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An (almost) perfect 10



STEPHANIE CROSTON/MT

Milford wrestlers celebrate Hunter Oborny's consolation semifinal win at districts Feb. 13. The victory assured Oborny of a spot at state. Pictured are, from left, Isaac Voboril, Christopher Scdoris, Konner Schluckebier, Eli Vondra and Keenan Troyer. Read more about how the Eagles did on page 9.



CRAIG JONES/MT

A digital temperature reading on a downtown Milford electronic sign illustrates the frigid temperatures currently being experienced in this region. Other unofficial readings overnight Monday into Tuesday morning were as much as -20 to -27 with "feels like" temperatures accounting for the wind chill dropping to -40 to -45.

Record lows freeze Milford

In an already unprecedented winter, more winter weather records fell earlier this week.

The National Weather Service of Valley, Neb. reported that Tuesday's low temperature of -25 degrees and Monday's of -6 set records for the lowest temperature and coldest high temperature for the Seward area. The previous record low of -11 was recorded in 1978 and the coldest high temperature mark was previously -1, set in 1936, said meteorologist Hallie Bova.

Monday's frigid temps were the cap on a cold streak that settled into the area earlier in the month. Bova said that the low temperature for a day had not climbed above zero

since Feb. 6.

"We're in an outbreak of arctic air, coming down from Canada and farther north," she said. "It's low pressure that's stuck in place and pulling cold air down for the last week. It's just been sitting there."

Air that cold can create several health and infrastructure hazards. The National Weather Service advises that severe frostbite can occur in as little as 15 minutes with temperatures -15 degrees or colder.

Milford Superintendent Kevin Wingard said that while the school closed for two days this week, last week's ramp up to the historic freeze caused very few problems. He said buses are stored inside overnight and

were not limited due to the cold. With all buildings up to date and adequately heated, he said the buildings, too, have not experienced any issues.

"We have a system set up so it cools down and we don't run the heat as much, but once this forecast came through, we decided to run our heat at a pretty high level to make sure we don't fall behind," he said. "Our buildings are doing pretty well right now."

Last week, Wingard said students were constantly reminded of the hazards these temperatures can pose to the human body. Some students still walked to school in below freezing temps, but he said most

(continued on 3)



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Jon and Bonnie Kruse, co-chairs of Rotary Foundation, and Rotary President Brady Johnson present Jan Matzke with the Paul Harris Award and recognize Charles "Chuck" Matzke for 50 Years in the Seward Rotary Club.

Chuck Matzke honored

"He's the first one in our Rotary Club!" said longtime Rotarian Clark Kolterman when introducing Charles "Chuck" Matzke, at the Rotary luncheon at the Seward Civic Center Feb. 10.

The club honored Matzke for 50 years of continuous membership in the Seward Rotary Club.

"The Seward Rotary Club was established in 1925 and this is the club's 96th year of existence, but we believe, and according to our records, Chuck Matzke has the honor of being the first member in the Seward Rotary Club to achieve the honor of 50 years of continuous membership in our Seward Rotary Club," Kolterman said.

Matzke joined the Seward Rotary Club, nominated and sponsored by his employer, Tom Wake, Jr., when both were working at the Jones Bank in Seward. Matzke joined the Seward Rotary Club on Feb. 1, 1971, and has even more years with the Rotary organization, as he was a Rotarian at his previous employment in Pawnee City, as well.

Matzke and his wife, Jan, moved to Seward in 1970 to work as a loan officer at the Jones Bank in Seward. He

served as the president of the Seward Rotary during the 1978-1979 Rotary Club year and has held almost every office in the organization and served on almost all of the committees.

He has lived the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self" and continues to volunteer and assist with club projects. He is proud to be awarded the Rotary International Paul Harris award.

His most recent Rotary Club passion is the Rotary Club Dictionary Literacy Project, where he and his wife travel county wide, handing out free Webster Dictionaries to area third graders on behalf of Rotary. They usually made special dictionary presentations, but because of the pandemic, the books could only be delivered to the school offices this year.

They have also hosted numerous Rotary International Group Study Exchange members from many countries across the globe and keep in contact with many of them. In 2019, they participated in the Rotary Club Sister City

(continued on 6)



Milford musicians create *colorful music*



Milford High School instrumental instructor Phil Goddard warms up the crowd with a few jokes at the annual ExtravaBANDza Feb. 11.

by Greg Forbes
 editor@sewardindependent.com

The Milford High School jazz and concert bands on Thursday, Feb. 11 presented the annual ExtravaBANDza. The night's theme was "Colors," as the concert band performed works by color-themed bands Deep Purple and Pink Floyd, as well as the anthemic "Purple Rain" by Prince.

The night ended with a performance of High

School Musical's "We're All In This Together" featuring a dance number by the band's seniors.

The jazz band performed three songs, including "Hot Chocolate," "Hip Hug" and a rendition of "My Favorite Things" from "The Sound of Music."

Throughout the night, director Phil Goddard provided jokes that elicited equal parts groans and laughs.



PHOTOS BY GREG FORBES/SCI

The Milford High School Band closed out its annual ExtravaBANDza on Feb. 11 with dance number led by the seniors during a performance of "We're All In This Together" from Disney's "High School Musical."



The Milford High School Jazz Band performed three songs during the Milford ExtravaBANDza Thursday, Feb. 11 at the Milford High School north gym.



A Milford High student makes sure the performance is being captured via Striv. With the audience limited to families of juniors and seniors, the streamed concert was viewable for those at home.

Economize your cover crops

by Jenny Rees
 Seward-York counties Extension educator

This week I found gratitude time and again for a warm home. Thinking of those who haven't been as fortunate.

Have also thought about our livestock producers taking care of animals. In the unfortunate event of livestock losses, please document/take photos in the event of any disaster declarations for livestock indemnity payments.

Crop/Livestock Systems On-Farm Research Study: At last week's cover crop and soil health conference, Ken Herz shared on his family's on-farm research study. I'm so proud of and grateful to the entire Herz family for their partnership in this study and for the focus on the economics of an entire system.

This study was designed with a system's perspective incorporating crops, cattle, cover crops in a way that fit many operations in a non-irrigated setting. Their goals were to increase soil organic matter and ultimately determine yield and economics of the entire system. The crop rotation is wheat (with cover crop planted into stubble after harvest), corn and soybeans.

Cattle graze the cover crop in the winter and also graze the corn residue. No-till wheat prior to corn for increased moisture saving and yield is common in this part of the state as is planting a cover crop into wheat stubble for grazing. The questions I hear include:

1. What moisture and potential yield am I giving up to the successive corn crop if I plant a cover crop into my wheat stubble?

2. If there's a yield loss in the successive corn crop, do the economics of grazing the cover crop offset that loss?

We had three treatments and two loca-

tions (Location 1 had a cool-season cover crop and Location 2 had a warm-season one). The treatments are: ungrazed wheat stubble, ungrazed cover crop and grazed cover crop. We've collected soil property, moisture, nutrient and health data; yield and moisture of each crop; cover crop biomass; grazing days and economics.

Location 1 in Nuckolls County began in 2016 with a cool season cover crop planted after wheat was harvested and manure applied. A three-year analysis showed no difference in soil physical properties (bulk density and compaction) amongst treatments. There was greater total microbial and fungal biomass in the grazed cover crop treatment (indicators of improved soil health). Interestingly, the ungrazed wheat stubble is the most economical treatment at this location.

The reasons includes the cost of hauling water for grazing, numerically higher yields in the ungrazed wheat stubble, variable biomass in cool season cover and a large yield hit to the 2018 soybeans in the grazed cover crop treatment during a dry year. In 2018, to the line there was a stress difference in the soybeans and that treatment read drier via soil moisture sensors. They've been conservative with grazing so at the time we couldn't explain it.

In taking soil health tests in year 3, we realized how greatly the microbial biomass had increased where cattle grazed. Our hypothesis is microbes broke down the remaining residue exposing soil to more evaporative losses resulting in less soil moisture and less yield for soybeans in the grazed treatment during a dry year.

It's now on our radar when grazing occurs to get cattle off even sooner to account for feeding the microbes, too.

Location 2 in Webster County began in 2018 with a warm season cover crop. More than four tons of biomass allowing for 91 grazing days, not hauling water, and no successive crop yield differences all led to the grazed cover crop being the most economical treatment at this location.

Take home points: It's important to add all the components when looking at economics. Grazed cover crop treatment at Location 1 would look better if we didn't include the large cost of hauling water and if there was more cool season biomass allowing for more grazing days. The differing results at the two locations showed the influence of cover crop biomass and importance of including value of grazing; fencing/water/labor costs for livestock; cover crop costs; and successive crop yields in system economics.

It's easy to make assumptions that a certain practice is profitable. Location 1 will hopefully continue another six years switching the cool season cover crop to a warm season one to compare economics on the same field. We're curious if the warm season cover will increase biomass and grazing days enough to outweigh the water hauling costs and show a benefit to the grazed cover crop treatment, or if the ungrazed wheat stubble will remain the most economical for this field location.

Regarding cover crop economics, it could be helpful to determine a consistent way for assessing a dollar value for potential benefits such as aiding in weed and erosion control, nutrient uptake, etc. This may aid conversations with landlords and lenders for those desirous to try them. Without livestock value, currently on paper, there's really only costs.



Socially distanced throughout the bleachers, the Milford High School concert band presented four songs with the theme of "Colors" during its annual ExtravaBANDza Feb. 11 at Milford High School. The color theme incorporated songs by Pink Floyd and Deep Purple as well as the iconic hit "Purple Rain" by Prince.

Stay warm and safe!



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Cold temps

(continued from 1)
were prepared for the cold.
“Our elementary school staff is reminding students to dress warm, wear gloves and hats and our social media posts are reminding other people of that, too,” he said. “Our teachers and nurses do a great job making sure our students are prepared.”
Fortunately, Bova said some of the snow may be on its way out later this

week as warmer weather moves into the area. High temperatures in the mid-30s are expected towards the end of the week. Bova said that the warm up will require a cautious eye on flooding potential, but said the degree of potential issues is yet to be seen.
“We’re not concerned yet but there is a potential as things start to warm up,” she said.

USDA deadlines coming up

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

Deadlines for various producer assistance programs are fast approaching, and local Farm Service Agency chapters are making sure growers are prepared for several vital resources.

Bobbie Kriz-Wickham, Public Affairs and Outreach Coordinator for the USDA-FSA Nebraska State Office, said land owners have three deadlines to consider in the near future. The first, she said, is the Conservation Reserve Program, which allows landowners to take environmentally sensitive land out of production for rental payment.

She said the deadline for the CRP signup is a bit of a question mark this year. While signups began in January and the deadline was originally scheduled for Friday, Feb. 12, the Joe Biden presidential administration has extended the deadline.

Kriz-Wickham said the administration is currently considering changes to the program. Although she said no details are available to FSA offices about what the changes may be or when the new deadline is, submissions can still be made and reconsidered should the design of the program change.

“We don’t know what changes maybe are coming at this time and we hope to have those details soon,” she said. “There’s a lot of work to go ahead and do on the application now, and once we get the details and there are changes made, we can go back in and update that with our customers. It’s up to them (customers) whether they want to move forward or just wait and see.”

She said FSA and the USDA will publicize the new deadline thoroughly once it becomes

available.
The next program to keep in mind, she said, is the Quality Loss Adjustment Program. This provides assistance to producers who suffered crop quality losses due to natural disasters in 2018 and 2019. Kriz-Wickham said the most notable event in that time-frame would have been the significant flooding and excessive moisture in 2019.

“For this program, one of the qualifying things is they had to have a 5% quality loss reflected in quality discount or nutrient loss shown through documentation,” she said. “That means producers have sales sheets or sales contracts with customers that would outline what kind of discounts were imposed due to quality losses.”

She said those who would like to learn more about the program can tune into a webinar through the Nebraska FSA State Office from noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 17, by logging onto https://globalmeetwebinar.webcasts.com/starthere.jsp?ei+1432338&tp_key=649d5d67ba. The link, as well as more information, can also be found at fsa.usda.gov/ne.

The third program Kriz-Wickham highlighted was the annual Agriculture Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage. The commodity safety programs, part of the 2018 Farm Bill, provide a safety net of sorts to producers. She said the enrollment process for that program is March 15.

Those who have not completed it are advised to schedule a meeting with their local FSA offices. An archived video to help with the decision making process can be found at <https://farm.unl.edu/farm-program-and-ag-policy-update-dec-17-2020-webinar>.

Additionally, Kriz-Wickham said she recommended producers begin loan applications for new loans or request for service on existing loans if they have not done so yet.

“We definitely want folks to come in and talk to us about their operations, what they hope to achieve and what help they would like and we see where we can provide a loan,” she said.

Kriz-Wickham said she does encourage all producers to check with their local FSA offices before scheduling a meeting to see how the offices are operating amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Producers who want service should always call first to find the status of the office, and get an appointment,” she said.

She also encouraged producers to frequently visit farmers.gov and fsa.usda.gov/ne for updates and additional resources as they become available.

Commissioners talk CUP

by Hope Moural
hope@sewardindependent.com

The Seward County Board of Commissioners held a public hearing for a conditional use permit for a livestock operation expansion for Wehrs Feed Yard and heard from District 5 Probation’s Carrie Rodriguez during its Feb. 9 meeting.

No one was present to speak for or against the expansion. Wehrs wants to update its waste area and go from 1,000 head of cattle to 2,500.

This, along with a replat to turn 28 parcels into one, located in the Karovan Addition owned by Alyssa Hendrix, were both approved by the board. No one was present to oppose that subdivision.

Rodriguez and Morgan Campbell of District 5 Probation were present to discuss an interlocal agreement for an expansion of problem-solving court into Seward County. Problem-solving court, which operates within county court, deals with substance abuse, mental health cases and more.

According to Rodriguez, all personnel would be provided by York County Court, which has had the program for five years. A monthly fee would be charged to the county, however.

The commissioners approved the agreement, but Rodriguez was to be present at the Feb. 16 meeting to discuss what budget the program gets funded under and how much the monthly charge

will be.
In another matter, Highway Superintendent Terry Wicht was present to set a date for the county’s one- and six-year road plan presentation. March 9 at 10 a.m. was approved and Wicht was allowed to advertise for the hearing at least two weeks in advance.

Wicht also discussed with board members the possible purchase of a trench compactor to help install culverts and keep them from eroding. The board approved the purchase and Wicht will look at rentals.

The next Seward County Board of Commissioners meeting will be Feb. 23 at 9 a.m. on the third floor of the courthouse. The meetings are open to the public.

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Cat video good reminder

by Hope Moural
hope@sewardindependent.com

So a recorded Zoom meeting went viral last week when a lawyer was meeting with a judge via video with a cat filter over his face.

The poor lawyer could not get the filter off and had to go through the meeting looking like a baby cat while using his normal voice and attorney jargon.



Hope Moural
Reporter

If you haven't watched it, go on YouTube right now and get back to this column when you can, I'll wait.

Ok, good? Let's continue. When I saw it, I watched it four times in a row and had to wipe away tears because I was laughing so hard, not so much at the lawyer's expanse but the filter itself.

I mean, it's a kitten with huge eyes but sounds like a man.

Here I go again...give me a minute.

Anyway, when he saw it, editor Greg suggested I write about it for this week and I instantly said yes.

Sometimes I wonder exactly why videos go viral because to be honest, a majority of them I don't understand.

Some of them are mean, dramatic or pointless, in my opinion.

But other times, like this cat one, I get it. This was a serious situation with an adorable mishap and what's not to love about that?

I actually watched an interview with the lawyer shortly after the video gained traction and he was smiling, shrugging and laughing the whole time.

When he was asked questions, he just put his hands up in surrender as if to say, "Your guess is as good as mine."

I think this video, whether you think it's funny or not, is a good reminder to not take life too seriously.

In the current world we live in, we need to keep in mind it's OK to laugh, even if it's at ourselves.

We are made to feel joy, enjoy ourselves and others and all in all, be happy.

Feeling joy is where the best memories are made, and I find myself anyway reminiscing about those moments in life more often than the terrible or dark ones.

Most of the time, they bring a smile to my face just by thinking about them and if you're in the moment, it's even better.

If you've been feeling low lately or the cold weather has been wearing on your mood, I encourage you to do something, find something, say something that makes you laugh.

Maybe it's telling a joke, watching a comedic movie or calling a funny friend.

Find something to make your cheeks hurt and laughter fill the room. I promise you'll feel better almost instantly and that feeling will stay with you for a while.

Now where was I? Oh yeah, cat video.

We asked you:

What's a classic Valentine's Day gift you plan to give this year?

- A card: 0
- Chocolate: 1
- Flowers: 0
- Nothing: 2

Now we want to know:

How do you scoop snow in your driveway?

- Shovel
- Snowblower
- Someone else does it
- Haven't scooped yet

Vote online at milfordtimes.com or on our Facebook page. Results will be published in next week's issue.

Stay warm, safe and healthy!

1st Amendment, U.S. Constitution

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

Working to become #1 state for vets

by Gov. Pete Ricketts

Nebraska is on the path to becoming the best state in the nation for military personnel and veterans.

We've been instituting new policies that benefit military families and veterans and that connect them with leadership opportunities in the workforce.



Gov. Pete Ricketts

We want to encourage the veterans who live here now to stay in Nebraska and contribute their skills to grow our state. We also want to invite others to relocate or retire here.

One of our biggest areas of focus over the past couple of years has been giving our military families access to more job opportunities. For example, we expanded the hiring preference for the State of Nebraska to include spouses of service members.

We revised regulations to allow military spouses to receive a three-year teaching permit in Nebraska with a valid out-of-state license. We also entered into the Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact, which allows nurses to have one multi-state license.

This makes it easier for military spouses to begin work in nursing after moving to our state. This year, I'm working with Senators Rita Sanders and Carol Blood of Bellevue on LB 389 to remove barriers that impede military spouses from being certified to

teach in Nebraska.

We're investing in the health and wellbeing of our veterans. The State has received grant funding from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to design and construct an expansion at the Eastern Nebraska Veterans' Home in Bellevue.

To be eligible for the USVA grant funding, the State was required to match 35% of the project's cost. I included those funds in my 2019 budget, which the Legislature approved. The federal funds are allowing EVNH to add a net total of 24 private assisted-living beds along with space for a brand new Adult Day Health Care program.

These additions will help us better serve and directly care for our state's veterans and their families.

Last year, I worked with the Legislature to pass veterans tax relief. At my request, Senator Tom Brewer of Gordon introduced LB 153 to exempt 50% of military retirement income from state income taxation.

The bill passed without a single vote of opposition, which signifies the great support for veterans here in Nebraska. I signed LB 153 into law in August.

Our work is making a difference. When I testified to the Legislature in support of veterans tax relief early in 2019, all of the states around us were adding military retirees while Nebraska was losing them.

The latest report from the Department of Defense shows that Nebraska's military veteran

retiree population has slightly increased. We've already taken several steps toward our goal of being the best state for veterans, and we're just getting started.

This year, we have an opportunity to finish the work we began on veterans tax relief in 2020. On Jan. 29, I testified in front of the Legislature's Revenue Committee in support of LB 387, which would exempt 100% of military retirement income from state income taxation.

Across the nation, 30 states don't tax military pensions—either because they don't have personal income tax or they have special exemptions for veterans and

military personnel.

This includes five of our six neighbors: Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, South Dakota and Wyoming.

I'm supporting this same tax relief for the nearly 14,000 Nebraskans receiving military retirement benefits, including National Guard and Reserve retirees. We want to be the most appealing place for these civic-minded leaders to reside after retirement.

LB 387 is a priority bill to help build our workforce. Those who have served a full military career and retire in Nebraska add immense value to our businesses and nonprofits. Since many military personnel can retire after

twenty years of service, they often finish their military service in their 40s or 50s.

At this age, they're actively looking to invest their wealth of skills in a second career or as a committed volunteer.

Military servicemen and women are accustomed to moving frequently, as often as every couple of years. The Department of Defense reports that military families move 10 times more often than civilian families.

By the time they complete their military career, the men and women in the military have typically lived in several different communities. They can choose from among

these locations when deciding where to retire. Given their mobility, we need to pursue additional strategies to retain them once they're finished with their careers.

If you have questions about Nebraska's work to support veterans, please email me at pete.ricketts@nebraska.gov or call (402) 471-2244.

This year, the Unicameral has the opportunity to take the next step in delivering tax relief for our veterans who have sacrificed so much.

Please encourage your state senator to stand up for our veterans by supporting LB 387. You can find their contact information at www.nebraskalegislature.gov.



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Matzke

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Exchange at St. Lo, France, bringing the two clubs into Sister Club status.

Matzke also served as the Rotary Chair for the Zambia project of Rotary International, raising funds locally to support the efforts of Rotary in Zambia.

Matzke was born and raised in Seward, attended St. John Lutheran school through third grade and then moved with his family to Lincoln. His family then moved to Hastings and he graduated from Hastings High and began college at Hastings College. He eventually transferred to the University of Nebraska and graduated from UNL.

He is the youngest child of the late, former State Senator Stan Matzke and his wife Pauline, with two older brothers and one sister. He and Jan have three sons, Bill, Tom and Jeff, three daughters-in-law and seven grandchildren. In June, the Matzkes will have been married 57 years.

Matzke was first hired to be a loan officer at Jones Bank, eventually achieving the position of president of the Jones Bank, retiring after 25 years in the position. While at the bank he was a member of the Nebraska Banker's Association and President of the Nebraska Chapter of the American Institute of Banking.

His wife Jan, was a long-time Seward Elementary and Middle School teacher for the School District of Seward and is also retired.

His volunteer efforts do not stop with Rotary, as he has been very involved with a host of community and civic causes over the years of residence in Seward. Matzke was the president of the Seward Chamber of Commerce in 1974, serving on the Cham-

ber of Commerce Board of Directors for decades, as well as the Seward Community Development Corporation Board and being that board's president for many years, helping attract new industry to Seward.

He is proud to point out that he promoted and organized the first Rural Water District in Nebraska in the Greater Pawnee City area, which assisted in eliminating many health issues of the area. He has also served on the local Natural Resources District Board.

The Matzkes were major funding co-chairs of the Seward Memorial Library Building Campaign and responsible for directing several major donors to assist in the development of the funds to build the library facility enjoyed today.

They were also active leaders in the consolidation and development of the new Seward Memorial Health Care Facility and funding co-chairs for the new Memorial Health Care Clinic - instrumental in seeing the facility raise the needed funds.

He served as a member of the Seward Planning Commission for many years and was a member of the Seward City Council for four years from 1986-1990. Matzke currently serves as a member of the Seward Tree Board.

He and his wife enjoy membership in and are past presidents of the Seward Magazine Club and were very active and involved parents with all three sons and their school activities, as well as supporting the summer sports programs and events during their boys' years in the Seward School system.

The Matzkes are long-time members of the Seward United Methodist Church in Seward and have served,

often in leadership positions, such as president of the Administrative Board and Foundation Board and on numerous other boards and committees to assist the church's many missions and projects. He chaired the funding campaign for the Southeast Nebraska Scholarship fund and currently serves as one of the volunteers for the local Seward "Meals-On-Wheels" program.

Matzke served in the Nebraska National Guard in the early 1960's as a member of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, second Battalion, 134th Infantry Regiment as an infantry officer.

He was honorably discharged from the National Guard and he currently serves on the Nebraska National Guard Historical Society Board. The Matzkes have been instrumental in raising over \$550,000 to fund exhibits and projects at the Nebraska National Guard Museum in Seward.

They were recently honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the Nebraska National Guard by Major Gen. Daryl Bohac for the National Guard Association, acknowledging the commitment of the Matzkes to the Nebraska National Guard Museum since 2015.

While the number one hobby now of both Matzkes is to support the many activities of their seven grandchildren, they both also enjoy their hobby and passion to grow beautiful roses in their rose gardens located on the corner of Seward Street and Columbia Avenue and hold membership in the Lincoln Rose Society.

In support of conservation over the years, they have planted hundreds of trees at their farm near Milford. Matzke also enjoys the hobby

of woodworking, with many projects a testimonial to his expertise.

Matzke was honored by the Seward Rotary Club with mementos to commemorate his 50th anniversary of membership with the Seward Rotary Club by the Seward Rotary Club President Brady Johnson. Matzke reminisced over his five decades in Seward Rotary and thanked the Rotary Club members and family present for the anniversary celebration -- stating that "he looked forward to many more years of service to others."

Letters of congratulations were read from Rotary District Governor Roxy Orr and longtime friends of Chuck and Jan who were unable to attend the recognition. Special tributes and salutes were also presented to Chuck and the Rotary from fellow longtime Rotarians Ken Schmieding and Max Wake.

The special day concluded with a commemorative cutting and sharing of his 50th Rotary Membership Anniversary in Seward Rotary Club Celebration cake to all present and a singing of "For He's A Jolly Old Fellow!"

While she has never officially been a member of the Seward Rotary Club, Jan Matzke has worked side by side with her husband Chuck for 57 years and attended local and District Rotary Club meetings and dinners, assisting with many of the projects of the Rotary Club.

For her spirit of loyalty to the Seward Rotary Club and the ideals of Rotary International, Jan Matzke of Seward was surprised with a Paul Harris Award at the Feb. 10 Seward Rotary Club meeting, sponsored by her husband Chuck.

"She has been such a gracious host to many of our international visitors, inviting

many to stay at our home as guests and worked with me on a variety of Rotary Club projects," Chuck Matzke said. "I have been a member of Rotary for over 50 years and she has been working with me on every project that I commit to for the Seward Rotary. She is my sounding board, and I value her opinion and insight. It is only right that she be awarded this high honor in Rotary to thank her and show how much I appreciate and love her."

Seward Rotary Foundation Co-Chairs Jon and Bonnie Kruse made the award presentation Feb. 10 at the luncheon meeting of the Seward Rotary Club at the Civic Center.

"The Paul Harris recognition is one of the top honors of Rotary International, and is named in honor of the Founder of Rotary, Paul Harris," Jon Kruse said. "The award is presented to both Rotarians and non-Rotarians who live the Rotary motto of 'Service Above Self' and have demonstrated the true spirit of Rotary."

"A \$1,000 gift to Rotary International is also made to the Rotary Annual Fund, Polio-Plus Fund or Approved Global Grant projects. The sponsor for Jan's award is her husband Chuck. Jan has indeed served our Rotary Club and Rotary International, as well as the community of Seward and we thank and recognize her today with this honor."

She was awarded a special encased certificate and a special Paul Harris pin presented by her husband Chuck and Jon and Bonnie Kruse.

It should be noted that the Seward Rotary Club has more than 75 Paul Harris Awards who have supported the Rotary Foundation with a \$1,000 investment.

Value Added Producer Grant offered for specialty projects

Applications accepted through March 22

The Value Added Producer Grant program, one of the few U.S. Department of Agriculture grant programs available directly to farmers and ranchers, is now open.

In Nebraska, 35 projects were funded by the program in the past two years. The grants help farmers and ranchers offset costs of developing or expanding their added-value products.

USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for the Value Added program, which offers two types of grants, through March 22.

Planning grants of up to \$75,000 help pay for feasibility studies and business plans that support future financing and business development. Working Capital grants of up to \$250,000 can cover marketing and product development costs. Projects more than \$50,000 require a previous feasibility study and business plan to document viability of the product.

Individual farm businesses, as well as groups of farmers and ranchers, may apply for funds to develop new or existing products. Applicants must own at least 50% of the agricultural commodity being addressed. Matching funds (in-kind and/or cash) of 50% of the project are required.

Registration with USDA as a business is required; this free process is not immediate, so

register early.

A page on the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition website describes the program requirements with examples of eligible products, such as organic or local food crops, renewable energy crops, lightly processed raw commodities, etc. A short video from USDA describes the benefits of the program to a number of farmers and ranchers.

Contact a local USDA Rural Development for application materials and advice on a successful proposal. In Nebraska, reach Brant Richardson at USDA Rural Development at brant.richardson@usda.gov or (402) 437-5568.

Wyatt Fraas at the Center for Rural Affairs also can advise you on your project ideas. Contact him at wyattf@cfra.org or (402) 254-6893.

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Help Wanted

Saline County is accepting applications for a MECHANIC in the Crete Shop. Application forms may be obtained from the office of the Highway Supt., Courthouse, 204 South High, Wilber, Ne. 68465. Applications must be returned no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday March 1st, 2021. For more information call Bruce Filipi at 402-821-2737.

HELP WANTED: The Village of Beaver Crossing is taking applications for **LIFEGUARDS, MANAGER and ASSISTANT MANAGER for 2021.** Applicants must be 15 years or older. Requirements include CPR, First Aid, Lifeguard Certification and Pool Operator. Applications are available in the Clerk's office or call 402-532-3925. Applications must be received by 12 pm on Friday, March 5, 2021.

SALINE COUNTY is accepting applications for **BRIDGE CREW.** Welding experience preferred. Application forms may be obtained from the office of the Highway Supt., Courthouse, 204 South High, Wilber, NE 68465. Applications must be returned no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday, March 1st. For more information call Bruce Filipi at 402-821-2737.


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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 MARCH 2, 2021

The Seward County Board of Equalization convened on February 9, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. Present: Chairperson: John Culver Members: Misty Ahmic, Bob Vrbka, Ken Schmieding, Darrell Zabrocki Deputy County Clerk: Brandy Johnson County Assessor: Marilyn Hladky Approved the minutes of January 12, 2021. Approved vehicle exemption for Memorial Health Care Systems. Hladky gave an update of her office. Convened as the Board of

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commissioners. Approved minutes of February 2, 2021. Terry Wicht, Highway Supt., gave an update of his department. Commissioners gave an update of their activities. Approved Jones Bank to withdraw pledged securities. Approved Cattle Bank to pledge additional securities. Accepted January 2021 Fee Reports for Clerk of the District Court and County Clerk. Held public hearing and approved conditional use permit for a livestock feeding operation in N precinct, as presented by Becky Paulsen, Zoning Administrator. Approved short form plat in J precinct. Approve an Interlocal Agreement for Problem Solving Court Expansion into Seward County, as presented by Carrie Rodriguez and Morgan Campbell, District 5 Probation. Approved authorization for Highway Supt. to advertise the 1 & 6 Year Road Plan Presentation. Approved Highway Supt. to purchase a used Trench Compactor for Road Dept. Adopted the agenda for February 16, 2021, and adjourned at 10:34 a.m. Brandy Johnson Deputy County Clerk SCI/MT — February 17, 2021 ZNEZ

Hearings

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on the proposed One and Six Year Seward County Highway Department Program in the County Commissioner's Room in the Seward County Courthouse, Seward, Nebraska, on March 9, 2021, at 10:00 A.M. The purpose of this Public Hearing is to generate public opinion and comment in regard to the One and Six Year Program.

Terry Wicht
Seward County
Highway Superintendent
SCI/MT — February 17, 24, 2021

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Pleasant Dale, Nebraska, will hold a public hearing on Thursday, February 25, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. for consideration of a Class C Liquor License for 202 Ash Street, P Dale Pub. The hearing will be held in the Pleasant Dale Community Hall, 110 Ash Street, Pleasant Dale, Nebraska. VILLAGE OF PLEASANT DALE, Nebraska Amber Karel, Its Clerk MT — February 17, 2021 ZNEZ

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Milford will send 10 wrestlers to compete at the Class C state tournament Friday and Saturday, Feb. 19 and 20, in Omaha. Pictured are, from left: (front row) Coach Joe Schluckebier, Eli Vondra, Conner Kohout, Trent Stauffer, Konner Schluckebier, Hunter Oborny, Carter Springer, Christopher Scodris and Coach Barry Erb; and (back row) Coach Jonah Peterson, Thomas Vance, Lorenzo Temple, Jack Chapman and Coach Ken Burkhardt Jr. District match results and first-round pairings are on page 8.

Ten to wrestle for Milford at state

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

Ten. The number of perfection. Two full hands. Two basketball teams. One more than a baseball team. The number of state wrestling qualifiers from Milford. Ten. The terrific 10, as Coach Joe Schluckebier calls them. The Eagles will send 10 wrestlers to the state tournament Friday and Saturday, Feb. 19 and 20. Matches for Class C start at 5 p.m. Friday. "It was exciting for us," Schluckebier said. "It all worked out really good."

The day started with Conner Kohout winning the 106-pound championship. "He's been doing a remarkable job getting us going," Schluckebier said. "He was the No. 1 seed. As a freshman, he's managed the pressure. He was able to get in and get the job done."

Schluckebier said Kohout (36-10) is serious about his craft and is the hardest working wrestler in the wrestling room. Up next was Konner Schluckebier, another top seed, this time at 126 pounds. He had beaten Zach Zitek, his finals opponent, the week before at subdistricts, and Coach Schluckebier said they knew it would be a tighter match this week. Konner got the 5-3 win for his third district title.

The victory also marked his 175th career win, which is a school record.

"He controlled the match," the coach said. "Guys are trying to slow Konner down, and he's getting better at adapting to a slower pace."

The senior (44-2) has his sights set on a second state title, Coach Schluckebier said. "It doesn't matter the draw. His goal is to beat everyone," he said.

Eli Vondra took the mat next at 132 pounds. He also met a familiar foe in the final — Ryan Payne of Centennial. The two have wrestled five times, and Vondra has gotten the best of the match each time.

Vondra (42-2) got the win 14-6 for a district championship.

The weight class had five ranked wrestlers in it, so the competition was tough, Coach Schluckebier said.

"We had the best guy there," the coach said. "He manages matches well."



STEPHANIE CROSTON/MT

Eli Vondra of Milford holds on against Ryan Payne of Centennial in the district final at 132 pounds.

Christopher Scodris (41-7) at 170 pounds has had an outstanding season, Coach Schluckebier said. The junior earned a spot in the 170-pound championship match but lost to Jaxson Jones of Twin River 9-4. This will be Scodris's first trip to state.

"He's had a heck of a year," the coach said. "He's found a new love for the sport and is making his own path."

Thomas Vance at 182 pounds earned runner-up, as well, losing by pin to Michael Andel of Aquinas.

"He got the job done," Coach Schluckebier said. "He can beat just about anybody. He's got a motor that keeps on running."

The junior (36-15) will make his first trip to state, as well. The coach said he's come a long way since he started wrestling in seventh grade.

Milford had three wrestlers earn third place in the district — Trent Stauffer at 145, Carter Springer at 152 and Hunter Oborny at 195.

Stauffer earned his 100th career win in the consolation semifinals, also known as the heartbreak round where if you lose, your season is over.

The senior (37-13) has been fighting injuries throughout his career and tends to hold back on the mat, Coach Schluckebier said.

"In practice, I could see that he was not to be deterred," the coach said. "His goal is a medal, and he's right on the edge of it."

Springer is also dealing with an injury but has powered through, Coach

Schluckebier said. While he's not as mobile as he'd like to be, he still wrestled well. Springer (40-7) pinned his opponent in the heartbreak round and got the win in the consolation final for third.

Oborny's heartbreak round match "blew the roof off Centennial," Coach Schluckebier said.

The freshman wrestled Reilly Miller of Aquinas, who he had beaten in the last second at subdistricts last week.

Oborny did it again Feb. 13, winning 5-3 on a last-second takedown.

Coach Schluckebier said Oborny (39-10) is set up to be a freshman medalist at 195 pounds.

"He's been on national teams. This is nothing new to him," he said.

His 39 wins are more than any freshman in Milford history.



STEPHANIE CROSTON/MT

Konner Schluckebier of Milford peels away the hold of Zach Zitek of Aquinas during the championship match at 126 pounds Feb. 13.

Jack Chapman (138) and Lorenzo Temple (220) finished fourth.

Chapman lost in the heartbreak round last year, and Coach Schluckebier said he wasn't going to let that happen again.

"He's wrestled better every week," he said.

Chapman (38-12) lost to Jarrett Dodson of Centennial in the third-place match.

"We knew he'd be tough. He caught us early and we couldn't regroup," the coach said.

Temple is still relatively new to the sport, starting wrestling as a sophomore. Now a senior, he'll be able to finish his career at state.

"For him, it's great for his confidence," Coach Schluckebier said. "It's an experience he'll never forget."

Temple is 34-13 on the season.

Joey Kenning and Isaac Voboril also qualified for districts but finished out of the medals.

"Joey fell a little short. He's battled injury and finding a spot," Coach Schluckebier said. "He scores points for us every tournament."

Voboril, who is a senior this year, did a good job filling his spot in the lineup, Coach Schluckebier said.

"He's a good leader and good all-around kid," he said. "We knew that would be a super-tough class."

Schluckebier was also named the district coach of the year.

"It's nice to be recognized. A lot is the fans and support," he said. "It's part of what we're trying to do here. It's what I dreamed of."

He said Milford fans had booked 42 hotel rooms for state.

"It's a tribute to the kids," he said.

And when Centennial was having trouble with Striv during the district tournament?

"I said it's no problem for us. Everyone from Milford is here," Coach Schluckebier said with a grin.



STEPHANIE CROSTON/MT

Conner Kohout of Milford takes a shot against Grady Romshek of Aquinas during the 106-pound district final Feb. 13.

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Wrestlers below listed followed by weight and place finish in district tournament

Milford Eagles • 2021 District C-3 Team Runner-Up



Stephanie Croston

Front row, left to right: Conner Kohout, 106, district champion; Eli Vondra, 132, district champion; Konner Schluckebier, 126, district champion; Hunter Oborny, 195, third; Carter Springer, 152, third
 Back row: Thomas Vance, 182, second; Lorenzo Temple, 220, fourth; Christopher Scodris, 170, second; Trent Stauffer, 145, third; Jack Chapman, 138, fourth

2021 NSAA State Wrestling Championships February 19 & 20

CHI Health Center Arena • 455 N. 10th St. • Omaha, NE

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 (Class A & D matches are February 16 & 17 • Class B & C matches are February 19 & 20)

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