants should be leached every four to six months. The amount of water needed is twice the volume of the pot. For example, a six-inch pot holds about five cups of water, so 10 cups would be used to leach the pot. If a layer of salts has formed on the soil surface, remove the crust before beginning to leach, but there's no need to remove more than ¼ inch of soil.

To begin the leaching process, put your plant in the bathtub or deep sink where water can drain freely. Pour water onto the soil, a little at a time, until water starts to come out the bottom drain holes. Don't apply water so quickly you wash soil away from the plant crown; just pour in as much as the container will allow and repeat the procedure until all the water is used.

Using more than the recommended amount of water will not hurt the plant, but don't use less. Allow all the leachate water to drain away in the sink.

After leaching, you won't need to water the plant for quite a while. Allow the soil to dry down to normal dryness levels before watering again.

## Students show rainforest support



COURTESY PHOTO

Seward High seniors Miriam Voehl, left, and Hannah Kolterman-Wagner, right, present a letter of support after school Jan. 11 to Congressman Jeff Fortenberry's Staff Assistant Rourke Jensen at Fortenberry's Lincoln office. The letter was written and signed by both students in support of Fortenberry's Bill HC3100 (116) promoting research competition to assist in solving global warming and the rainforest depletion. Their FCCLA STAR Project advocates slowing global warming and reinvesting in the rainforests worldwide. The girls have both volunteered recycling, planted trees and raised almost \$200 in a recent coin drive to Save the Rainforest- and now advocate for this global warming plan to slow the current process.

## Broncos welcome new board member

by Stephanie Croston  
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Centennial School Board said goodbye to a longtime member and welcomed a new one Jan. 11.

After 25 years, Wayne Heine retired from the board. Bryce Borchers, who was elected in November, was sworn in as a new member.

The board accepted the low bid from ARR/Boone Brothers Roofing in Lincoln for \$151,800 to replace the roof over the 1997 building addition.

That space is located between the east gym and the auditorium, Principal Colin Borgen said. The board considered four bids. Borgen said work will be done during the summer.

The board also voted to keep the driver's

education fee at \$175 per student. The school pays \$155 per student. The optional course is contracted through the Nebraska Safety Center in Kearney.

In other business, the board:

- voted to keep its officers the same as last year: Jason Richters, president; Mark Avery, vice president; Jodi Cast, secretary; and Doug Cast, treasurer; and
- reviewed rental fees and made no changes.

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## Forbes says hello to readers

by Greg Forbes  
editor@sewardindependent.com

You may notice a new byline in this week's issue. That's me!

I'm a born and bred Iowan who has spent the majority of my career in



Greg Forbes  
Editor

journalism covering small-town Iowa. Previously, I was the editor/publisher with the Hampton Chronicle for Hampton, a town of about 4,000 people an hour and change north of Des Moines.

I am excited to be the new editor for the Seward County Independent and a few other newspapers in the area. Living outside of the Iowa for the first time (except for my four years at South Dakota State University) will be an adjustment, but one thing I know that hasn't changed from state to state is the importance of community journalism. I am a graduate of



GREG FORBES/SCI  
Annie, Forbes' cat, will be joining him as he moves to Seward.

South Dakota State University, where I initially went for Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences but realized the "science" part of the major was not agreeable with my skills. I found my way to the journalism department shortly after I enrolled and here I am.

For nearly a decade, I have had the opportunity to cover everything from accidents and murders to bake sales and retirements in communities both larger and smaller than Seward. I take each assignment seriously, as everyone's story is important. In my career, I've

learned not only the value newspapers bring to their respective communities, but the importance of becoming involved in those communities as well. I have served on various boards and committees in previous cities in which I lived and am looking forward to see how I can become involved in Seward County.

With me, I bring no other humans to Seward but do have a cat, Annie. Annie found her way over to my house in Hampton as a stray and after just a few weeks, it was clear that she had found her new home. As of writing this column, Annie has not yet made the trip to Seward but I'm sure she'll spend the first couple days here wondering what the heck happened to her favorite spots.

If you know of a news tip, need a volunteer for board or fundraiser or just want to say hello, feel free to swing by or give me a call. I am looking forward to meeting each one of you and telling the stories that matter to you, the readers.

## We asked you:

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE WINTER SPORT?

- Basketball: 2
- Wrestling: 1
- Hockey: 0
- Wrestling: 0

### Now we want to know:

### Have you put away your Christmas decorations?

- YES
- NO
- NEVER

Vote this week on Facebook or at [sewardindependent.com](http://sewardindependent.com). Results will be published in next week's issue.

## Committee chairs chosen as legislature begins 107th session

by State Sen. Mark Kolterman  
Dist. 24

Greetings! I hope you and your family enjoyed the holiday season and I pray you have stayed healthy during this deadly pandemic.

The 107th legislative session kicked off Jan. 6. This year we will conduct a 90-day session, also known as the long session, with the expected adjournment date in early June. There are notable changes to the makeup of the legislative body.

We welcome back Sen. Ray Aguilar, Sen. Mike Flood and Sen. Rich Pahls, who previously served in this body, and welcome five new freshmen senators to the body.

This year, Sen. Mike Hilgers of Lincoln was elected by unanimous consent as speaker of the legislature. Sen. Dan Hughes of Venango replaces Hilgers as chair of the executive board of the Legislative Council. The first contested leadership race was that of vice chair of the executive board.

In a close vote, Sen. Tony Vargas of Omaha defeated Sen. Julie Slama of Peru on a vote of 26-23 to retain the position. Sen. Ben Hansen of Blair defeated Sen. Matt Hansen of Lincoln to become the next chair of the business

and labor committee on a vote of 26-23.

Sen. Lynne Walz of Fremont defeated Sen. Mike Groene of North Platte to be the next chair of the education committee in the closest contested race of the day. On the first round of votes, Walz and Groene were tied with 24 votes each. On the second round of votes, Walz triumphed with 25 votes to 23 votes. The last contested race was that of the natural resources chair, which Sen. Bruce Bostelman of Brainard defeated Sen. Tim Gragert of Creighton on a vote of 33-14.

I was unanimously re-elected as chairman of the retirement committee. During this upcoming session, I intend for the retirement committee to continue its work in protecting our state retirement plans' assets, responsibly managing taxpayer dollars via the state's contribution to the plans to provide economic security to our retirees.

In addition to serving as chair of the retirement systems committee, I have been selected by my colleagues to serve on the appropriations committee. I will also serve on the committee on committees which is a committee that assigns senators to committees.

As you may know, the first 10 days of session is the only time senators are allowed to introduce legislation. Given that each senator has their own priorities, bills are introduced on a multitude of issues, but based upon bills that have already been introduced, I believe the major issues facing this legislative session relate to the COVID pandemic, corrections reform, additional measures for property tax reform, school spending and law enforcement reform.

As always, if we can be of assistance to you in any way, do not hesitate to contact my office. My door is open and I have made it a goal to be accessible to the constituents of our district. Stop by any time. My e-mail address is [mkolterman@leg.ne.gov](mailto:mkolterman@leg.ne.gov), and the office phone number is (402) 471-2756. David and Katie are always available to assist you with your needs.

If I am not immediately available, do not hesitate to work with them to address any issues that you may need assistance. Also, continue to follow me on Facebook at Kolterman for Legislature and on Twitter at @KoltermanforLegislature.

## Nebraskans want more space

by Gov. Pete Ricketts

Over the past six weeks, Nebraskans have been rallying to bring U.S. Space Command (SPACECOM) to our state. This tremendous support for the military is common practice in our state. Nebraskans honor our servicemen and women, and our residents take great pride in hosting strategic missions that protect our nation.



Gov. Pete Ricketts

In December 2019, Space Force became the newest branch of the U.S. military. We depend on spaced-based services for navigation, communication, and commerce. Additionally, our armed forces rely on space technology to keep the United States secure. For instance, missile detection systems rely on spacecraft in orbit to monitor the Earth's surface for activity. The possibility of a foreign aggressor, such as China or Russia, seeking to jam GPS signals or knock out satellites is a real threat. The

United States needs to achieve space dominance to ensure our strength on the world stage and to preserve the peace and safety of America.

Nebraska has put forward a compelling bid to bring SPACECOM to Offutt Air Force Base (AFB) in Bellevue. Our state is one of six finalists to host the command. We expect the Department of the Air Force to decide on a site this month, and we've made a great case for Nebraska. Our central location is the ideal place for global operations aimed at defending every corner of our nation.

Our first competitive advantage for hosting this mission is our people. Nebraskans are patriotic, and we give tremendous support to military families and veterans. In November 2020, SmartAsset ranked Nebraska as the 7th best state for military veterans. None of the other states competing for SPACECOM ranked in the top fifteen.

In September 2020, the U.S. Strategic Command awarded NSRI a \$92 million, five-year contract. In February 2020, the Department of Homeland Security awarded the

University of Nebraska Omaha a ten-year, \$36 million grant to serve as the national headquarters for a new counterterrorism center. This continuing investment shows the confidence of the federal government in Nebraska's ability to deliver research vital to our nation's security.

Our state also has a track record of completing groundbreaking public-private partnerships on time and under budget. For instance, local investment in the Veterans' Affairs ambulatory clinic in Omaha saved taxpayers over \$30 million. In similar fashion, Nebraska has pledged \$107 million in public-private funds to offset the estimated \$1 billion of costs to build SPACECOM headquarters in Bellevue.

Public and private sector leaders have worked incredibly hard, and very closely together, to give Nebraska the best possible chance of landing SPACECOM. If you have questions about our bid, please email [pete.ricketts@nebraska.gov](mailto:pete.ricketts@nebraska.gov) or call 402-471-2244. I appreciate everyone who has partnered with us to shoot for the stars!

## Correction

In the caption of a photo in the 1-13 issue, Janice Ackerman was named Rebecca Ackerman. The Seward County Independent sincerely apologizes for the error.

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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Members of the 2020-2021 Seward High Academic Decathlon Team include, from left: (front row) Emily Gokie, Braden Adams, Elizabeth Gokie and Hannah Kolterman-Wagner; and (back row) Noelle Baker, coach/sponsor, Cole Gray, Tyler Calway, Ashton Conner, Isaiah VanBeek, Andrew Alley and Miriam Voehl.



Members of the 2020-2021 Seward High Academic Decathlon Quiz Bowl Team include, from left: (front row) Emily Gokie, Elizabeth Gokie and Miriam Voehl; and (back row) Tyler Calway, Isaiah VanBeek and Andrew Alley.

## SHS students compete in decathlon

Members of Seward High's 2020-21 Academic Decathlon competed Jan. 9 in the Large School Division of the Nebraska Academic Decathlon program.

Seniors selected to participate in the competition include Miriam Voehl, Hannah Kolterman-Wagner, Cole Gray, Emily Gokie, Elizabeth Gokie, Ashton Conner, Tyler Calway, Andrew Alley, Braden Adams and Isaiah VenBeek.

The US Academic Decathlon program follows an overall curricular theme on "The Cold War." The tests given to the students

were multiple choice, online and in the subject areas of Science with a focus on the space race, Literature which includes the novel "Cat's Cradle" by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., Art with an emphasis on art fundamentals and art during the cold war, Music focusing on the various musical works from the Cold War era, Social Science promoting the history of the Cold War, Economics emphasizing the economics of the Cold War and Mathematics promoting general math, geometry and an introduction to differential calculus.

Each 30-minute test had 50 multiple choice questions.

The students were divided into teams based on their academic grade scores and competed only with other students with the same grade point averages. All the students took the same tests. Students will be recognized individually and as a team.

The students also competed in a special Academic Quiz Bowl based on the theme The Cold War, using the scores of the social studies test.

The sponsors of the Seward High School

Academic Decathlon Team are the School District of Seward High Ability Learner Program and the Seward Optimist Club. The school district purchases the curriculum/study materials, and the Optimist Club donates and sponsors the SHS Academic Decathlon team T-shirts and members assist in monitoring the local testing. The advisor/coach for the program at Seward High is SHS Counselor Noelle Baker. Clark Kolterman served as the monitor for the testing.

## Stark to celebrate 90th

Eleanor Stark of Seward will turn 90 next month.

She was born Feb. 3, 1931.

To celebrate, her family is requesting a card shower. Cards may be sent to her at P.O. Box 441, Seward, NE 68434.



# Happenings

JANUARY 13

### Zoom Story Time underway

Seward Memorial Library began Zoom Story Time Jan. 13. Pre-school children may join in the interactive program at 10 a.m. or 4 p.m. Stories, songs, activities and games are included in each 30-minute session. Registration is required for this 11-week program and can be done online at [www.sewardlibrary.org](http://www.sewardlibrary.org).

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 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 30

### Soup drive-thru scheduled

St. Vincent de Paul School will host a soup drive-thru Saturday, Jan. 30, from 5 to 8 p.m. Chicken noodle, corn chowder and taco soups will be served, along with pie for dessert. Free-will donations will be accepted, with proceeds to the school Parent Teacher Organization to help with the school's needs.

FEBRUARY 22

### Rotary sponsors free movie

The Seward Rotary Club's annual "Winter Blahs" free children's movie (title yet to be announced) will be at the Seward Rivoli Theater on Monday, Feb. 22, at 1 p.m. with an effort to observe social distancing. The capacity for the movie is 150 due to Covid-19 restrictions. Masks are required to all in attendance. The Rotary asks that if you are able to contribute, each participant should bring a toiletry item or two cans of food to be donated to the Seward area outlets to assist in alleviating hunger. While the show is geared to children, the Rotary asks that a responsible adult also attends with the child or children. This presentation is a continuation of the Rivoli Theater's 100th anniversary with some special prizes that day.

## St. John Lutheran honor roll

St. John Lutheran School in Seward recently released its second quarter honor roll for the 2020-21 school year.

Students recognized are Nelson Anderson, Jonah Beisel, Kade Benson, Easton Berner, Quin Berner, Lily Bowers, Lily Brashear, Brennan Burhoop, Hayden Burhoop, Rebecca Caldwell, Sam Cooksey, Aeva Corbin, Jackson Einspahr, Isaac Fiala, Mary Herl, Lucy Huntington, Bethany Jurchen, Rebekah Jurchen, Rachel Kite, Sarah Kite, Cissanie Krohe, Derecka Krohe, Caleb

Lazarchic, Emerson Limback, Molly Marroquin, Sophia Matthias, Ayda Metschke, Kinslee Meyer, Ashlynn Miller, Kelsey Miller, Kendall Miller, Mikayla Miller, Dawson Minchow, Hayden Minchow, Juliet Moore, Quinton Moore, Ryler Parr, Tim Pester, Gabe Pomajzl, Alex Roberts, Micah Royuk, Jordyn Samuels, Luke Schermbeck, Marshall Seevers, Nyla Seevers, Mia Smith, Judah Stellwagen, Carter Urwin, Gracie Van Cura, Henry Wake, Joyah Warren, Nathan Weber and Mackenna Wollenburg.

## Local students earn collegiate honors

### Central Community College

Central Community College has announced the names of full-time students who earned spots on the President's list for the 2020 fall semester. The students were enrolled at one or more CCC locations, which include the Columbus, Grand Island and Hastings campuses. Students on the President's Honor List, including Lilly Cast of Beaver Crossing, earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average while students on the Dean's Honor List earned a GPA between 3.5 and 3.99.

### College of Saint Mary

College of Saint Mary (Omaha) has announced the exceptional achievements of students with the release of the Dean's List for the fall 2020 semester, which includes Kirstyn Leffler, a senior from Bee.

To qualify for the College of Saint Mary Dean's List, students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or higher after completing at least 12 semester hours as a full-time student.

### WITH HEARTFELT THANKS

The family of **Margie Krzeneski** wants to thank those who sent flowers, memorials, food and phone calls.

A special thank you to Dr. Wall and the Memorial Health Care staff. Also, thank you to Karel, Jessica and Jenelle Schoepf for your help at the luncheon. A big thank you to Pac 'N' Save for your donation. Thank you to Reverend Mary Kay Totty for the beautiful service. Brad and Jill Perdue, we can't thank you enough for everything.

John Krzeneski

Kathy and Jerry Condon & family  
Vicky and Bill Vandenberg & family  
Christine and Alan Brose & family  
Mike and Tessa Moulton & family

### THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who supported our family by offering prayers and encouraging words, phone calls, sending cards, memorials, flowers, and providing food.

It was greatly appreciated and heartwarming. A special thanks to Pastor Dunbar and Pastor Gudgel for the comforting words, Donnetta Schmieding for the organ music and Volzke Funeral Home for the caring help.

The Family of Glen Neujahr

A big thank you to all who sent or gave me cards for my retirement.

It was very much appreciated. I am looking forward to retirement.

Julie Schaefer





# Property tax relief remains Ricketts' No. 1 priority

By Leeanna Ellis  
editor@enterprisepub.com

Gov. Pete Ricketts outlined his priorities for the next two years — including property tax relief — Jan. 14 during his State of the State address before the 107th Nebraska Legislature.

Ricketts proposed a two-year budget that controls spending growth to 1.5%, which he said would allow the state to achieve several important priorities.

The proposed budget would deliver \$1.36 billion in property tax relief over the biennium, which includes \$550 million in direct property tax relief through the state's Property Tax Credit Relief Fund and more than \$596 million from the newly-enacted LB 1107 refundable property tax credit.

Ricketts is also proposing roughly \$214 million to provide for property tax payments under the current homestead exemption program.

Ricketts and State Sen. Lou Ann Linehan are also working on a proposed bill to limit the growth of local government property taxes to 3%. Property taxes have grown by 4.46% annually on average over the last 10 years for an overall increase of 54.65%, Ricketts said.

"Taxes are growing at a rate that Nebraskans cannot manage within their family budgets. It is my belief that if the Legislature fails to enact spending constraints, the people of Nebraska will take matters into their own hands and strip local governments of their property tax authority," he said. "It's happened before in the 1960s when the voters stripped the state of its authority

to levy a property tax, and it will happen again. The limits we are proposing here are reasonable, and will help ensure that local control of the institutions we cherish endures for years to come."

Other priorities outlined in Ricketts' State of the State included:

- investing \$50 million to locate the new U.S. Space Command to Offutt Air Force Base despite the announcement that Alabama will get the headquarters.
- increasing the tax break for military retirees from 50%, which was granted last year, to 100%. Ricketts is also asking the Legislature to remove barriers that prevent military spouses from taking jobs as teachers.
- fully funding the state school aid formula with an additional \$42.7 million in state aid to K-12 schools over the next two years. Each year of the budget, the formula would provide roughly \$1.1 billion in aid to schools.
- investing \$115 million of the budget for a total of \$230 million into a new, modern correctional facility, which is to be operational by 2025.
- recommending legislation to allow licensed healthcare professionals from other states to work in Nebraska. An executive order in 2020 allowed this flexibility during the pandemic. Ricketts is proposing legislation that would make this change permanent.
- expanding broadband internet to rural Nebraskans. Ricketts is proposing investing \$40 million over the next two years to help 30,000 households get broadband connectivity.

## Seward GFWC asks for donations

The GFWC Seward Woman's Club has partnered with the March of Dimes organization to assist with their program on Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Mission Healthy Baby.

The Seward Club is asking anyone who likes to knit, crochet, quilt, sew or non-sew to assist with this project by making blankets and donating to Blankets for Babies.

The blankets should NOT exceed 4' by 4' and must come from a pet and smoke free environment. Mark your items that you bring so you may get credit and your "thank you" from the club.

The club has specific patterns for the little baby caps and if you contact Jean Kolterman at (402) 643-3803, the patterns and sizes will be sent to you.

## Pastor column: I had an epiphany!

By Pastor Mark A. Haefner  
Grace Lutheran Church, Seward NE

I had an epiphany!  
If someone said that to you, you might wonder what they were talking about. Epiphany is not a common word. But if they said that they suddenly understood something that they had not understood before, that would make sense.

That's what the word epiphany means. It means to show forth, to reveal, to make something clear that was not clear before.

Some churches celebrate a season of Epiphany. It is a time during which the readings from the Gospels reveal something about Jesus that was not clear before. At Christmas we saw Jesus as a baby, nursed and cared for by his mother. During Epiphany, we see him performing miracles, changing water into wine, calming storms, casting out demons, healing every sickness and disease and even raising the dead.

These miracles reveal to us that Jesus isn't only a human just like us. They reveal to us that Jesus is also

almighty God. The fullness of the deity lives in him. He is just who he needed to be to win salvation for us by being tempted as we are, yet remaining without sin, and by taking on himself the punishment for the sins of all people and then rising victorious from the dead.

The miracles of Jesus reveal to us that Jesus is who he needed to be in order to rescue us from our biggest problems, sin and death. The miracles of Jesus also reveal to us that Jesus has power over anything and everything that troubles us. They give us a glimpse of what it will be like when we get to live in his presence for all eternity.

Natural disasters like tornados and hurricanes are frightening. Jesus calmed the storm on the lake by the power of his word, and in his presence, there will be no natural disasters. We all face sickness and disease and we now all know what a pandemic can do. Jesus healed every sickness and disease, and in his presence, there will be no such thing as sickness or disease.

We may never have been in the presence of someone who was demon possessed, but we have all seen evil, and we have all experienced strong temptations. Jesus cast out demons and defeated powerful temptations from Satan himself by the power of his word. When we are in his presence, Satan and his demons won't be anywhere near us.

They will be thrown into the lake of burning sulfur far away from us. Then there is death. The Bible calls it the last enemy. Not only did Jesus raise the dead, but his own resurrection is called the first of many.

When he comes again in glory, all the dead will be raised and all who have had an epiphany and been enabled by the Holy Spirit to see Jesus as their savior will receive perfect bodies that are no longer subject to sickness, disease or death.

Take some time to read the Gospel of Mark and notice the power that Jesus has in your life now and the preview that Jesus gives us of what it will be like to live in his presence forever.

## When to plan garden? Winter time

by Nicole Stoner  
Gage County Extension educator

In December, you might not think much about your garden because of the colder temperatures and snow that is falling as I write this article.

However, this is a great time to start planning a new garden. You can figure out the best location and plan out what you are going to plant in it now while new plant ideas are flying in from all the garden catalogs.

Location Location is key for your new garden, but you need to know what you are planning on planting prior to deciding the location. If you are looking for a new vegetable garden spot, select a location that has full sun or at least 6-8 hours of full sunlight per day. The afternoon sun is best.

Also look for a location with level ground and good soil. If you are unsure of the nutrient values, pH and amount of organic matter in your soil, send in a soil sample to be analyzed prior to adding any amendments and planting. You can pick up the materials for completing a soil test at most Extension offices.

Another thing to remember is to plant your garden near a water source. Your plants will need supplemental watering through the

summer; having a nearby water source is much easier for management. Remember to avoid low areas or where water tends to pond in your landscape. Areas of poor drainage will constantly be a difficulty in your garden.

If you have an area of poor drainage that you want to redo or plant into, you can choose landscape plants that are adapted to swampy or wet conditions. There are many to choose from and they will grow better there than those that prefer well-drained or dry soils.

What to plant When deciding what to plant in your vegetable garden, think about things that your family eats most of and what you have space for in the new garden location. You can look for new or different varieties of things your family enjoys. There are some really fun varieties out there, including more tomatoes than you can ever imagine.

If you are thinking about plants for a new landscape bed, you need to first determine the sunlight and moisture levels in the area, then look at plants that will grow in those growing conditions. You also should consider the amount of management for the plants you desire. Some plants take a lot more care, with cleanup and deadhead-

ing, while others don't take as much.

Once you figure that out, look at the colors and flower types you prefer and plant those. Keep in mind full size of the plant when planning how many of each plant to purchase. Don't overcrowd the plants.

Starting from seeds or transplants

You can start your own plants from seeds indoors, or you can purchase transplants in April or May for direct planting. Starting from seed can be less expensive but take more time and will have some initial costs of lights, trays and soil. Transplants are more expensive, but you can't always find the varieties you prefer in the stores. Starting the seed yourself ensures that you can have specifically what you like best for tomatoes or peppers or others.

Transplants should be grown in temperatures between 70 and 75 degrees. Too cold or too warm can reduce the rate of germination or the plants may grow leggy or improperly. Seedlings need 12-16 hours of light per day. This light should be kept about 1 inch above the plants. As they grow, this light should be moved up with the seedlings. You can start your seedlings in many different containers, just be sure they are clean and have drainage.

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## Eagles battle for pair of hardwood victories

by Stephanie Croston  
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Milford girls' basketball team had to battle for wins last week. A tough night against Syracuse Jan. 12 led to a 39-31 loss for the Eagles, but the team fought back Jan. 15 to beat Raymond Central 33-29 and Jan. 16 to edge Thayer Central 47-45.

Coach Phil Stauffer said the Eagles played good defense against Syracuse, but the Rockets' man-to-man defense made Milford work for good shots.

Hannah Kepler scored 13 and Kaitlin Kontor 12 to lead the offense.

Stauffer said the team was fortunate to beat Raymond Central. Milford made just three of 20 attempts inside the three-point arc.

"We have to start shooting the ball better this is not a good time of year to be in a team shooting slump," he said.

Kepler, though, scored 20 points and was 4-6 from three.

The Eagles had their best start of the season against Thayer Central with 20 first-quarter points.

The score was tied 42-42 with 30 seconds left, and Kepler hit a triple to give Milford the lead. Thayer Central tied the game with 5 seconds to play and then fouled Kaitlin Kontor with one second to go. Kontor connected on both free throws for the victory.

Kepler finished with 23 points.

The Eagles (8-7) were to be on the road at Lakeview Jan. 19 and at Elmwood-Murdock Friday, Jan. 22.

**Syracuse 39, MHS 31**  
MHS 8 5 7 11 31  
SHS 7 12 8 12 39  
**MHS**—Makena Stutzman 9-3 0-0 0, Kaitlin Kontor 3-11 4-6 12, Hannah Kepler 4-10 5-6 13, Kaitlyn Klug 0-1 0-0 0, Taylor Roth 2-2 0-0 4,



CRAIG JONES/SCI

Milford's Hannah Kepler lets go a three-point shot late in the game to tie the score with Thayer Central on Jan. 16. Looking on is sophomore Kaitlin Kontor, who hit two free throws with one second on the clock to secure the win for the Eagles.

Sydney Stelling 0-3 0-4 0, Abby Houk 1-5 0-0 2, Totals 10-35 9-16 31.

**SHS**—Totals 16-41 6-10 39.

**Three-point goals**—MHS 2-14 (Stutzman 0-1, Kontor 2-6, Kepler 0-4, Stelling 0-1, Houk 0-2), SHS 1-8. **Rebounds**—MHS 22 (Roth 8), SHS 28. **Assists**—MHS 2 (Kepler 2), **Steals**—MHS 10 (Stelling 4). **Blocked shots**—MHS 4 (four with 1). **Turnovers**—MHS 14, SHS 13. **Fouls**—MHS 10, SHS 13.

**Milford 33, Raymond Central 29**  
MHS 5 11 6 11 33  
RCHS 8 4 9 29

**MHS**—Stutzman 0-5 0-0 0, Kontor 4-15 0-0 10, Kepler 5-11 6-7 20, Alayna Piening 1-1 0-0 3, Klug 0-2 0-0 0, Roth 0-3 0-0 0, Stelling 0-5 0-0 0, Houk 0-1 0-0 0, Mariah Richards 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 10-44 6-7 33.

**RCHS**—Totals 11-41 4-9 29.

**Three-point goals**—MHS 7-24 (Stutzman

0-5, Kontor 2-9, Kepler 4-6, Piening 1-1, Roth 0-2, Stelling 0-1), RCHS 3-17. **Rebounds**—MHS 25 (Kepler 8), RCHS 39. **Assists**—MHS 6 (Stelling 2). **Steals**—MHS 8 (Kepler 3). **Blocked shots**—MHS 6 (Kepler 3). **Turnovers**—MHS 6, RCHS 15. **Fouls**—MHS 11, RCHS 12.

**Milford 47, Thayer Central 45**  
TCHS 11 14 9 11 45  
MHS 20 4 5 18 47

**TCHS**—Totals 15-34 9-15 45.

**MHS**—Stutzman 2-3 1-2 7, Kontor 2-9 3-5 9, Kepler 9-17 4-4 23, Roth 1-3 0-0 2, Stelling 2-6 0-0 4, Houk 1-1 0-2 2. Totals 17-39 8-13 47.

**Three-point goals**—TCHS 6-16, MHS 5-13 (Stutzman 2-3, Kontor 2-6, Kepler 1-4). **Rebounds**—TCHS 24, MHS 17 (Kepler 5). **Assists**—MHS 11 (Kepler 4). **Steals**—MHS 11 (Kepler, Stelling 4). **Blocked shots**—MHS 1 (Stelling 1). **Turnovers**—TCHS 18, MHS 13. **Fouls**—TCHS 15, MHS 17.



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Centennial's Daylee Dey looks for the rim on a layup attempt against Central City Jan. 16.

## CHS wins times 3

by Stephanie Croston  
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Centennial girls were ready for their three-game week, Coach Jake Polk said. The Broncos won all three, beating Shelby-Rising City 57-26, Columbus Lakeview 46-34 and Central City 47-37.

Polk said the Broncos were sloppy to start out against SRC.

"We were stagnant, almost too unselfish," he said.

CHS made adjustments and outscored SRC 12-2 in the second quarter. With a big lead going into the fourth quarter, Polk said the Broncos worked on their zone defense.

"That was important for us because we need-

ed it against Lakeview," he said.

Kate Hirschfeld scored 15 to pace the offense and grabbed nine rebounds. Asia Nisly added 11 points.

Despite snow on Friday, Centennial had school and went to Columbus to play Lakeview.

"It was obvious to the coaches and crowd who wanted snow and who wanted to play," Polk said.

Although Lakeview led 11-3 after the first quarter, the Broncos outscored the Vikings 18-8 in the second and 18-9 in the third. Centennial switched to a zone defense in the second quarter and that limited the Lakeview drives.

Polk said his team was motivated after not playing CLHS last year and losing in triple overtime the year before.

Nisly led the team with 26 points and was 5-7 from three.

CHS hosted Central City Jan. 16 and held their leading scorer below her 20-point average.

Polk said the Broncos played man-to-man defense and a full-court press and, although they didn't lead directly to points, they did wear the Bison down.

Hirschfeld finished with 18 points and five rebounds.

Centennial (13-1) was to host Wilber-Clatonia Jan. 19 and Centura Saturday, Jan. 23, with tipoff at 2:30 p.m.

## Malcolm wrestlers see improvement on mat

by Heath Kramer  
Seward County Independent

After earning career win number 100, it was Gavin Zoucha's next win that proved to be one of the most impressive of the season. Ranked fourth at his weight in Class C, the 160-pound Malcolm junior took the mat against Class C's second ranked wrestler at 152 pounds.

Connor Kreikemeier of Raymond Central moved up a weight class to create a marquee matchup in a Jan. 14 dual at Malcolm. Zoucha outlasted the Mustangs' junior for a 3-2 win.

"It was good for both of them to wrestle that match," Malcolm head coach Matt Coufal said. "If they had faced the wrestlers from their actual weight classes, it wouldn't have been much competition.

"They're only about four or five pounds apart, so it was definitely a fair fight."

It was Zoucha's second win in a week against wrestlers ranked in the top three.

"Gavin has set some lofty goals for himself," Coufal said. "His effort has been great so far this year and he's com-

peting well."

Zoucha's win was one of just four in the dual that Raymond Central won 43-24. Zane Zoucha (120) defeated Jacob Schultz while Riley Donahoo (220) and Caleb Courter (182) each earned pins.

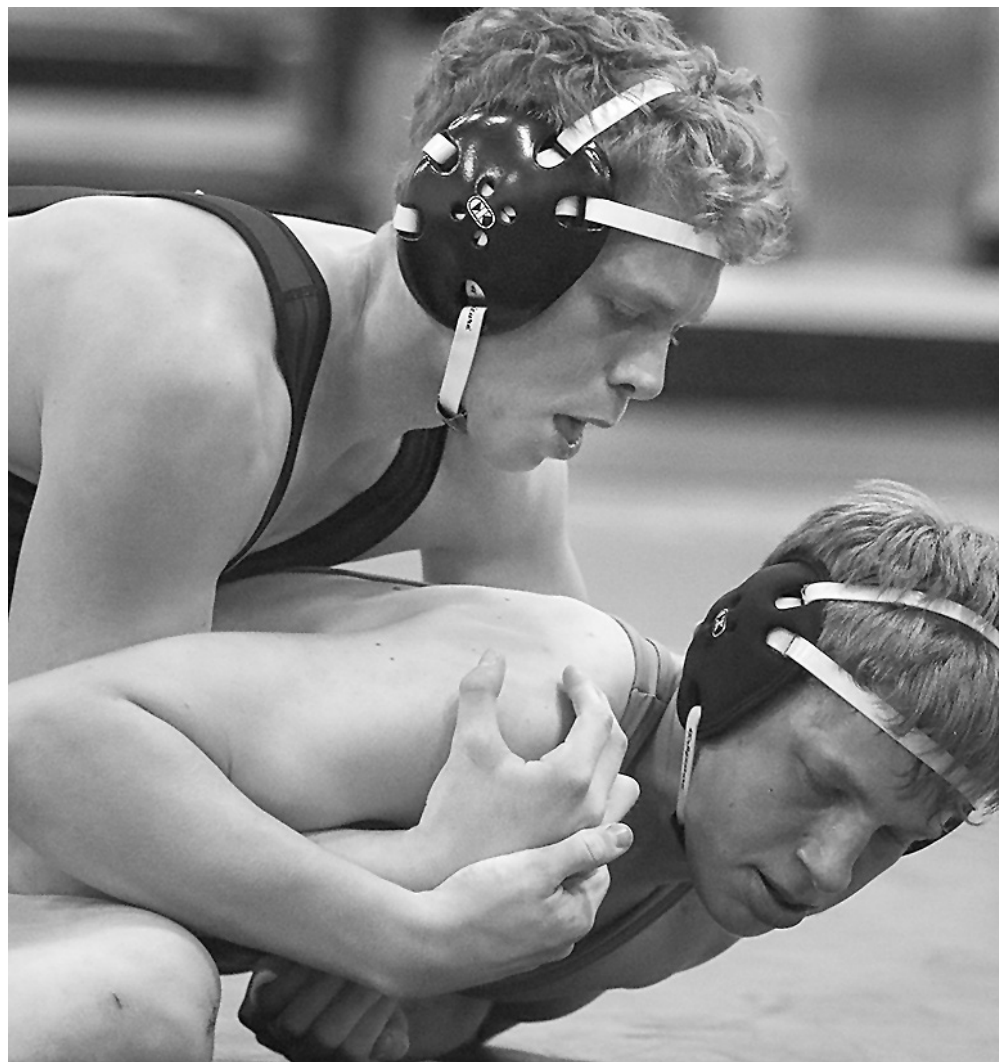
Earlier that evening, Malcolm picked up a 54-18 dual win over Archbishop Bergan. Five Malcolm grapplers had pins against the Knights.

The Clippers hosted a seven-team round-robin meet on Jan. 16. Conestoga won with 151.5 points while Malcolm placed second with 141.5.

"For basically a Covid tournament, it went pretty well," Coufal said. "We were just a bunch of teams looking for a place to compete."

The Nebraska School Activities Association has guidelines in place this season suggesting tournaments be limited to eight full teams. Malcolm was supposed to participate in a tournament at Schuyler but opted out due to the Covid guidelines.

"We decided to put on a little round-robin event," Coufal said. "It started out as five schools but we found a couple more that were



DOUG CARROLL/SCI

Malcolm's 182-pounder Trevor Lohrman tries to turn Ben Simonson of Archbishop Bergan during a triangular in Malcolm Thursday night. Lohrman won by fall in 1:58 of the first period.

in our same situation so we invited them to come join us."

The second place

finish was the best of the year for the Clippers who had three gold and two silver medalists.

Gavin Zoucha scored four pins in his four matches on his way to the meet championship.

Josh Stewart earned top honors by going the distance in his three matches at 170. Caleb Courter got two pins and an overtime win to place first at 182 pounds.

"That was Caleb's first tournament win," Coufal said. "He's wrestled better at times this year, but he's learning how to overcome his mistakes. He's doing well considering this is just his third year wrestling."

Kale Nordmeyer had an efficient day as he earned pins in 21, 46, 22 and 20 seconds on his way to the championship match at 285 where Kazz Hyson of Fairbury got the best of Nordmeyer with a third-period pin.

"Kale beat him in our first meet this season," Coufal said. "He's a smart young man. He'll learn from it and get better."

The Clippers will travel to Oakland-Craig Saturday, Jan. 23, to compete in the Knights' invitational tournament.

"We're definitely a better overall team than we were a week ago," Coufal said. "The kids want to be good and it's starting to show up in how they practice and how hard they compete."





# Concordia University

## Women's basketball

Instead of draining seven consecutive threes like it did to begin the previous matchup with Mount Marty, Concordia University women's basketball built its lead behind lockdown defense Jan. 13. The host Lancers managed only three first-quarter points in a 94-62 blowout win for the Bulldogs. They unleashed the press inside Cimpr Arena and forced 26 turnovers.

Taylor Cockerill (11 points on 4-for-5 shooting from the floor) and company led 23-3 at the end of the first quarter. The Bulldogs then poured it on with a 9-0 spurt early in the third period. By the close of the third quarter, Concordia owned a 77-38 lead.

Olson is proud of the work his team has done on the road this season. Concordia will be away from home only once more this regular season.

"What came out of it was the toughness we had. We had some great wins on the road - at Jamestown and at Northwestern. Just really gritty performances. I'm really proud of where we're at right now," Olson said.

### Morningside 66, CU 64

There were many positive signs of growth on a day when the Bulldogs fell just short of what would have been its most significant victory of the season. First-place Morningside finished the game on a 10-2 run while edging the Bulldogs in a nail-biter, 66-64, inside Friedrich Arena Jan. 16. The 11th-ranked Mustangs avoided an upset despite shooting only 32.9% from the floor.

Olson's squad is disappointed in the result, but encouraged by the growth shown since the previous meeting with Morningside (an 86-67 defeat). Concordia now sits at 12-7 overall and at 11-5 in GPAC play (third place).

Cockerill twice nailed treys in the fourth quarter that put the Bulldogs up by six in both instances. Concordia still



Rebecca Higgins of Concordia drives the ball down the court Jan. 16 during a home game against Morningside College.

led (64-61) with as few as 45 seconds remaining.

That's about the time when Mustang standout Sierra Mitchell came through with a consequential offensive rebound and game-tying 3-point basket. After an empty Bulldog possession, Faith Meyer drove baseline and scored the game-winner with 1.4 seconds left on the clock.

Concordia also poked holes in the Morningside zone by making use of the height of Kayla Luebbe of Seward (13 points and eight rebounds) and Chloe Schumacher of Malcolm (11 points and four rebounds). They combined for 24 points on 11-for-12 shooting from the floor. The work of Luebbe and Schumacher almost overcame the team's 21 turnovers and the 17 offensive rebounds it surrendered.

Cockerill led all players with 17 points (6-for-14 from the floor) to go along with her seven rebounds. Mackenzie Koepke chipped in with five points and eight rebounds. The starting five other than Cockerill went a combined 6-for-27 from the floor. Overall, the Bulldogs shot 40% from the field.

Morningside's 66 points were its lowest total of the season in conference play. While Mitchell paced her side with 15 points, McKenna Sims added 13 and

Grace Meyer collected 12 off the bench. Another of the team's marquee players, Sophia Peppers contributed nine points, seven rebounds and five steals.

The Bulldogs will enjoy a mid-week bye before returning home next Saturday, Jan. 23, to host Briar Cliff (13-5, 11-4 GPAC). Tipoff from Friedrich is again set for 2 p.m.

## Men's basketball

Carter Kent wouldn't let the Concordia University men's basketball team fall Jan. 13. The Crete native had all the answers for the Lancers, who clawed back within six points late in the contest before being put away. In the 86-76 win inside Cimpr Arena in Yankton, South Dakota, the Bulldogs shot 50% from the floor in the process of collecting their fifth GPAC road triumph this season.

Four days after eclipsing 1,000 career points, Kent (10-for-17 from the floor and 4-for-6 from beyond the arc) scored in just about every way imaginable and put a cherry on top with a three-point play in the closing stretch. His 29 points are a career high.

Of course he had help. Three teammates reached double figures: Justin Wiersema (20), Gage Smith (15) and Holt



Concordia junior Gage Smith drives the ball around a Morningside Mustang Jan. 16 during a Bulldog home game in Friedrich Arena.

(13). Limback enjoyed his team's 9-for-19 shooting from 3-point range and its ability to respond to a Mount Marty basket, but his favorite play occurred when Wiersema dove for a loose ball.

Wiersema extended his streak of consecutive games with at least 10 points to 21. He also grabbed eight rebounds. In addition, Holt, Kent and Smith each snared six or more rebounds in contributing to a 36-30 team rebounding advantage.

**Morningside 95, CU 77** Something had to give entering a matchup that featured a 12-game home win streak for the Bulldogs and a 10-game series win streak for visiting Morningside.

Unfortunately, the Bulldogs fell at home for the first time since last January while allowing the 15th-ranked Mustangs to shoot 60.7% from the floor. Morningside made its first seven 3-point attempts on the way to a 95-77 win in Seward Jan. 16.

This was a big one in terms of the hopes for Head Coach Ben Limback's squad to claw back into the GPAC regular-season title race. Concordia (13-7, 10-5 GPAC) currently resides in fourth place in the conference standings.

Smith paced Concordia with 19 points and eight rebounds. It

marked the first time this season that the Bulldogs have lost when Smith has scored 15 or more. In addition, Wiersema posted 18 points and three steals, Holt turned in 11 points and four rebounds and Grant Wragge (10 points on 5-for-5 shooting; four steals) brought plenty of energy off the bench. Sam Scarpelli chipped in with eight points.

The Bulldogs will have the middle of next week off while focusing their attention on next Saturday, Jan. 23's, home clash with Briar Cliff (11-8, 8-6 GPAC). Tipoff from Friedrich Arena is slated for 4 p.m.

## Wrestling

In its first duals since Dec. 19, the Concordia University wrestling team took on a GPAC opponent and two non-conference foes as part of an extended stay in Orange City, Iowa, Jan. 16. The Bulldogs lost to Northwestern, 28-12, and to Dickinson State University (N.D.), 22-15, before finishing the day with a 42-18 win over Waldorf University (Iowa). All duals were contested inside the Bultman Center on Northwestern's campus.

Head Coach Levi Calhoun's squad owns dual records of 4-7 overall and 2-2 in the GPAC. Concordia managed through the day on Saturday

without a fully stocked lineup.

"Being down a few guys due to forces out of our control, I was still proud of the way our guys wrestled," Calhoun said. "It's tough to win a dual when you're giving up some weights. I was happy with the way we wrestled and how hard we wrestled, but we want to go 3-0, not 1-2. We know we have to get better, stay healthy and continue to improve."

The first dual of the day carried the most significance in that it counted towards the GPAC standings. Red hot Issiah Burks came through with a second period pin at 157 to get the Bulldogs on the board.

Senior Gabe Crawford (165) and Jacob Telles (285) also earned wins by decision while continuing strong seasons. By day's end, Telles pushed his team leading win total to 23 on the season. However, Concordia dropped contested bouts to the Red Raiders at 141, 174, 184 and 197.

On another day, the Bulldogs may have knocked off Dickinson State, but the lineup absences were a limiting factor. Concordia actually won four of the seven contested matches via Jeaven Scdoris (major decision at 141), Jose Sanchez (decision at 157),

(continued on 15)

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# Seward tops Warriors for first win of season

by Stephanie Croston  
scroston@sewardindependent.com

After nine attempts, the Seward boys' basketball team got its first win. The Bluejays defeated Schuyler 48-40 Jan. 12.

"Our kids earned victory in this one," Coach Trevor Menke said. "We got behind early but our guys stayed the course and did a great job playing four quarters and finding a way to win."

Seward trailed 16-10 after the first quarter but led 27-26 at halftime. The Jays were able to extend the lead in the second half.

Drew Covalt scored 17 to lead Seward. Sam Schroeder added 10 points and eight rebounds.

The Jays couldn't maintain the winning momentum Jan. 14 against Platteview, losing 75-49. Menke said SHS didn't match PHS's ability to make shots and space the floor.

"I thought we put many stretches of good basketball together, but when you are playing the rated teams night in and night out that we've seen, you have to sustain it for a full 32 minutes," he said.

Schroeder led the way with a double double of 12 points and 10 rebounds. Leighton Limback added 11 points.

The week ended Jan. 16 with a 57-40 loss to Waverly.

"I was proud of the effort from our guys Saturday," Menke said. "We didn't fear the moment against the No. 3 team in Class B (Journal Star) and make enough plays to be down four at half. They made some big shots in the third quarter like great teams



DOUG CARROLL/SCI

Seward's Gavin Sukup steals a pass intended for Waverly's Tyztin Hoos Saturday in Seward.

do that allowed them to build a lead on us."

The Vikings outscored the Jays 21-8 in the third quarter.

Covalt led the offense with nine points. Schro-

eder and Jackson Trost grabbed five rebounds each, and Traetyn Schaefer delivered nine of the team's 10 assists.

"We are playing harder and better for longer

periods of time. As the calendar changes, the attitude and improvement of this group has been remarkable. I'm proud of them," Menke said.

Seward (1-11) was to play at Crete Jan. 19 and host Aurora Friday, Jan. 22, with tipoff at 7:30 p.m.

The Central Conference basketball tournament is scheduled to start Monday, Jan. 25.

Seward 48, Schuyler 40					
SCH	16	10	4	10	40
SEW	10	17	7	14	48
SEW—Drew Covalt 3-12 9-10 17, Traetyn Schaefer 1-5 2-6 5, Jackson Trost 2-7 3-4 8, Trevor Ruth 1-2 0-1 3, Leighton Limback 1-6 2-2 5, Sam Schroeder 4-6 1-2 10. Totals 12-38 17-25 48.					
Three-point goals—SEW 7-21 (Covalt 2-6, Schaefer 1-3, Trost 1-4, Ruth 1-2, Limback 1-5, Schroeder 1-1). Rebounds—SEW 24 (Schroeder 8). Assists—SEW 11 (Schaefer 5). Steals—SEW 6 (Schaefer 2). Turnovers—SEW 6. Fouls—SEW 9.					
Platteview 75, Seward 49					
SHS	16	8	16	9	49
PHS	23	20	20	12	75
SHS—Covalt 2-3 0-0 6, Schaefer 3-7 0-2 6, Trost 1-5 0-0 2, Dalton Burt 0-1 0-0 0, Gavin Sukup 3-8 2-2 8, Ruth 1-2 0-0 3, Limback 5-5 0-1 11, Carson Tvrdy 0-3 1-2 1, Schroeder 6-9 0-1 12. Totals 21-43 3-8 49.					
Three-point goals—SHS 4-16 (Covalt 2-3, Schaefer 0-3, Trost 0-3, Burt 0-1, Ruth 1-2, Limback 1-1, Tvrdy 0-3). Rebounds—SHS 24 (Schroeder 10). Assists—SHS 11 (Schaefer 4). Steals—SHS 2 (Trost 2). Blocked shots—SHS 2 (Trost, Sukup 1). Turnovers—SHS 10. Fouls—SHS 12.					
Waverly 57, Seward 40					
WHS	12	16	21	8	57
SHS	11	13	8	8	40
SHS—Covalt 3-6 0-0 9, Schaefer 2-7 3-4 7, Trost 2-6 0-0 6, Sukup 3-3 1-2 7, Cole Gray 0-1 0-0 0, Limback 2-5 0-0 5, Tvrdy 0-1 0-0 0, Schroeder 1-3 4-4 6. Totals 13-32 8-10 40.					
Three-point goals—SHS 6-16 (Covalt 3-6, Schaefer 0-2, Trost 2-6, Gray 0-1, Limback 1-1). Rebounds—SHS 15 (Schroeder, Trost 5). Assists—SHS 10 (Schaefer 9). Steals—SHS 2 (Trost, Sukup 1). Blocked shots—SHS 2 (Sukup, Schroeder 1). Turnovers—SHS 11. Fouls—SHS 13.					

# Eagles stay unbeaten

by Stephanie Croston  
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Milford boys' basketball team played a pair of Centrals - Raymond and Thayer - last week and won both. MHS beat Raymond Central 68-43 and Thayer Central 60-35.

Milford came out strong against RCHS, leading 25-13 after the first quarter.

Jaxon Weyand led the team with 17 points. Seth Stutzman scored 13 and Isaac Yeackley 11. Micah Hartwig finished with seven rebounds and nine assists.

The Eagles needed until the second half to take control against Thayer Central.

Weyand scored 17 again, to go with 24 from Hartwig.

"It was a good two nights for us," Coach Tony Muller said. "The bench played well and that allowed us to stay in a flow."

The Eagles (14-0) are scheduled to play at Lakeview Jan. 19 and at Elmwood-Murdock Friday, Jan. 22.

Milford 68, Raymond Central 43					
MHS	25	7	18	18	68



CRAIG JONES/SCI

Cabe Schluckebier, a Milford High School junior, takes a shot in the Eagles' game Jan. 16 with Thayer Central.

RCHS					
RCHS	13	13	4	13	43
MHS—Isaac Yeackley 5-8 0-0 11, Micah Hartwig 3-6 1-3 9, Camden Springer 0-1 0-0 0, Cason Tucker 0-0 1-2 1, Maddox Baack 4-7 0-0 9, Jaxon Weyand 7-11 0-1 17, Kaleb Miller 0-3 0-0 0, Seth Stutzman 6-8 1-2 13, Cabe Schluckebier 4-6 0-0 8. Totals 29-50 3-8 68.					
RCHS—Totals 17-50 6-7 43.					
Three-point goals—MHS 7-11 (Yeackley 1-2, Hartwig 2-3, Baack 1-2, Weyand 3-3, Stutzman 0-1), RCHS 3-19. Rebounds—MHS 30 (Hartwig 7), RCHS 22. Assists—MHS 24 (Hartwig 9). Steals—MHS 7 (Hartwig, Stutzman 2). Blocked shots—MHS 1 (Collin Piening 1). Turnovers—MHS 10, RCHS 15. Fouls—MHS 13, RCHS 14.					
Milford 60, Thayer Central 35					
TCHS	14	8	10	3	35
MHS	18	9	20	13	60
TCHS—Totals 11-40 10-15 35.					
MHS—Yeackley 3-9 0-0 7, Hartwig 8-13 4-7 24, Bryce Jakub 0-2 0-1 0, Tucker 0-1 0-0 0, Baack 0-1 0-0 0, Weyand 6-13 5-6 17, Miller 1-2 0-2 2, Stutzman 4-12 0-0 8, Schluckebier 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 23-56 9-16 60.					
Three-point goals—TCHS 3-18, MHS 5-17 (Yeackley 1-4, Hartwig 4-8, Baack 0-1, Weyand 0-3, Stutzman 0-1). Rebounds—TCHS 30, MHS 32 (Stutzman 10). Assists—MHS 14 (Stutzman 5). Steals—MHS 8 (Yeackley, Hartwig 2). Blocked shots—MHS 1 (Hartwig 1). Turnovers—TCHS 20, MHS 9. Fouls—TCHS 17, MHS 18.					

## Come Be A Firehawk!!

at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic School


Join us for Kindergarten Round-up and see what we are all about!

Tuesday, February 9th  
8:45 to 10:00 am

If you wish to join us for Mass at 8:00 am, we would love to have you join us!

To be eligible for Kindergarten, your child must be 5 years old by July 31st, 2021

Please call the school office to register your child for Kindergarten Round-Up!  
(402) 643-9525



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I truly appreciate my customer friends during my eight years delivering to the Seward area. I am especially thankful for some thoughtful gifts and how everyone helped us get through 2020.

Yours truly,  
*Al & Brenda Chambers*  
(Route 10B)

