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Property tax remains Ricketts' top priority

by Leeanna Ellis
editor@enterprisepub.com

Gov. Pete Ricketts outlined his priorities for the next two years — including property tax relief — Thursday 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 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.

Ag business workshops planned through March

Beginning farmers and landowners throughout Nebraska are invited to attend four separate workshops to discuss starting and maintaining an agricultural business.

These free, virtual events are sponsored by the Center for Rural Affairs.

Passing the Torch Series will be on Thursdays, from 6 to 7:30 p.m.:

- Jan 28: Land Transition Conversations
- Feb. 25: The Next-Gen Tax Credit
- March 11: Financing the Farm Business
- March 25: Decision Making in Tough Times

Courses will be

instructed by Dave Goeller, retired deputy director of North Central Extension Risk Management Education Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and resource provider at Nebraska Rural Response Hotline. Other service providers will be on hand as well to provide input.

Registration is required by noon the day of each event; sign up at cfra.org/events. For more information, contact Carter at justinc@cfra.org or (402) 237-5082.

This project is funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture Beginning Farmer and Rancher Grant.

Makin' it happen on the hardwood



PHOTOS BY CRAIG JONES/MT

The Milford High School boys and girls basketball teams are enjoying success this season, with the boys undefeated at 14-0 and the girls at 8-7. Clockwise from top left, Coaches Tony Muller (boys) and Phil Stauffer (girls) direct their charges during timeouts of their games Jan. 16 with Thayer Central; junior Cabe Schluckebier works hard under the boards; members of the MHS dance team perform during halftime; and Hannah Kepler launches a three-point shot that gave Milford the late in the girls' game, while watching is Kaitlin Kontor, who sank two pressure-packed free throws with one second on the clock to win the game for the Eagles. See full details of these games and how the wrestling team did on Sports, page 7.

"A community effort..."

Coldiron assists with 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.

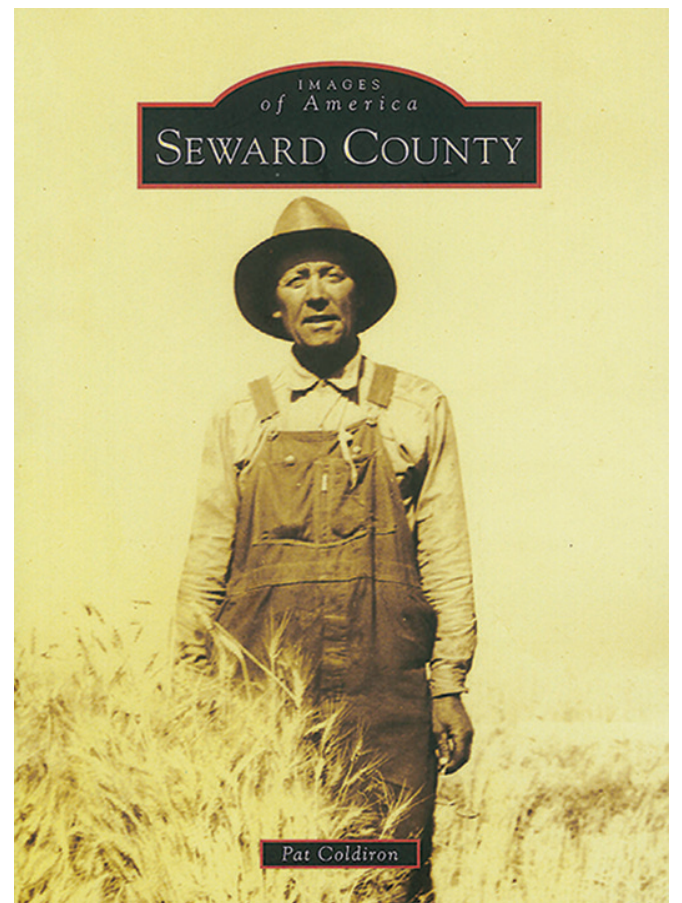
The Homestead Act opened land for settlement in 1862, and Nebraska became a state in 1867. Civil War veterans moved west for the promise of free land in lieu of payment for services to the Union.

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



COURTESY IMAGE

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

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.



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.

Board reorganizes, Zabrocki joins

by Hope Moural
hope@sewardindependent.com

The Seward County Board of Commissioners held its annual reorganization with newest commissioner Darrell Zabrocki during its Jan. 12 meeting. See below for a full list of commissioner committees.

Seward County Treasurer Marilyn Hladky presented an agreement from Eagleview Technologies for its digital oblique and imagery software following an awarded bid Jan. 5. The contract was approved.

During the meeting, Commissioner John Culver was named the board chairman and Commissioner Bob Vrbka was named the vice chairman.

The board approved Dr. Connie Novak of Memorial Healthcare Systems or any other MCHS doctor as the county coroner's physician.

The board named the Seward County Independent and The Milford Times as its official county newspapers and Union, Jones and Cattle banks as its official depositories of funds.

Next, the board named Terry Wicht as the Seward County Highway Superintendent and Sherry Schweitzer as its budget making authority.

The board also approved county clerk fees for December at \$54,611.20 and district clerk fees at \$1,693.53.

Finally, board members approved an extension of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act for county employees.

The next Seward County Board of Commissioners meeting will be Tuesday, Jan. 26, at 9 a.m. on the third floor of the courthouse. The meetings 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 County Solid Waste Management; Lower Platte South Liaison alternate; Planning and Zoning Board alternate

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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Crowded places,
Close contact, and
Confined spaces.

SLOW THE SPREAD

NEBRASKA
NHLHD

Stark to turn 90

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.



Plan now for better planting

by Nicole Stoner
Gage County Extension educator

'Right Plant, Right Place' is a very important aspect of planting and it is a great time to start thinking about it while building on what I wrote in my last article.

The seed catalogs are arriving and planting ideas are forming. However, there are things to keep in mind when planning your garden or new plants for an established garden.

Hardiness zones

Hardiness zones are listed on all plant labels. These zones are made based on the plant's ability to survive the winter. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, plant hardiness zones are based on average extreme minimum temperatures at a given location during a particular time period. In Southeast Nebraska, we are in zone 5b, while most of the state north of 1-80 is in zone 5a. It is important to utilize plants that are suited for our hardiness zone to ensure their survival through winter.

Sunlight requirements

The amount of sunlight a plant receives is critical for health and durability. There are many levels of sunlight preferences for plants, and it can be a little confusing.

- Full sun plants need 6 or more hours of sunlight per day. This should be at least six hours of open, full sunlight, not dappled light. These plants grow best if the majority of the sunlight they receive is the hot, afternoon sun.

- Part sun plants grow best in 4-6 hours of sunlight per day.

- Part shade plants grow best in 2-4 hours of sunlight per day. This can be dappled sunlight.

- Full shade plants grow best in less than 2 hours of sunlight per day. This doesn't mean that they receive absolutely no sunlight, but maybe some morning

sun or just a bit of dappled sunlight through the day.

Water requirements

The water requirements for plants can vary greatly depending on the plant, the type of soil it is planted in and how long the plant has been planted in that location. For example, plants in sandy soils will need watered more often than those planted in a clay soil.

Also, plants that are newly planted will need more water than those that are established in a new location. Those that are newly planted will not have the root mass of an established plant making it more difficult to find water when it is not available.

There are plants that are more drought tolerant than others. These plants have different features to help them survive longer periods without irrigation. They may have fleshy leaves to hold more moisture, smaller leaves or leaves with deep indentations to reduce leaf area.

They might also have a very waxy leaf surface or one that is covered with hairs to help hold in moisture. Other plants may have much longer roots to reach deep into the soil to find moisture.

On the other hand, there are some plants that are more adapted to wet locations. Plants need oxygen to survive, even through the roots. Some plants can take longer periods of time in wet soils or even in flooded locations. Some plants are even adapted to be under almost constant water, such as bald cypress trees.

These trees, however, pop their roots up and out of the ground to get oxygen in constantly wet locations. If your location is constantly wet, choose a plant more adapted to that type of growing conditions. Some plants will not survive long in high-moisture areas.

Extension webinar looks at odor tool

An upcoming Nebraska Extension webinar will examine recent livestock facility nuisance litigation and look at a tool from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for assessing the odor footprints of these facilities.

The webinar will be presented on Thursday, Jan. 21, from noon to 1 p.m., by Dave Aiken, professor and agricultural law and water law specialist in the university's Department of Agricultural Economics.

The Odor Footprint Tool was developed by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Biological Systems Engineering Department to increase the use of objective, science-based informa-

tion in decision-making related to livestock odor and setback distances.

Registration is free at farm.unl.edu/webinars.

Forbes says, 'Hi, I'm new here'

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 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.



Greg Forbes
editor

Living outside of 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 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



GREG FORBES/SCI

Forbes' cat, Annie, made the trip with him to Seward.

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.

MHS announces honor roll

Milford Junior/Senior High School recently released its honor roll for first semester 2020-21. Students on the honor roll earned grade averages of 93 and above. Those with honorable mention earned averages of 90 to 92.99.

Honor Roll

Seniors—Nicholas Beel, Joselyn Bell, Nathan Bennett, Benjamin Copley, Bowen Dick-Burkey, Machaela Freeman, Dominic Girmus, Kristlyn Guthrie, Makennen Havlat, Hunter Hines, Isaac Hollist, Abby Houk, Abigail Hovendick, Bryce Jakub, Avery Kahler, Hannah Kepler, Kaitlyn Klug, Phoebe Kolb, Calli Kremer, Alexa Mach, Abbie McGuire, Kaleb Miller, Madelyn Mullet, Olivia O'Dell, Alayna Piening, Collin Piening, Katherine Pollock, Cheyenne Prentice, Mariah Richards, Rollin Roth, Jenna Schweitzer, Rachel Stahnke, Trenton Stauffer, Makena Stutzman, Jeremiah Taylor, Cason Tucker, Isaac Voboril and Audrianna Wolf.

Juniors—Caitlyn Adams, Griffin Anderson, Maddox Baack, Sophia Birch, Celia Bontrager, Jack Chapman, Madison Cosaert, Bethany Crane, Madaux DeLong, Hannah Fougeron, Micah Hartwig, Logan Hershberger, Ella Hostetler, Cassidy June, Anna Klopfenstein, Dylan Kroese, Elliott Reitz, Carter Roth, Matthew Roth, Avery Saltzman, Ashlyn Schildt, Cabe Schluckebier, Ayden Shook, Savannah Spahr, Sydney Stelling, Seth Stutzman, Cole Toovey, Gage Troyer, Thomas Vance, Eli Vondra, Marissa Walker, Jaxon Weyand, Ethan Wittstruck, Logan Wolf and Ashlynn Zegers;

Sophomores—Elizabeth Bell, Tennace Crumrine, Carly Donoghue, Nolan Eickhoff,

Nelson Girmus, Kolby Johns, Bo Kepler, Kaitlin Kontor, Eliza McGuire, Hudson Mullet, Chase Nitzsche, McCaughy Pollock, Elana Prentice, Rylie Price, Taylor Roth and Autumn Wissenburg;

Freshmen—Jaidyn Bell, Abigail Brinkmeyer, Sally Burkey, Jaxson Clark, Gavin Dunlap, Morgan Havlat, Emma Hershberger, Sydney Hill, Alexandria Keib, Conner Kohout, Victoria Mink, Addisyn Mowinkel, Riley Ross, Madison Roth, Sarah Spahr, Macy Stutzman, Reice Stutzman, Allyson Taylor, Mackenzie Watenpaugh and Joslyn Wolf;

Eighth graders—Scholar Crumrine, Layla Elstun, Ayden Freeman, Sydney Havlat, Aiden Henson, Brenna Jackson, Veronica Johns, Hailey Jones, Korbyn Kemerling, Lilly Kenning, Maizie Kolb, Raeliegh Kremer, Adyson Kroese, Kellan Kubicek, Karlee Kuklis, Brooklyn McDonald, Ellison Piening, Gavin Piening, Adan Rakow, Lillian Rezac, Avery Roth, Aylandra Roth, Cheyenne Sage, Addison Sample, Kalyon Schutz, Braden Soester, Easton Springer, Jack Stahl, Cole Stutzman, Hannah Wittstruck, Izabelle Yeackley and Brecken Yoder; and

Seventh graders—Connor Adams, Heath Bacon, Brett Bousquet, Haley Brhel, Joshua Brinkmeyer, Sydney Burkey, Aubrey Burton, Delaney Carraher, Avery Carter, Westin DeLong, Gage Dunlap, Abigail Gurnsey, Rylan Hollist, Kylie Jakub, Katelyn Jones, Arianna Koehler, Maeli Kubicek, Natalie Nutzman, Caden Rainforth, Liliana Rakow, Colby Rautenberg, Ava Rediger, Zebedee Reil, Sarah Reynolds, Landon Roth,

Madelyn Saltzman, Garrett Schoen, Nevaeh Spurling, Mylie Svoboda, Alayna Tvrdy, Kayla Wilken, James Wissenburg and Quinn Zegers.

Honorable mention

Seniors—Claire Reed, Sara Taylor, Jasmyne Terrell, Jakob Wolf, Cooper Yeackley and Isaac Yeackley;

Juniors—Kelly Bousquet, Savannah Clark, Colton Hauder, Erin Landkamer, Morgan McCullough, Sophia Pierce, Trace Rowland, Rachel Shively, Camden Springer, Calli Thornton, Desaree Walker and Garret Watenpaugh;

Sophomores—Amy Bousquet, Rebecca Freeman, Kaden Guerra, Anna Gurnsey, Hannah Schilz, Mara Shepard,

Madison Stutzman and Tryston Tyner;

Freshmen—Austin Cox, Brooke Henriksen, Karis Kratochvil, Brody Mach, Hunter Oborny, Chloe Pierce, Paige Riley, Keylie Roth, Jackson Toovey and Keenan Troyer;

Eighth graders—Owen Anderson, Cash Brom, Nicholas Fougeron, Garrett Freeman, James Keilig, Tyce Lopez, Gabe Mach, Logan Price, Hannah Reynolds and Krisiana Riley; and

Seventh graders—Vivian Auxier, Savannah Boettner, Kelsey Borgman, Alissah Cunningham, Royale Dean, Jordan Fischer, Abigail Gropp, Justin Novak, Electa Restau and Isaac Roth.

District Planning: Future Kindergarten Students

Anticipating the future educational and facility needs of the Milford Public Schools is an ongoing task. The task is an important part of the Milford Board of Education and the administrative team's responsibilities.

To help with this task we need the assistance of our parents and patrons. Each year we look at our census numbers and try to predict future kindergarten enrollment. Unfortunately, the numbers we use are often not particularly accurate, and this is where we need your assistance.

We are requesting that you contact us if you have a child that is eligible for kindergarten in the 2021-22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26 school years. Please call Tracy Yeackley at 402-761-2408 or email her at tracy.yeackley@milfordpublicschools.org with your information.

If you are not certain when your child will enter kindergarten, that's okay. Please just let us know what your current plans are. If you have previously contacted us, please do so again so that we can confirm numbers. You can certainly change your mind as your child approaches kindergarten enrollment. If you have questions about determining a kindergarten enrollment date, please feel free to contact the school.

We appreciate everyone's efforts in assisting MIPS with our planning for the future.

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Real estate

Information taken from records filed with the Seward County clerk.

Jan. 4 – 13

Frederick E. Hefner and Ruth N. Hefner to Frederick E. Hefner and Ruth N. Hefner, a tract of land in the NW1/4 7-12-4. DS exempt

Brian Dierberger to Iona M. Dierberger and Brian Dierberger, an undivided 50% interest in Lots 5-6, Block 2, Wright's Third Addition to Utica, and a tract of land in the NW1/4 8-10-2. DS exempt

Iona M. Dierberger to Iona M. Dierberger and Brian Dierberger, S1/2 SW1/4 5-10-2 and an undivided 50% interest in Lots 5-6, Block 2, Wright's Third Addition to Utica. DS exempt

Helen Banzhaf to Sara L. Smith and John E. Smith, Lot 1, Banzhaf Addition in the SE1/4 NW1/4 and the SW1/4 NE1/4 24-11-3. DS exempt

Richard Hobbs and Jacqueline Hobbs to John E. Temple and Suzanne Temple, Lot 16, Block 1, Country Club Heights First Addition to Seward. DS \$708.25

Paul A. Hughes and Elwanda P. Hughes to Paul A. Hughes and Elwanda P. Hughes, a tract of land in the NW1/4 NW1/4 34-11-4. DS exempt

Terry L. Miller and Anita L. Miller to Mark A. Ackerman, Lot 1, Cottonwood Addition in the SE1/4 SW1/4 20-11-3. DS \$479.25

Lucille Wills to Mason S. Mahalek and Logan Mahalek, the grantor's life estate in Lots 9-12, Garland. DS \$2.25

Notxas1, LLC, to Ryan L. Ruether and Amy M. Ruether, SW1/4 NW1/4 3-10-3 and a tract of land in the NE1/4 4-10-3. DS \$299.25

Building Seward, LLC to Underwood Construction Compa-

ny, LLC, Lot 12, Block 2, Fairway Woods Addition to Seward. DS \$126

Meinberg Farms, Inc., to Zachary S. Mink and Kerstin A. Mink, Lot 1, Highland Acres, a subdivision in the E1/2 NW1/4 22-11-2. DS \$180

Gary D. Svoboda and Esther E. Svoboda to Joshua D. Svoboda, Matej-Mike Svoboda and Megan L. Svoboda, a tract of land in the W1/2 SW1/4 SW1/4 8-11-2. DS exempt

RYASTE Properties, LLC, to Garrett A. Stutzman and Amber L. Stutzman, Lot 2 of Jarecki Addition, part of the S1/2 SE1/4 34-11-3. DS \$675

James R. Daws and Lana R. Daws to James R. Daws and Lana R. Daws, Lot A, Administrative Replat of Lots 1-2 and a fraction of Lot 3, Block 2, Hughes Addition to Seward. DS exempt

County court

Information taken from Seward County court records.

Jan. 4 – 8

James K. Fuller, 52, Grand Island, DUI-alcohol second offense, \$500 fine, 10 days jail, 12 months probation, revoked license 18 months and interlock device.

Tahir N. Al Ibrahim, 47, Wilber, driving under suspension before reinstated, \$100 fine.

Joshua W. McKnight, 33, York, possess or use drug paraphernalia, \$100 fine; improper/defective vehicle lighting, \$25 fine.

Rudy Davila Jr., 57, Seward, possess or use drug paraphernalia, \$100 fine; no operator's license waivable, \$75 fine.

Jordan Baxter, 28, Aurora, DUI-alcohol first offense, \$500 fine, six months probation, revoked license 60 days and interlock device.

Derrick L. Pearson, 31, Lincoln, possess or use drug paraphernalia, \$100 fine.

Tyler W. Williams, 23, Milford, no proof of insurance, \$100 fine.

David L. McCray Jr., 30, Lincoln, driving un-

der suspension before reinstated, \$100 fine.

Brianna S. Harter, 29, Blair, DUI-alcohol first offense, \$500 fine, seven days jail, revoked license six months and interlock device.

Edgar J. Alaniz, 28, Seward, dog license required, \$5 fine.

Daniel P. Collins, 20, Goehner, tobacco: possession and use by a minor, \$50 fine.

Mario A. Garcia De Leon, 20, Tobias, minor in possession ages 19-20, six months probation, 50 hours community service; speeding

6-10 mph county/state, \$25 fine, six months probation.

Autumn M. Kouma, 25, Lincoln, driving under suspension when license revoked on points, \$100 fine.

Amber C. Nore, 44, Lincoln, no valid registration – car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine; driving under suspension before reinstated, \$100 fine.

Angelina Keak, 44, Lincoln, driving under suspension before reinstated, \$100 fine.

Obituary

Shirley A. Stauffer

Oct. 24, 1939 – Oct. 24, 1939

Shirley Ann Stauffer was born Oct. 24, 1939, in Milford to Sterling Floyd and Florence Kathleen (Burkey) Hershberger and passed away Jan. 6, 2021, in Lincoln at the age of 81 years, 2 months and 13 days.



Shirley grew up in Milford where she attended school. On Aug. 8, 1956, she was united in marriage to Robert Stauffer at the Milford Mennonite Church and to this union, four children were born.

Shirley was a homemaker and Avon representative for many years. She was a member of Beth-El Mennonite Church where she was a Sunday school teacher and Bible school teacher. She was active as a Stonecroft Women's Bible study leader and opened her home for women's Bible studies. Shirley also enjoyed gardening and flowers. She liked making floral arrangements and her favorite flowers were roses and hybrid lilies.

Shirley is survived by her husband of 64 years, Robert, Seward; children and spouses, Rick and Wanda Stauffer, Lincoln, Mike and Sherry Stauffer, Seward, Kim and Kurt Stuart, Wahoo, and Tami Coffey, Wahoo. Her grandchildren are Brett and Mary Stauffer, Jenna and Jason Richardson, Jared and Lacy Stauffer, Krista and Jon Burhoop, Cari and Josh Schoepf, Tyson and Lacey Wren, Nicole Janak (Nathan), Danielle and Nate Smith, Amber and Bryan Dutcher, Brook Stuart, Jordan and Alex Wambold, Darian Coffey and Tianna Coffey. Her great-grandchildren are Hunter Stauffer, Ellowyn and Cohen Stauffer, Hayden and Brennan Burhoop, Atley and Evyana Schoepf, Briley and Brody Wren, Georgia Frommie, Shalee, Emersyn and Avery Smith, Nora, Hattie and Abraham Dutcher and Mason, Emilia and Theo Wambold.

Shirley is survived by her sister, Sharon and Bill Stutzman; brothers, Ken Hershberger, Steve and Von Hershberger and Jerry and Paula Hershberger; sisters-in-law, Joyce Stutzman, Darlene and Ken Steckley and Glennice Stauffer, along with many relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Sterling and Florence Hershberger; parents-in-law, Sterling and Vieta Stauffer; sister-in-law, Fern Hershberger; and brothers-in-law, Stan Stutzman and Gary Stauffer.

A private graveside service and interment were Jan. 19 at the Seward Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Stauffer family for future designations. Condolences may be left for the family at www.zabkafuneralhome.com.

Notes on Farm Bill election tools

by Jenny Rees
Seward/York counties Extension educator

Jenny's REESources

Winter in-person meetings are 'a go' for this week for this part of the state. Also, the online pesticide training is available for those who would rather not attend in person. It's found at: [https://web.cvent.com/event/4e-fa4d41-c770-4a78-99d7-4c4ea75d45ae/summary](https://web.cvent.com/event/4e-fa4d41-c770-4a78-99d7-4c4ea75d45ae/)



Jenny Rees
Extension educator

Dicamba training will be conducted by the companies, not UNL. Most have an online training option. Some also have live webinars and in-person meetings. Please see each company's info:

Bayer (Xtendimax): <https://www.cvent.com/c/calendar/7829eb5d-ddef-4c2f-ac2c-a67626018e9c>

BASF (Engenia): <https://www.engeniaherbicide.com/training.html>

Syngenta (Tavium): <https://www.syngenta-us.com/herbicides/tavium-application-stewardship>

Farm Bill: Because the tools are the same as in the past, I've updated a blog post (go to the "Farm Bill" category) at jenreesources.com. It shows step-by-step instructions on how to enter data into the Texas A&M and Illinois decision making tools.

Your election this year is for one year only (2021). Some of my data was saved in the Texas A&M tool, so hopefully that's the case for you individually as well. After looking at data, here's

some things that may be helpful for consideration. Yes, we've had good market prices recently. However, remember ARC-CO is based on a five-year Olympic average where the high and low are thrown out. This average is based on 2015-2019 (2020 doesn't come into the picture until the 2022 decision. And, if it's the high, it gets thrown out then... so it may take a couple years of high prices). And, the reality is that PLC corn price of \$3.70 may also not trigger depending on the MYA price.

Another consideration for the 2021 election is county yields for ARC-CO payments (looking at years 2015-2019 where the high and low are thrown out).

Because different weather events hit portions of counties, and because some counties have separate payments for irrigated and non-irrigated acres, it's important to look at your individual county data to make decisions.

If you don't want to use the decision tools from Texas A&M and Illinois, another option is a simple calculation. On my blog, you can click on a link to download a USDA excel spreadsheet which shows data for figuring ARC-CO triggers and payments.

I've hidden the cells for the rest of the U.S. and only have Nebraska shown; once downloaded, you can unhide cells if you want to look at other states. For the calculation:

Take your 2021 County

Guaranteed Revenue for a specific crop and divide that by 2021 County Benchmark Yield for that crop. For example, York County irrigated corn (irrigated and non-irrigated are combined) shows a 2021 Guaranteed Revenue of \$745.35. The 2021 Benchmark Yield (which is an Olympic average yield from 2015-2019) is 234.24. Taking 745.35/234.24=\$3.18. Based on these numbers, an ARC-CO payment would not be triggered for corn in York County unless the price went down to \$3.18.

This is in comparison to PLC in which the trigger is \$3.70 for the corn price. This helps with decision making as it leans towards enrolling in PLC for corn. (Again, no guarantee of a payment even with PLC depending on the MYA price).

You can also try other figures (ex. trying 240 and 220 bu/ac) if you think the trendline yields may be higher or lower than the current estimate to see other potential ARC Co price triggers. You can use this same calculation for other crops such as soybeans, wheat, sorghum, etc. and compare the prices obtained vs. the PLC price for that crop.

The windstorm, fairly widespread in this part of the state, impacted many individual corn yields. I don't know how that compares to average county yields for 2020.

In the past, we had those at some point in February, so it will be interesting to look at this later.

Traffic

Information taken from Seward County court records.

Jan. 4 – 8

Matthew J. Frisbie, 34, Lincoln, speeding 16-20 mph municipal, \$125 fine.

Hunter L. Kitzing, 17, Staplehurst, fail to yield right of way on left turn, \$25 fine.

Jolynn Moesta, 35, Seward, violate stop or yield sign, \$75 fine.

Ramie L. Spencer, 24, Grand Island, no valid

registration – car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine.

Heather D. Monnier, 47, Bradshaw, no valid registration – car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine.

Katherine L. Garland, 48, Lincoln, no valid registration – car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine.

Ramiah H. Stfleur, 26, Omaha, speeding 21-35 mph interstate, \$200 fine.

Ethan W. Roth, 24, Milford, unnecessary noise, \$50 fine.



clean your house

Wear disposable gloves when cleaning and disinfecting surfaces. Gloves should be discarded after each cleaning. If reusable gloves are used, those gloves should be dedicated for cleaning and disinfection of surfaces for COVID-19 and should not be used for other purposes.

To learn more, visit www.cdc.gov.



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The City of Wilber, Nebraska is accepting applications for a part time COMPOST SITE Attendant (6 hours per week). Must be willing to work one 3-hour evening shift and one 3-hour weekend shift during the Spring, Summer and Fall seasons. Applications are available at the City Office. Deadline for application is February 3, 2021. E.O.E.

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Applications at www.sunrisecountrymanor.com/careers.html

Four Corners Health Department, York is seeking applications for a **Full-Time LPN or RN.**

Duties include COVID-19 community response, Care Coordination activities, and Public Health Nursing program support. Experience in managing or administering programs preferred. Current LPN or RN license required.

Call 402-362-2621 with questions or email resume to lauram@fourcorners.ne.gov.



Aramark Facility Services

ARAMARK Facility Services, located at Concordia University in Seward, NE, is seeking applicants for the following positions:

- **Day-Shift Custodians (2 Openings)**
- **Groundskeeper**

Drug screen and background check required. Full-time benefits include 10 paid holidays, optional health/dental insurance, paid vacation and PTO. Applicants can apply at the Concordia University Buildings and Grounds office, 700 East Lincoln Street, Seward, Nebraska, or online at www.aramark.com/careers.

Aramark is an EOE, Minority/Female/Disability/Veteran

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RN/LPN - Nights: Full-time night position, 5 pm - 5 am. Acute Care, ER and OB experience preferred. Flexible scheduling includes every third weekend with holiday rotation. RN/LPN licensure required and ACLS required for RNs only. Position includes night shift retention bonus. -*Memorial Hospital*

Director of Quality Programs: Full-time day position. Candidate is responsible for Quality Programs and Risk Management efforts; in evaluating, trending and communicating information gathered through various tools. A candidate with a minimum of Bachelor Science Degree from an accredited Nursing program preferred, with a minimum of three years related experience. -*Memorial Hospital*

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RN-LPN: PRN (as needed) RN/LPN. Candidate must have excellent customer service skills, able to multitask. May require working at Seward, Milford or Utica Clinics. Previous clinic nursing experience preferred. RN/LPN licensure required. -*Seward Family Medical Clinic*

Please visit our website <http://www.mhcs.us/about-us/employment> for a listing of the Temporary - As Needed (PRN) positions available at Memorial Health Care Systems

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Health Care Systems

HR Dept., 300 N. Columbia Ave.
Seward, NE 68434

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Nice 2 BR apartment in brick 4-plex. All electric. Laundry area available. No smoking. No pets. \$625/mo. Available February 1. 402-641-1374.

3 BEDROOM APARTMENT: 344 S 5th St-Seward with washer/dryer hookups. No Pets. \$700/mo. Call 402-366-9430.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Minutes

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS

Boards of Commissioner Meetings are held each Tuesday morning in the Seward County Courthouse at 9:00 a.m., except for the first Tuesday of each month when meetings will be held at 8:30 a.m. 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 FEBRUARY 16, 2021

The Seward County Board of Equalization convened on January 12, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. Present: Members: Misty Ahmic, Bob Vrbka, Ken Schmieding, Darrell Zabrocki County Clerk: Sherry Schweitzer County Assessor: Marilyn Hladky County Treasurer: Bob Dahms Absent: Member: John Culver Approved Culver as Chairman of the Seward County Board of Equalization.

Approved Vrbka as Vice Chairman of the Seward County Board of Equalization.

Approved the minutes of December 22, 2020.

Approved Tax List Corrections. Approved Vehicle Exemptions, as presented by Bob Dahms, County Treasurer.

Hladky gave an update of her office.

Convened as the Board of Commissioners.

Approved Culver as Chairman of the Seward County Board of Commissioners.

Approved Vrbka as Chairman of the Seward County Board of Commissioners.

In the absence of Chairman Culver, the Committee and Liaison appointments were tentatively set. Approved agreement with Pictometry International Corp. and Seward County for Orthophotography and Digital Oblique Aerial Imagery and Software, as presented by Hladky. Approved Dr. Connie Novak as Coroner's physician.

Approved depositories for Seward County.

Approved Seward County Independent and the Milford Times as the official newspapers of Seward County.

Approved Terry Wicht as Seward County Highway Supt.

Approved Sherry Schweitzer as the Seward County Budget Making Authority.

Set wages for Deputies of Elected Officials.

Approved extension of Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act for Seward County.

Approved minutes of January 5, 2021.

Officials gave updates of their offices. Commissioners gave an update of their activities.

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

Approved Jones Bank to withdraw pledged securities. Accepted the Semi-Annual Settlement of Accounts as submitted by the County Treasurer. Adopted the agenda for January 19, 2021, and adjourned at 10:01 a.m. Sherry Schweitzer, County Clerk SCI/MT — January 20, 2021

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Milford Elementary School P.O. Box C Milford, NE 68405 Monday, January 11, 2021 4:00 PM

Jessica Dunlap: Present Ned Pauley: Present Tony Roth: Present Craig Shaw: Present Jim Stahly: Present David Welsch: Present

1. Milford Public Schools Board of Education Information

1.1. Meeting was advertised in the January 6, 2021, Milford Times
2. Opening Procedures
2.1. Call to Order, Roll Call
2.2. Excuse Absent Board Members (if needed)
2.3. Open Meeting Law
2.4. Additions to Agenda

2.5. Welcome and Introduction of Visitors

2.6. Community Input

3. Consent Agenda Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Jessica Dunlap and a second by Craig Shaw.

Jessica Dunlap: Yea, Ned Pauley: Yea, Tony Roth: Yea, Craig Shaw: Yea, Jim Stahly: Yea, David Welsch: Yea

3.1. Review, Consider, and Take All Necessary Action on Minutes of the December 14, 2020, Meeting

3.2. Review, Consider, and Take All Necessary Action on Payment of Claims

4. Reports
4.1. Administrative Reports Elementary Principal: Mrs. Hartman shared that kids are getting back into the routine of school; there are three new students this semester; Student Council provided games/activities for each classroom; K-Kids met

and created snowflake door hangers for their Senior Center Buddy.

Secondary Principal: Mr. Mowinkel shared individual and team accomplishments. He discussed state wrestling. He pointed out upcoming junior/senior high activities. He thanked Tim Springer for allowing the district to use the Milford Mennonite Church facilities. He discussed the Student Council Winter Assembly.

Director of Learning: Dr. Kubicek discussed the January 4th teacher in-service, the upcoming February 8 in-service, the teacher and administrative team book study, and state assessments.

Superintendent: Mr. Wingard discussed the January 4th in-service. He included NASB's Monthly Update; He thanked Tim Springer and the Milford Mennonite congregation for the use of their facilities for student learning and events. He pointed out upcoming NASB and NRCSA trainings and future meetings.

4.2. Student Enrollment Report By Grade Level

PK is at 37
K-6 is at 423
7-8 is at 126
9-12 is at 222
K-12 is at 771

5 student increase from the December meeting.

4.3. COVID-19 Report Mr. Wingard discussed staff quarantines; activities and NSAA protocols; school rentals; immunizations; COVID expenditures; and county and statewides numbers.

4.4. School Improvement Goal (to be discussed in Item 7.11)

4.5. District/Administrative Priorities (to be discussed in Item 7.11)

4.6. Legislative Update

Mr. Wingard included a NRCSA Legislative Update with information on elections and committee assignments. He discussed Legislative Bill 213.

President Welsch discussed special education reimbursement and property tax credits.

4.7. Discuss State Funding for Public Education President Welsch discussed what is being considered in the legislature for public education funding.

Mr. Wingard discussed the legislative bills that could affect state funding for public education.

5. Board Commentary

6. Unfinished Business

7. New Business

7.1. Review Policy 2002 - Organization of the Board, Board Officers, Check Signing, and Committees

7.2. Review, Consider, and Take All Necessary Action to Elect the Board of Education Officers

Motion to suspend the rules and retain all current officers. Passed

with a motion by Jim Stahly and a second by Jessica Dunlap.

Jessica Dunlap: Yea, Ned Pauley: Yea, Tony Roth: Yea, Craig Shaw: Yea, Jim Stahly: Yea, David Welsch: Yea

7.3. Appointment of Board of Education Committee Members President Welsch appointed the same board members to each committee.

7.4. Review Current Board Member Terms

Mr. Wingard included a report of the current board member terms.

7.5. Review the Following Policies: 2001-Role of the Board of Education, 2005-Conflict of Interest, 2007-Reimbursement and Miscellaneous Expenditures, 2008-Meetings, 2009-Public Participation in Board Meetings, AR: 2009.01 Request to Address the Board Form, 2012-Board Member Code of Ethics, 2014-Relationship with School Attorney, 2016-Participation in Insurance Program by Board Members

The Board reviewed the presented policies.

7.6. Review and Discuss Board's Annual Calendar of Meeting Topics, Annual Notices and Annual Trainings

7.7. Review, Consider, and Take All Necessary Action to Appoint Superintendent Wingard as District Representative for State and Federal Programs

Motion to appoint superintendent Wingard as district representative for state and federal programs

Passed with a motion by Craig Shaw and a second by Tony Roth. Jessica Dunlap: Yea, Ned Pauley: Yea, Tony Roth: Yea, Craig Shaw: Yea, Jim Stahly: Yea, David Welsch: Yea

7.8. Review, Consider, and Take All Necessary Action to Appoint Business Manager Tammy Salyer as Assistant School Board Secretary and Assistant District Treasurer

Motion to appoint Tammy Salyer as Assistant Board Secretary and Assistant Board Treasurer to perform duties as presented. Passed with a motion by Craig Shaw and a second by Jessica Dunlap.

Jessica Dunlap: Yea, Ned Pauley: Yea, Tony Roth: Yea, Craig Shaw: Yea, Jim Stahly: Yea, David Welsch: Yea

7.9. Review, Consider, and Take All Necessary Action to Designate Law Firm(S) That is Authorized to Provide the School District with Legal Counsel

Motion to designate the firm of KSB School Law as the attorneys authorized to provide the school district with legal counsel. Passed with a motion by Jessica Dunlap and a second by Craig Shaw.

Jessica Dunlap: Yea, Ned Pauley: Yea, Tony Roth: Yea, Craig Shaw: Yea, Jim Stahly: Yea, David Welsch: Yea

7.9. Review, Consider, and Take All Necessary Action to Designate Law Firm(S) That is Authorized to Provide the School District with Legal Counsel

Motion to designate the firm of KSB School Law as the attorneys authorized to provide the school district with legal counsel. Passed with a motion by Jessica Dunlap and a second by Craig Shaw.

Jessica Dunlap: Yea, Ned Pauley: Yea, Tony Roth: Yea, Craig Shaw: Yea, Jim Stahly: Yea, David Welsch: Yea

7.9. Review, Consider, and Take All Necessary Action to Designate Law Firm(S) That is Authorized to Provide the School District with Legal Counsel

Motion to designate the firm of KSB School Law as the attorneys authorized to provide the school district with legal counsel. Passed with a motion by Jessica Dunlap and a second by Craig Shaw.

Jessica Dunlap: Yea, Ned Pauley: Yea, Tony Roth: Yea, Craig Shaw: Yea, Jim Stahly: Yea, David Welsch: Yea

Welsch: Yea

7.10. Consider Early Graduation Request for 2021-22 School Year Motion to approve the request for early graduation as presented. Passed with a motion by Craig Shaw and a second by Tony Roth.

Jessica Dunlap: Yea, Ned Pauley: Yea, Tony Roth: Yea, Craig Shaw: Yea, Jim Stahly: Yea, David Welsch: Yea

7.11. Review, Consider, and Take All Necessary Action to Accept the Resignation of Teacher Bobbi Broekemeier Effective at the End of the 2020-21 School Year

Motion to accept the resignation of teacher Bobbi Broekemeier effective at the end of the 2020-21 school year and thank her for her three years of service to Milford Public Schools. Passed with a motion by Craig Shaw and a second by Jim Stahly.

Jessica Dunlap: Yea, Ned Pauley: Yea, Tony Roth: Yea, Craig Shaw: Yea, Jim Stahly: Yea, David Welsch: Yea

7.12. Discuss District Planning Mr. Wingard discussed the district's Four Guiding Questions, district priorities/goals, and the daily activities of the administrative team.

7.13. Review, Consider, and Take All Necessary Action to Set Date for School Board Retreat (if needed)

No action taken.

8. Executive Session

9. Adjourn

President Welsch adjourned the meeting at 6:27 p.m. Tammy Salyer Recording Secretary Kevin Wingard Superintendent

January Expenditures Advanced Office Automation Inc, \$664.74; Amazon Capital Services, \$1,625.87; ASCD, \$59.00; BEST, \$11,336.16; Bishop Business, \$259.00; Bobs Service, \$50.00; Bontrager, Craig L, \$8.00; Casey's General Stores Inc, \$196.21; Central Nebraska Rehabilitation Services, \$143.95; City Of Milford, \$1,289.40; Cornhusker Cleaning Supply, \$8.69; Cornhusker International Trucks Inc, \$1,822.69; Crete Glass, \$3,700.00; DAS State Accounting, \$232.49; Dietze Music House, \$14.84; ECES Inc Campbell Cleaning, \$6,267.66; Educational Service Unit #6, \$41,566.84; Electronic Contracting Co, \$250.00; Farmers Cooperative, \$2,859.34; First National Bank Omaha 7046, \$230.47; First National Bank Omaha 8694, \$0.99; First National Bank Omaha 9746, \$262.61; Glaser Ceramics Inc, \$240.00; HometownLeasing, \$925.56; JR Welding Inc, \$122.84; Jan Meehl, \$1,161.78; Jennifer Nantkes, \$219.32; Johnstone Supply, \$92.69; JW Pepper & Son Inc, \$120.00; Kelly Supply Co, \$273.51; Kidwell, \$3,246.50;

Koehler, Richard J, \$8.00; KSB School Law, PC LLO, \$165.00; Lytle, Lamoin E, \$40.00; Main Street Market, \$15.72; Menards - Lincoln North, \$223.89; Midwest Alarm Services, \$346.26; Midwest Auto Parts Inc - Milford, \$45.96; Milford A/C & Appliance Inc, \$60.00; Mowinkel, Brandon R, \$319.70; NCSA, \$90.00; Nebraska Equipment Inc, \$1,409.92; Nebraska Public Power Dist, \$6,196.86; Rediger Automotive, \$990.04; Renaissance, \$200.00; Robert Popek, \$121.44; Roger L. Wittrock, \$87.17; Sams Club/ GECRB, \$11.98; School Specialty Inc, \$423.87; Seward County Clerk, \$304.10; Seward County Independent, \$78.65; Soester, Cameron J, \$83.95; Sorensen, Ronald, \$48.00; Sparq Data Solutions, \$2,000.00; Sports Express, \$1,000.00; Staples, \$64.16; Stauffer, Daniel J, \$56.00; Stutzman, Bruce J, \$24.00; The Home Depot Pro, \$4,895.85; U.S. Cellular, \$1,279.50; Union Bank & Trust Company, \$26.00; Unite Private Networks, \$559.33; Uribe Refuse Services, \$184.00; Verizon Wireless, \$51.16; Voss Lighting, \$94.80; Walmart Community/ SYNCOB, \$356.21; Windstream, \$1,160.89

Subtotal: \$102,273.56

January Payroll: \$678,133.98

Total January Expenditures: \$780,407.54

MT — January 20, 2021

ZNEZ

Liquor Licenses

CITY OF MILFORD NOTICE RENEWAL OF LIQUOR LICENSES

Pursuant to 53-135.01 liquor license may be automatically renewed for one year from May 1, 2021, for the following retail liquor licenses to wit:

VS Investments Inc., Sheri's Grill & Bar 121 No. State Highway, Milford. Casey's General Stores, Inc. Casey's General Store 403 So. Elm, Milford. Stop N Shop 410 S State Hwy 6, Milford. El-Burrito Mexican Restaurant 749 5th St., Milford

Notice is hereby given that written protests to the issuance of automatic renewal of license may be filed by any resident of the City on or before February 10, 2021, in the office of the City Clerk, that in the event protests are filed by three or more such persons, hearing will be had to determine whether continuation of said license should be allowed.

Jeanne Hoggins City Clerk

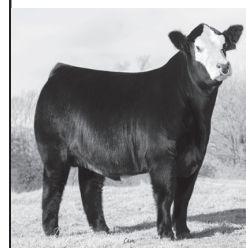
MT — January 20, 2021

ZNEZ

9th Annual Private Treaty Bull Sale

Saturday, January 30, 2021 • Noon • North of Syracuse

Offering yearling calving ease, maternal, and performance Angus, Simmental, and SimAngus yearling bulls.



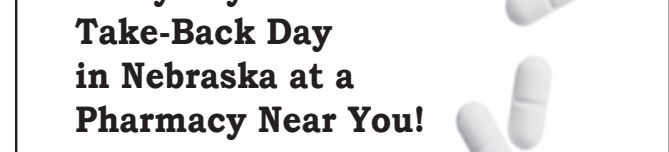
Bulls will be fertility tested, priced and ready to load out on a "first come, first served basis" beginning Saturday January 30, 2021 at noon at the farm North of Syracuse.

If you would like a personal viewing prior to the opening, or after, please give us a call.

Sisco Brothers Cattle Company Todd 402-269-7366 Jason 402-269-7250 Greg 712-269-9102

LZ Farms Todd 402-269-7366 Brian 402-269-7367

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COURTESY PHOTO

Milford wrestling won the Arlington Invitational Jan. 16, the team's fifth team championship of the season.

Eagles bring home fifth team trophy

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

“Our guys continue to get the job done on the mat,” Joe Schluckebier said.

Schluckebier and the Milford wrestling team brought home their fifth tournament title Jan. 16, winning the Arlington Invitational. The tournament featured four of the top 10 teams in Class C, Schluckebier said.

“It was a back and forth battle all day between Milford and Logan View, as I told our guys it would be,” the coach said. “We needed to get every point we could from every wrestler to pull off the win.”

All 13 Eagles earned medals including four champions – Konner Schluckebier, Eli Vondra, Thomas Vance and Lorenzo Temple.

The championship came on the heels of a triangular sweep of York and Cross County/Osceola Jan. 14. Milford beat York 54-25 and CCO 60-12.

“The first marquee matchup of the night



COURTESY PHOTO

Four Milford wrestlers earned individual titles at the Arlington Invitational, from left, Lorenzo Temple, Konner Schluckebier, Eli Vondra and Thomas Vance.

was Konner Schluckebier against Thomas Ivey from York where our state champ took it to the York state medalist by piling up a 13 point lead before pinning Ivey,” the coach said. “Konner is wrestling well and he loves to set the tone for our team.”

The next big battle came when Carter Springer wrestled re-

turning state runner-up and No. 1 ranked Cameron Graham of CCO.

“Carter fell behind early but came back and but Graham on his back and eventually won the match 12-7,” Coach Schluckebier said.

Up next for Milford is a tournament at David City Friday, Jan. 22. Conference is set for Saturday, Jan. 30.

Milford 54, York 25

145: Trent Stauffer (MIL) pin Franklin Musungay (Y) 1:00; 152: Keenan Troyer (MIL) win by forfeit; 160: Kobe Lyons (Y) pin Carter Springer (MIL) 2:27; 170: Christopher Scodris (MIL) pin Seth Erickson (Y) 0:41; 182: Kaden Lyons (Y) def. Thomas Vance (MIL) 16-5; 195: Hunter Oborny (MIL) pin Peyton Albers (Y) 3:26; 220: Morgan Collingham (Y) def. Lorenzo Temple (MIL) 5-4; 285: Kadence Velde (Y) pin Trey Lyon (MIL) 1:22; 106: Konner Kohout (MIL) pin Hudson Holoch (Y) 2:00; 113: Koy Gieck (Y) win by forfeit; 120: Joey Kenning (MIL) pin Jesus Rodriguez (Y) 1:20; 126: Konner Schluckebier (MIL) pin Thomas Ivey (Y) 4:54; 132: Eli Vondra (MIL) pin Dakota Brown (Y) 0:38; 138: Jack Chapman (MIL) pin Kohen Dye (Y) 0:34

Milford 60, Cross County/Osceola 12

160: Springer (MIL) def. Cameron Graham (CCO) 12-7; 170: Scodris (MIL) pin Jakob Hogan (CCO) 2:57; 182: Vance (MIL) pin Ethan Brehm (CCO) 1:29; 195: Ethan Buchli (MIL) pin Conner Jones (CCO) 1:06; 220: Kyle Sterup (CCO) pin Oborny (MIL) 0:57; 285: Temple (MIL) def. Terrance Heyes (CCO) 6-4; 106: Kohout (MIL) pin Tyler Shoup (CCO) 1:17; 113: Double Forfeit; 120: Kenning (MIL) win by forfeit; 126: Schluckebier (MIL) win by forfeit; 132: Vondra (MIL) win by forfeit; 138: Chapman (MIL) pin Dalton Noble (CCO) 0:22; 145: Stauffer (MIL) pin Channer Marsden (CCO) 1:52; 152: Leighton Nuttelman (CCO) win by forfeit

Arlington Invite
Team scores—Milford 247.5, Logan View 226.5, Raymond Central 153.5, Arlington 92, Wilber-Clatonia 91, North Bend Central 76, Boys Town 19, Cedar Bluffs 0
106—Kohout (MIL) pin Sophia Shultz (RC)

3:01; def. by Pedro Hernandez (WC) 7-0; pin Trey Hill (ARL) 0:55, second
120—Kenning (MIL) pin Ethan Norton (NBC) 0:50; def. by Cameron Shultz (RC) 17-2; won by forfeit over Elijah Nacke (RC), third
126—Schluckebier (MIL) pin Justus Weidemann (LV) 1:04; pin Trevor Cooley (ARL) 2:43; def. Mitch Albrecht (RC) 12-3, first
132—Vondra (MIL) pin Zachary Mullally (NBC) 1:01; def. Camden Mueller (LV); def. Chance Foust (LV) 15-0, first
132—Brody Mach (MIL) def. by Brock Skeahan (RC) 11-0; pinned by Chance Foust (LV) 4:58; def. Zachary Mullally (NBC) 6-0
138—Chapman (MIL) pin Tucker Maxson (RC) 5:18; def. by Thomas Lokken (WC) 11-1; pin McKay Bryce (RC) 1:41; pin Tucker Maxson (RC) 1:39, third
138—Cale Burkhardt (MIL) pinned by Thomas Lokken (WC) 1:26; pinned by Tucker Maxson (RC) 1:48
145—Stauffer (MIL) def. Jeremiah Karpov (RC) 18-6; pin Colin Rhynalds (NBC) 1:45; def. by Hunter Gilmore (ARL) 14-5; def. by Colby Homolka (WC) 3-1, fourth
152—Springer (MIL) pin James Kirschenmann (NBC) 0:36; pin Alex Foust (LV) 3:19; def. by Conner Kreikemeier (RC) 4-2; pin James Kirschenmann (NBC) 0:58; pin Zander Baker (WC) 2:22, third
160—Isaac Voboril (MIL) pin Kehinde Frye (BT) 1:29; pin Jacob Purdy (LV) 3:13; pin Lane Vesely (WC) 5:38; def. by Braydon Wobken (LV) 9-1, second
170—Scodris (MIL) def. Gavin Soden (RC) 5-4; pin Gavin Ruwe (LV) 1:14; pin Wyatt Rangeloff (NBC) 0:31; def. by Josh Miller (ARL) 9-0, second
182—Vance (MIL) pin Trinton McDuffee (ARL) 3:24; pin Cade Podany (ARL) 3:01; pin Dylan Silva (LV) 3:08, first
182—Ethan Buchli (MIL) def. by Dylan Silva (LV) 15-2; def. by Logan Jelinek (RC) 12-5; pin Trinton McDuffee (ARL) 3:49
195—Oborny (MIL) pin Jessie Smith (BT) 3:21; pin Colby DenHartog (RC) 1:06; def. by Logan Booth (LV) 9-5, second
220—Temple (MIL) pin Jude Burton (CCO) 0:10; pin JoeSeth McBride (ARL) 2:11; pin Demarius Bosveld (NBC) 1:59; pin Zach McGee (LV) 4:22, first
285—Lyon (MIL) in Fernando Vasquez (WC) 2:17; pinned by Jace Owen (NBC) 0:39; pin Kasen Petch (MIL) 0:52; pinned by Justin Rothwell (RC) 1:03, fourth
285—Kasen Petch (MIL) pinned by Jace Owen (NBC) 0:12; pinned by Fernando Vasquez (WC) 3:48; pinned by Trey Lyon (MIL) 0:52



CRAIG JONES/MT

Playing tight defense is Milford senior Bryce Jakub during the Eagles' Jan. 16 contest with Thayer Central.

Milford stays perfect with two more wins

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
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, 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.

MHS girls fight for 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 0-3 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, Sydney Stelling 0-3 0-0 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

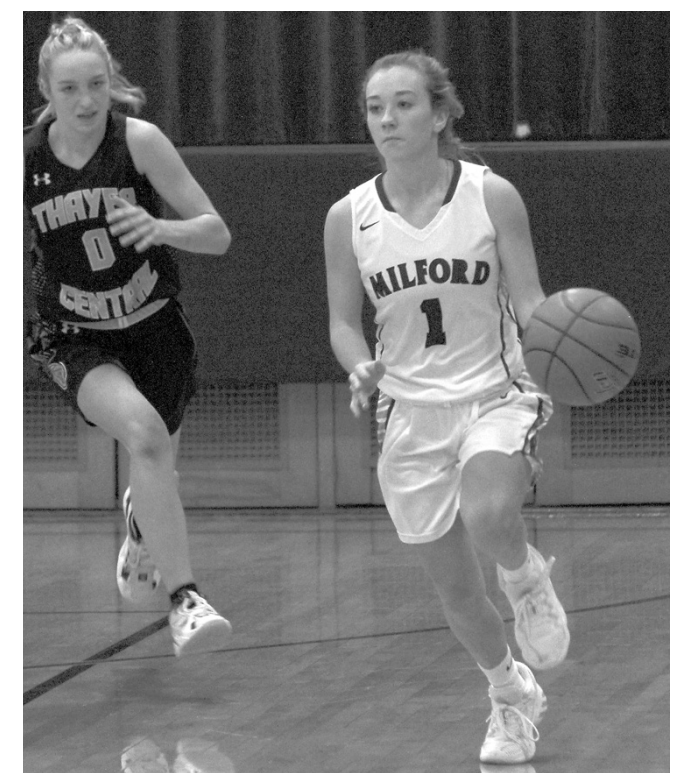
MHS 5 11 6 11 33
RCHS 8 8 4 9 29
MHS—Stutzman 0-5 0-0 0, Kontor 4-15 0-0 10, Kepler 5-11 6-7 20, Alayna Piening 1-1 0-0 3, Klug 0-2 0-0 0, Roth 0-3 0-0 0, Stelling 0-5 0-0 0, Houk 0-1 0-0 0, Mariah Richards 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 10-44 6-7 33.

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 4-23, 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.



CRAIG JONES/MT

Makena Stutzman brings the ball up the court for the Milford Eagles during their game Jan. 16 with Thayer Central.

Bill to assist meat processors, livestock producers introduced

Ag leaders across the state are applauding the introduction of a bill in the Nebraska Legislature that would help local processors expand their capacity, create new markets for small livestock producers, and give consumers more options.

Legislative Bill 324, introduced by Sen. Tom Brandt, District 32, would create the Independent Processor Assistance Program, which provides a road-map for increasing local processing capacity and expanding market access for small producers. It would also make it easier for the consumer to purchase individual packages of meat directly from the producer or processor and allow the producer and consumer more flexibility when deciding where their meat is processed.

Brandt said the bill would provide much needed support for producers, processors and consumers impacted by the coronavirus pandemic.

"In Nebraska, there are limited marketing opportunities for small scale livestock producers," Brandt said. "The herd share program was successfully implemented in Wyoming last year in response to the effects of COVID-19 for the benefit of producers and consumers. This legislation would enable Nebraska consumers to buy high-quality Nebraska meat. When grocery store shelves are empty, this is a

great alternative."

Johnathan Hladik, policy director for the Center for Rural Affairs, thanked Brandt for taking this important step in addressing disruptions to the state's food supply caused by the pandemic.

"Outbreaks have impeded work at many regional packing plants. When these plants pause, large-scale beef and pork producers turn to local processors to fill the void," he said. "This has created a debilitating bottleneck at every local meat locker in the state. They simply do not have the space or equipment to keep up with demand. This has left the family farms in our growing direct sales industry without a crucial partner."

Al Juhnke, executive director of the Nebraska Pork Producers Association, is also appreciative of Brandt's efforts.

"Our farmers are supportive of ways to enhance the capacity of our local meat processors to provide safe products to their community customers," Juhnke said. "Sen. Brandt's bill proposes a creative path to do just this."

Local processors, like Mike Boell, owner of the Oakland Meat Processing Plant, play a fundamental role in a small livestock producer's business plan. Producers sell their product directly to the consumer and view local processors as a

trusted partner. Before this year, a typical producer scheduled locker dates four to six weeks in advance. Now, the wait time is 20 to 24 months. This means reservations must be made more than one year before the animal is even born.

"Like many local processors, we have seen a significant growth in demand for our services," Boell said. "Right now, regulatory and financial barriers are making it difficult for businesses like ours to take full advantage of this opportunity. This bill is a step in the right direction and we think it deserves support from the Legislature."

Al Davis, director of the Independent Cattlemen of Nebraska, said the bill is a winner for both consumers and producers.

"For producers, the bill opens a marketing opportunity to complete the pasture-to-plate chain which will give them the opportunity to retain a much larger share of the retail dollar," he said. "For consumers, the bill permits them to purchase fresh, delicious Nebraska-raised beef often from people they know personally. In addition there is potential for economic development opportunities across Nebraska which wouldn't exist under existing statutory regulations."

A hearing on the bill will be held by the Agriculture Committee.

A wintery, windy William



GREG FORBES/MT

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

Extension webinar looks at Odor Footprint Tool

An upcoming Nebraska Extension webinar will examine recent livestock facility nuisance litigation and look at a tool from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for assessing the odor footprints of these facilities.

The webinar will be presented on Thursday, Jan. 21, from noon to 1 p.m., by Dave Aiken, professor and agricultural law and water law specialist in the university's Department of Agricultural Economics.

In its recent decision in the case of Egan v. County of Lancaster, the Nebraska Supreme Court affirmed the rulings of lower courts that a county zoning permit for three poultry barns was justified, in part, because neighbors of the facility would be "free of

odor 94% of the time." The webinar will explore this decision and the potential role of the Odor Footprint Tool in future livestock nuisance litigation.

The Odor Footprint Tool was developed by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Biological Systems Engineering Department to increase the use of objective, science-based information in decision-making related to livestock odor and setback distances.

The webinar is presented as part of the Agricultural Economics Extension Farm and Ranch Management weekly series.

Registration is free at farm.unl.edu/webinars.

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