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Outages miss Milford

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

Uncertainty yielded to relief as the City of Milford dodged scheduled power outages amid last week's subzero temperatures.

The City of Milford on Monday and Tuesday sent out notices that the Norris Public Power District (NPPD), which provides power to six counties, including Milford, would begin rolling blackouts across its coverage area to lessen the energy load. NPPD is a member of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP), which is a combined group of power generating utilities in the central United States. SPP advised its utilities Monday, including NPPD, that it is under an Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) due to the amount of electricity being used across its region due to the widespread extreme cold.

Under the EEA, SPP informed its utilities rolling blackouts may be necessary in portions of their coverage areas to "shed load" should the EEA reach Level 3 of its three level alert system. Outages were estimated to be 30 to 45 minutes or up to an hour in some areas.

The EEA did reach Level 3 on Monday and Tuesday and the NPPD that the SPP would begin rolling blackouts in the area. According to updates posted on NPPD's Facebook page throughout the day on Tuesday, outages occurred in multiple areas of the district, including Utica, Dewitt and Clatonia. The SPP eventually ended the EEA on the morning of Thursday, Feb. 18, eliminating the need for rolling black-

outs but advised that it would still operate in conservative operations until 10 p.m. Feb. 20.

While the potential for rolling blackouts existed throughout the week in the NPPD, Milford avoided outages.

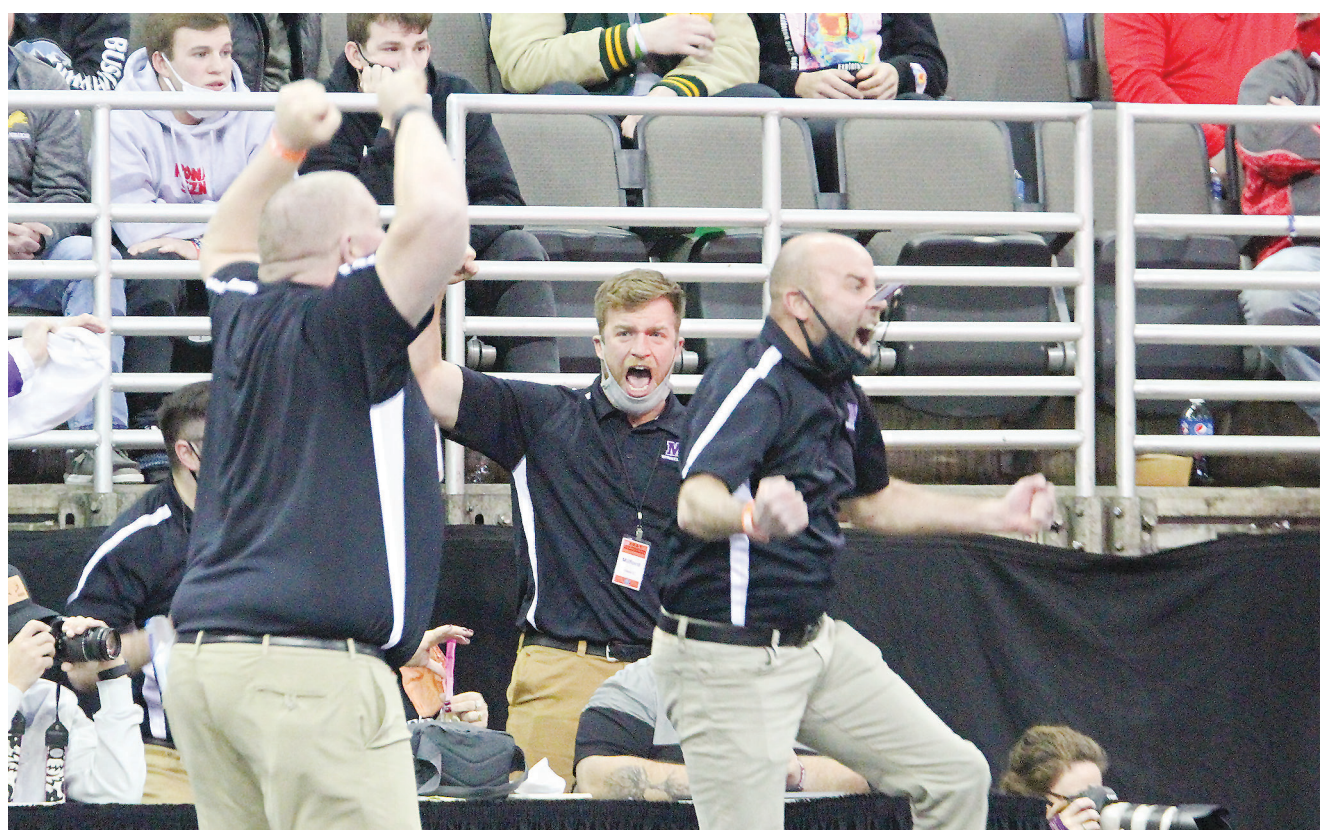
Jeanne Hoggins, Milford City Clerk, said the city worked as diligently as possible to inform its citizens through social media and links to NPPD's website of the possibility of outages. She said city crews worked to make sure the city's generator was operational and that wells remained running throughout Monday and Tuesday. The fire department, schools and other community organizations were also alerted of the possibility.

"We were very well informed," she said. "I was receiving emails several times during the day as far as what the levels were at. They were keeping me very well apprised of what was going on."

She said once the level decreased back to one and the risk of outages dissipated, the community breathed a sigh of relief. She said some areas, mainly the mobile home park, had residences with frozen pipes. Those complications would only be worsened by a power outage.

"It was huge that we were fortunate enough not to lose electricity because there were already individuals in the community that had pipes frozen," she said. "With power, they had ways to thaw those out but if we didn't have electricity, it would have been traumatic for those people."

Eagles earn top 10 finish



STEPHANIE CROSTON/MT

Milford coaches, from left, Barry Erb, Ken Burkhardt Jr. and Joe Schluckebier celebrate Konner Schluckebier's semifinal victory Feb. 20. Milford finished seventh as a team at the Nebraska High School Wrestling State Tournament. For recaps and results from the tournament, see page 7.

Milford to host first Neb. WinShape camp

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

For the first time ever, Nebraska will host the nationwide faith-based WinShape Camp and the City of Milford has been tabbed for the honors.

Stephanie Roth, marketing coordinator for the Milford event, said the camp will be at the Milford High School on Aug. 2 through Aug. 6, 2021. WinShape is described as a "next-level summer camp experience for kids to have fun while growing in their faith."

Roth said the camp, open for students who have finished kindergarten through eighth

grade, includes a mix of indoor and outdoor activities that children will rotate through each day. Skill building activities and exercises include basketball, inflatables, a free play session, net games and yard games outdoors as well as crafts, painting, construction, a culinary activities and whacky science inside.

"They'll get a little taste of everything," Roth said.

At the end of the camp, children and their families are typically treated to a family day. The Milford camp has partnered with the Lincoln Chick-fil-A to bring a meal and a day of fun to all involved.

Roth noted that the Chick-fil-A connection comes from Chick-fil-A founder S. Truett Cathy, who established WinShape Camps in 1985.

The opportunity for Milford to host the camp, she said, is a unique one made possible by collaborating with the school. Roth said the size of the camp required a large venue and the high school campus more than satisfied those needs.

The venue needed to be large because the camp extends far beyond the typical summer camp.

"It's a pretty big production that rolls into town," she said. "They have two semis packed

up with everything to transform it to a next level camp experience. They are so next level, so high energy and so positive.

Along with the production comes 28 "camp counselors" that bring with them the heart of the mission of WinShape camps.

"They are the best and brightest kids you have ever seen," said Roth, who has worked with WinShapes to come to Milford for nearly three years. "There are about 3,000 applicants for a pool of about 30 selected."

Roth said the excitement and experiences

(continued on page 2)

Time for Milford to melt



CRAIG JONES/MT

Icicles typically form on days when the outdoor air temperature is below freezing but sunshine warms and melts snow or ice, as it happened Sunday, Feb. 21, in Milford. The weather moderated after the area experienced sub-zero temperatures the previous week. Highs in the 40s on Tuesday made sure that the build up from winter's bounty melted even more. Expected temperatures approaching 60 degrees this weekend may eliminate much of what the cold and snow have left behind.

Vaccine efforts paused due to cold

Last week's deep freeze paused vaccination efforts in the Four Corners Health Department area.

During the biweekly Four Corners briefing Thursday, Feb. 18, Executive Director Laura McDougall said that the health department did not receive its weekly allotment of COVID-19 vaccinations due to the severe weather conditions experienced through much of last week. The region for the past few weeks has received 800 doses per week, which are then divided between the four counties.

"The big news for us this week is we received no new vaccine due to the weather and some problems with the distribution centers," she said. "We have not received our 800 we were supposed to this week... and we're not sure when it's coming."

Additionally, McDougall said weekly allocations have been cut from 800 to 700 going forward. The Four Corners region is expected to receive 700 doses at some point this week but McDougall said she is unsure when the missed allocation from last week will be made up.

Regardless of how much is received next week, McDougall said medical professionals who distribute the vaccine are eagerly awaiting its arrival.

"Hope and pray with us that we get our allocations next week because we cannot start vaccinating again until we get our allocations," she said.

Despite the delay in delivery, McDougall said vaccination

(continued on page 2)



MCHS

(continued from 1) efforts in the region have been successful. So far, 4,505 first dose and 2,188 second dose vaccinations have been given. Nearly 2,100 vaccinations have been distributed to long-term care facilities in the region. Seward County, as of Feb. 19, sat at 1,208 vaccinations.

McDougall estimated that 90% of the vaccine is given to individuals 65 years of age and older. Ten percent of the weekly allocation is set aside for critical infrastructure workers. She said the hope is to finish vaccinating first responders and utility workers this week and begin on educators.

Mallory Gibreal, Director of Community Relations for Memorial

Healthcare Systems, during the briefing said that the hospital is continuing to hold weekly vaccination clinics. Last week, she said MCHS had its biggest clinic, with 260 first doses and 80 second doses administered. She said should the allotment allow, an MCHS clinic could vaccinate 600 people.

As vaccination efforts in the county rise and safety protocols remain in place, cases continue to fall. McDougall said that the region in the last 14 days (from Feb. 18) had 142 cases. Seward County had 36 of those cases in the 14-day window.

“That’s really an improvement,” she said. “That’s a much better place than where we’ve been.”

WinShapes

(continued from 1) surrounding WinShapes can only be stated in so many words. Children who have the desire to grow spiritually and gain new friends while participating in a slew of new activities are encouraged to see the camp for themselves.

Due to COVID-19-related restrictions, however, Roth said the camp will be limited to 270 children at the most. She said the camp will stick to safety protocols regarding social distancing, sanitation and face coverings depending on requirements observed in August.

Registration is available on March 1, beginning at 9 a.m. at the WinShape camp website, camps.winshape.org. Registration is first come first serve.

Typically, the cost of the camp is \$219 but thanks to a collective do-

nation of nearly \$30,000 between churches, individuals and businesses, the cost per child is \$50 for the first 175 registered then \$100 for the next 176 to 225 children to register. Families who want their children to attend the camp but need additional assistance can fill out a financial aid form located at Milford churches.

“That’s just unheard of for the town to pull together and do something like this,” she said.

While the camp came together because of generous support, she said more is needed in the form of volunteers to make sure the camp is one to remember. She said the camp is looking to recruit 27 volunteers from the community to assist each day. Interested volunteers can contact Tracy Lichty 319-at 759-0847 or at winshape-camps.org.

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The Milford High School dance team had a strong showing at the Nebraska High School State Cheer and Dance competition at Grand Island last week, placing fifth in high kick and 11th in poms.



The Milford High School dance team took 11th place when competing at the Nebraska State Dance and Cheer competition in Grand Island this past weekend.



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THE MILFORD Times

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Husker trades football for military service

by Gerald D. "Jerry" Meyer
NENG Historian

When the Nebraska National Guard was called up for one year of federal service on Dec. 23, 1940, a young member of Company G, Second Battalion, 134th Infantry Regiment was faced with an issue.

Private First Class Robert Bonahoom was a student at the University of Nebraska and on the football team scheduled to play Stanford on New Years' Day (1941) in Pasadena, California, for the Huskers.

A friend of his from Hastings, Francis Greenleaf, was also on the team and would not be able to attend the game due to the call-up. The war would cause them drop out of school and playing football to become leaders of soldiers on far away battlefields.

The 134th Infantry Regiment reported to Camp Robinson, Arkansas, on Jan. 8, 1941, to begin training. The unit was made up of Nebraska National Guard companies from around the state. They would participate in the largest pre-war exercise known as the Louisiana Maneuvers in August of 1941.

The unit was preparing for release from federal service when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941. This caused the unit's orders to be rescinded and issued for the "duration" (until



COURTESY PHOTO

Private First Class Robert Bonahoom was a member of the 1940 Rose Bowl Husker football team. He was joined by fellow Hastings native, Francis Greenleaf. Bonahoom later attended Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as a lieutenant and assigned to a unit in the South Pacific during World War II. He was one of the highest awarded soldiers from Nebraska for his actions on New Georgia on July 14, 1943.

hostilities ceased).

Just before Christmas, the units were ordered to the West Coast (California) to provide protection from a possible Japanese invasion force.

While in California, one of the battalions was released on a secret mission to the Aleutians to fight the Japanese (they were known as the "Lost Battalion" and did not return to the regiment during the war).

Some of the members of the regiment were pulled to service outside of the units such as Seward's "Buzzy" Hermann who volunteered for the 101st Airborne (would later jump on D-Day and Operation Market Garden) and Robert Bonahoom who was selected to attend Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, to become a

"First Lieutenant Bonahoom's intrepid actions, personal bravery and zealous devotion to duty at the cost of his life, exemplify the highest traditions of the military forces of the United States and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, and the United States Army."

commissioned officers (Second Lieutenant of the Infantry).

As the regiment started to come to full strength, many were pulled to other units and served outside of the 134th Infantry Regiment.

Lt. Robert Bonahoom (formerly of Company G - Hastings) was assigned to the 172nd Infantry

Regiment of the 42nd Division ("Rainbow" Division) that spearheaded the Island Hopping Strategy in the South Pacific. He was awarded posthumously the nation's second highest award below the Medal of Honor.

In July, 1943, he led his platoon of infantry onto the beachhead of Lainana on the island of New Georgia. As the forces were attempting to breakout of the beach-

head, Bonahoom led his forces against dug-in Japanese positions.

His sacrifice and bravery saw him being awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (posthumously). His body was re-interred back to Parkview Cemetery in Hastings following the end of the war in 1945. Following is the general order for his award:

Headquarters, U.S. Army Forces in the South Pacific Area, General Orders No. 353 (1944):

"The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress July 9, 1918, takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to First Lieutenant (Infantry) Robert G. Bonahoom (ASN: 0-1291223), United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy, in action against enemy forces during the fierce fighting to widen the beachhead on 14 July 1943.

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Background offered on retirement system

by Sen. Mark Kolterman
District 24

As you may know, I have served on the Retirement Committee for six years and have served as chair of the committee for five.



Sen. Mark Kolterman

Since I have been with the committee, I have been working with OPS on various issues related to the investments and management of the Omaha School Employees Retirement System or OSERS for short. Before going into the legislation I introduced on OSERS this year, I want to give you some background on the work the retirement committee has done on the OSERS retirement system.

In 2016, at the request of OPS, we passed legislation to move the investment authority of the OSERS retirement assets to the Nebraska Investment Council – which also invests all the state-administered retirement system assets.

As part of that legis-

lation, the governance of the OSERS plan was shifted from the OPS board of education to the OSERS Board of Trustees.

In 2019, OPS expressed interest in exploring transferring the management of the OSERS plan to the Public Employees Retirement Board, which already administers six retirement systems for the state. I introduced legislation for the PERB to produce a work plan, which was completed in June of last year.

It examined management transfer tasks, projected a three-year timeline for the transition to occur and estimated transfer costs which ranged from \$3.8 million to \$6.1 million, with the most likely cost tagged at \$4.2 million.

The OPS Board of Education reviewed the work plan and last August voted to move forward with the management transfer, with the understanding that OPS is solely responsible for all transfer costs and that OPS would continue to retain all financial obligation and liability for the OSERS plan.

I agreed to introduce

legislation to move forward with the understanding that the state will not assume any liability for any costs related to this plan, nor will it assume the near \$1 billion unfunded liability for the OSERS plan. I also made it clear that the management transfer is not a merger of the OSERS plan with the school retirement plan – they remain separate retirement systems.

On Tuesday, Feb. 23, the retirement committee will hold hearings on a package of bills I have introduced to carry out the transfer of OSERS management to the PERB. Here is a summary of the bills.

LB144 was introduced as merely a placeholder bill. Under our legislative rules, retirement bills can only be introduced in the 90-day session, so this bill will carry over until next session and serve as a vehicle for any follow-up legislation needed on the management transfer.

Since the Work Plan was completed last summer, additional study and tasks have been identified that need to be completed before the transfer occurs. LB145

requires an IRS Legal Compliance Audit to be conducted in 2021 to determine if the plan is in compliance with all IRS requirements.

Any audit issues identified in the compliance audit that require statutory changes will be amended into the placeholder bill and taken up in the 2022 session.

It also requires the state auditor to begin auditing the OSERS plan in 2022 to examine any operational issues that may need to be addressed prior to the transfer, and requires the PERB to continue to advise the retirement committee of any additional issues that need to be addressed prior to management transfer.

In order to accommodate these additional examinations and year to ensure compliance audit and operational issues can be resolved, the date of transfer will be delayed one year until Sept. 1, 2024.

LB146 allows school retirees and school employees who have terminated employment with any school district in the state, including Omaha, to provide substitute service eight days

in every calendar month during the six months following termination or retirement. This new policy makes it possible for former teachers to sub more frequently during this six-month time period, which will help address the tremendous need for substitutes teachers in all school districts throughout the state.

LB147 is the main management transfer bill that makes necessary changes for a transfer to occur on Sept. 1, 2024. It clarifies that this is not a merger of the Class V plan with the school plan and contains extensive liability provisions to ensure that the OPS Board of Education retains all financial responsibilities and obligations for the Class V plan and indemnifies and holds harmless the State of Nebraska, the PERB and the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System from any financial responsibility or funding obligations of the Class V retirement system.

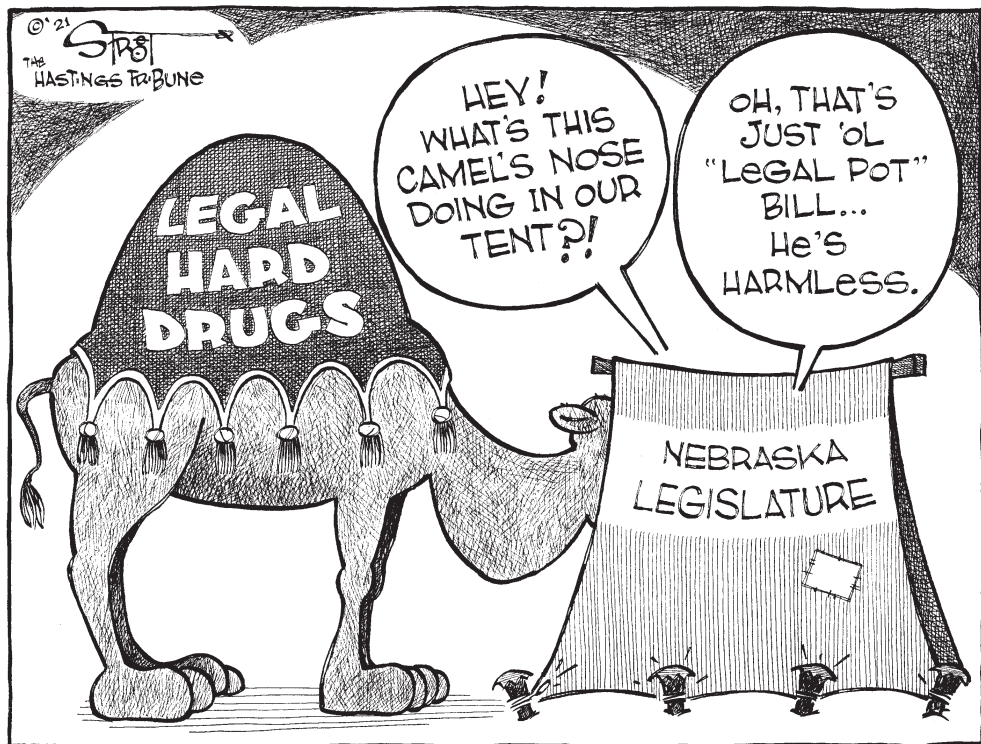
The fifth bill in the package is LB582, which once again places authority to administer the OSERS plan with

the OPS Board of Education and grants the OPS Board of Education the authority to appoint a new board of trustees.

It also adds a duty to the board of trustees to facilitate the transition and transfer of the management to the PERB effective Sept. 1, 2024. Placing administrative authority with the OPS board of education who is seeking this transfer will ensure a smoother transition.

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

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



Letter to the editor

Looking for information

My name is Nancy Terrill-Amundson and I live in Fairbury, Nebraska. My late father was Dean Terrill, and he was a reporter for the Lincoln Journal and Star newspapers for 30 years and he covered most of Southeast Nebraska. He retired from the paper in 1988 and was well known for his human-interest stories that brought recognition to people or families among others that normally you wouldn't have known about. And at the same time, he took and developed his own black and white pictures of which, so often told the story in itself as he was able to capture the essence of the story in his photography.

With that being said, I have started going through boxes and boxes of his stories and photographs. I have started to compile these stories and pictures into what I plan on being a book chronically his years as a photojournalist as he covered Southeast Nebraska.

This is quite an undertaking in itself, which is why I would like to ask your readers if they or their family members and or friends/acquaintanc-

es have any stories and pictures that my dad may have done on them or the town from roughly 1958 to 1988. And if they do, I would be thrilled to be able to get a copy of the story and picture that accompanied it. In addition, if they could supply any additional information that may be of interest to go with the story, I'd love to know that too.

Examples of what I mean could be what happened to the person or persons, a family story or event that was in part due to the story, if the person is still living or when the person passed away or the persons reaction to the story. And I'd also like to know the town or location and the approximate date the story was published and anything the story subject(s) may remember about my dad.

Persons that have anything that they can share with me, can send it to me via e-mail at nanam62@diodecom.net or mailed to me at 56425 708th Road Fairbury, NE 68352. A voice message can be left at (402)-587-1115 and I will return the call.

Thank you in advance for any information that your readers may be able to share with me.

Nancy Terrill-Amundson
Fairbury

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THE MILFORD Times

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Senior Eagles honored at last game



CRAIG JONES/MT

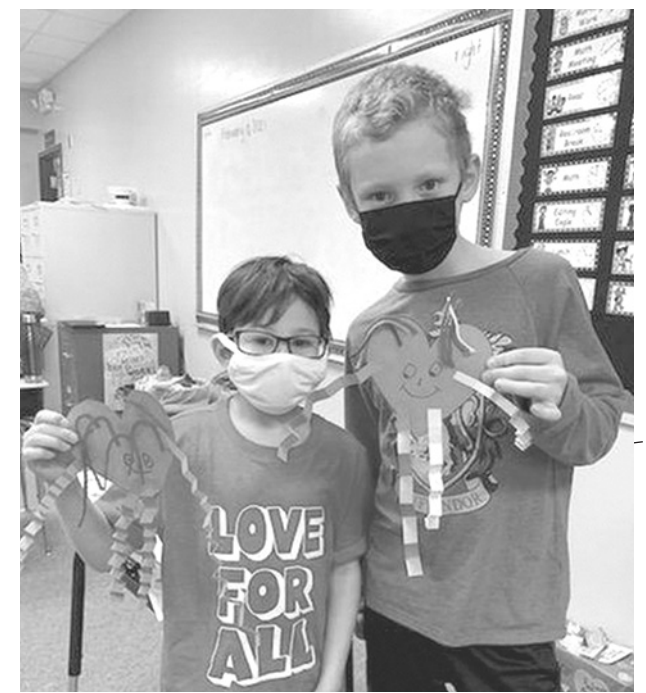
Senior student managers and team members of the Milford High School basketball were given special recognition prior to the Eagles' game Feb. 19. Shown, from left, are Jakob Wolf, Nick Beel, Collin Piening, Kaleb Miller, Cason Tucker, Bryce Jakub and Isaac Yeackley.



CRAIG JONES/MT

Senior members of the Milford High School dance team were introduced with their parents during the Eagle's basketball game Feb. 19. Shown are, from left, Stephen Kolb, Phoebe Kolb, Kelly Kolb, Kimberly Hovendick, Abigail Hovendick and Kim Hovendick.

Frankenstein Valentines!



COURTESY PHOTOS

Milford Elementary second and fourth graders teamed up for a Valentine's Day celebration. The two grades read "A Valentine for Frankenstein" on Epic and then collaborated on an art project.

K Kids raise 341 food items through "Souper Bowl"

Be The Best You... You Can Be



The K Kids Club concluded its annual "Souper Bowl Challenge" for 2021. Students from Milford Elementary overwhelmingly donated items, and the K Kids Club was able to collect 341 food items for the Milford Food Pantry. Many students "cast their vote" for the Kansas City Chiefs, but it was the Tampa Bay Buccaneers that prevailed. Vivian, from first grade, selected the winning team

and won a Tampa Bay Buccaneers Championship t-shirt from the K Kids Club. Runner-up, predicting the Bucs to win, was Cat from third grade. She won the Buccaneers poster. Hoping that the Chiefs would repeat with a win, along with most MES students and super fan Mrs. Yeackley, was Tristen from sixth grade. He received a Chiefs poster as a consolation prize.

Talking with Kiwanis



The Milford K Kids recently attended a Kiwanis meeting to tell group members the projects they've been working on that year.

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Obituary

Cleve Schweitzer

Nov. 2, 1925 – Feb. 18, 2021

Cleve Schweitzer was born Nov. 2, 1925, on a farm near Friend to Lee and Elma (Stutzman) Schweitzer, the fourth of five children, and went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, Feb. 18, 2021, at Kinship Pointe Assisted Living in Seward at the age of 95.

He attended Stauffer Country School near Milford and later accepted Christ as his personal Savior and was baptized at Milford Mennonite Church. On June 8, 1947, he was united in marriage to Betty Jean Schweitzer, and to this union five children were born, Harvey, Shelia, Leslie, Mirvin and Nora. Cleve was a farmer and dairyman most of his life until he sold his cows and farm equipment and moved into Milford. He and Betty purchased the local Christian bookstore, Center Reference, and later added Schweitzer's Plant and Garden Center. Cleve worked for a short time at Rediger Chevrolet and then worked in maintenance at Southeast Community College, Milford Campus, until he retired and sold the bookstore and garden center.

His wife, Betty, passed away in July 1996 and in September 1997, he was blessed with a second marriage to Luella Nitzsche. They resided in Milford until moving to Kinship Pointe in Seward. While there, Cleve enjoyed polishing crosses for the Cross Makers. In January 2016, Luella passed away and Cleve continued to reside at Kinship until his death. Cleve was active with the Gideons, loved spending time in his garage doing woodworking, making yard ornaments and other crafts. He was a member of the Salem Country Church and loved working in his garden and tending to his landscape and flowers. He never met a stranger and loved to visit with everyone he met.

Cleve is survived by his children and spouses, Harvey and Bonnie Schweitzer, Dorchester, Shelia and Eric Rist, Orofino, Idaho, Les and Wilma Schweitzer, Mirvin Schweitzer and Nora and Anthony Troyer, all of Milford; stepchildren, Linda and Cloy Stutzman, Floyd and Susan Nitzsche, Kathy and Scott Stutzman, all of Milford; grandchildren and spouses, Cedric and Renee Schweitzer, Roxanne and Brad Roth, Tiffany and Craig Bergmeyer, Suzanne and Richard Wisdom, Lucas and Cassidy Rist, Ashley and Aaron Edinger, Alisha and Reuben Ralston, Jennifer and Brandon Baker, Justin and Abby Troyer, Jeremy and Rachel Troyer, Juliana and Arick Burkey and Janessa Troyer; 33 great-grandchildren; sister-in-law, Lois Schweitzer, Crete; a special friend, Margaret McCracken, Seward; many nieces, nephews and a host of other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Leonard, Merlin and Wilton Schweitzer; sister, Alvera Stutzman and a stillborn daughter and grandson.

A funeral service was Feb. 22 at East Fairview Mennonite Church in Milford with interment at East Fairview Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to the HoriSun Hospice or to the Gideons. Condolences may be left for the family at www.lauberfh.com.



On-farm research updates

by Jenny Rees
Seward/York counties Extension educator

This week brings my favorite winter meetings, the on-farm research updates on Feb. 25 and 26.

I'm passionate about on-farm research as it's such a practical, inexpensive way to address the research questions growers have. These meetings are more meaningful to me because we get to hear from the farmers themselves who conducted the studies and have more discussion around the topics.

They do look different this year with a huge number of people registered virtually vs. in-person. They're also only a half day and we won't cover the entire book of studies that were conducted. However, whether you participate virtually or in-person, you will hopefully hear from farmers who conducted on-farm research studies.

And, this 'in-person' meeting does have people at most local sites also presenting in person. I realize that's been a point of confusion/frustration as we've hosted many zoom meetings as 'in-person' watch events where no one presented live at the location. Register for virtual or in-person at: <https://go.unl.edu/h83j>.

I enjoy hearing from the farmers themselves regarding why they conduct on-farm research. The following YouTube video produced in 2020 highlights area farmers David and Doug Cast of Beaver Crossing and Ken Herz of Lawrence: <https://youtu.be/tEy-I43CT0E>.

Succession/estate planning opportunities are upcoming with a two-part webinar event Feb. 25 and Mar. 4 at noon. You can register for those at: <https://farm.unl.edu/webi->

**Jenny Rees**
Extension educator

Jenny's REESources

nars. There's also an in-person event at Central City at the fairgrounds on March 2 at 9:30 a.m. and please RSVP to (308) 946-3843 if you'd like to attend.

Tree and houseplant webinars: A webinar focused on trees will be Feb. 26 from 9 a.m. to noon with registration here: Go.unl.edu/ProHort. A houseplant webinar series will occur on Feb. 27 and Mar. 6 from 10 a.m. to noon with registration here: <https://go.unl.edu/houseplants101>.

Nitrogen studies: With spring nitrogen applications around the corner, perhaps you are interested in testing different rates, timing, or inhibitors on your farm? On-farm research is a great option to consider. For some specific precision nitrogen studies (including inhibitors), there are stipends of \$1,300 available to producers interested in those studies. More info: <https://cropwatch.unl.edu/precision-nitrogen-management-farm-research-project>.

There's also a partnership with the Upper Big Blue NRD where those interested in conducting nutrient management or cover crop studies may receive \$300 in reimbursement costs. If you're interested in a study like this, please let me know. Next week I'll share on nitrogen rate and timing results.

Farm bill: Another tool that may be more visual in helping you make these decisions is the K-State tool at: <https://www.agmanager.info/ag-policy/2018-farm-bill/tradeoff-between-20212022-arc-and-plc> and I added it to my Farm Bill Decision Tools blog post. It shows you in one chart what happens with potential ARC-CO or PLC triggers by crop depending on what market year average price does or what county yield does.

It doesn't allow you to put in a historical irrigated percent-

age, so you need to consider that when selecting 'irrigated' or 'nonirrigated' in the tool. With it being in one chart, visually, perhaps that would help some of you more? It honestly doesn't change what I've shared with you before, but it seems people are really struggling with this decision, so if you need another way to visualize what to do, it may help.

Ultimately, no matter what tool is used, PLC is favored most often in corn, milo, and wheat. Soybeans often could go either way, and likely there may be no payment for soy or corn unless something substantial happens with MYA price or county yields.

If you're really on the fence, it may be helpful/wise to just split decisions between the two programs for different farms? For counties where there's split irrigated/non-irrigated payments, particularly in areas that are drought-prone, look at what county average yield will trigger ARC-CO for your specific county using the tool.

Crop insurance and marketing are ultimately a huge chunk of risk management, too. Ultimately, the decision is up to you and no one can predict prices/yields. This information is just shared as a way to hopefully help with your decision making.

I still haven't heard/seen that 2020 county average yields have been released for me to help anyone with looking at ARC-IC. From the past, we needed around 20% farm level yield loss compared to county average yield for ARC-IC to trigger.

So, for those with significant yield loss from wind events, depending on how your farms are grouped, it still may be something to look at. Hopefully county average yields will be available soon.

Real estate

Information taken from records filed with the Seward County clerk.

Feb. 2 – 16
BAMS Capital, LLC, to Jace Spurling, Lot 37, Jantze Thornridge First Addition Phase III Milford. DS \$605.25
Jimmy L. Berner and Jane E. Berner and Troy L. Berner and Heather Bruno to Heather Bruno, Lots 3-4, Block 18, Lars Jorgensen's Addition, Staplehurst. DS \$135
Thomas Briggs,

trustee of the Rex Briggs Trust, to O & R Land, LLC, N1/2 SE1/4 36-11-2. DS exempt
Village of Pleasant Dale to 297V, LLC, the south 66 feet of the Farmers Co-op Grain Company Subdivision in the W1/2 36-10-4. DS exempt
297V, LLC, to Village of Pleasant Dale, the north 60 feet of the Farmers Co-op Grain Company Subdivision in the W1/2 36-10-4. DS exempt
11T NE, LLC, to

Brian Lauterbach, Lot 9, Block 5 of Wright's Third Addition to Utica. DS \$45
Charlene A. Stutzman and James G. Stutzman to Thomas V. Stauffer, NE1/4 26-9-3. DS exempt
Thomas V. Stauffer and Carla Stauffer to Charlene A. Stutzman, a tract of land in Lots 11-12, Block 1, Johnson's Second Addition to Milford. DS exempt
Andrea Sloup to Shirley Sloup and Nick J. Sloup, S ½ SW1/4 14-

12-2. DS \$585
Andrea Sloup to Nick J. Sloup and Andrea L. Sloup, a tract of land in the NW1/4 11-11-4. DS \$326.25
Scott Hackbart to Jerry E. Hackbart, E1/2 N1/2 NW1/4 2-10-1. DS \$393.75
Don Johnson Homes II, Inc, to Elfega Torres and Gabriel Torres, Lot 7, Hive Addition, a replat of a part of Tax Lot 30 in Bee, in the SW1/4 14-12-3. DS \$544.50

County court

Information taken from Seward County court records.

Feb. 1 – 12
Liep Yiel, 18, Lincoln, attempt of a class 1 misdemeanor, 10 days jail and driving under suspension before reinstated, \$100 fine.
Goamar D. Wuowrut, 24, Lincoln, DUI-alcohol second offense, \$500 fine,

60 days jail, revoked license 18 months and interlock device.
Danny J. Tomlinson, 32, Seward, assault and battery, \$500 fine, disturbing the peace, \$250 fine and disorderly conduct, \$250 fine.
James F. Conratt, 18, Firth, driving under suspension before reinstated, \$100 fine.

Traffic

Information taken from Seward County court records.

Feb. 8 – 12
Sarah S. Marks, 21, Merion Station, Pennsylvania, speeding 11-15 mph interstate, \$75 fine.
Dorel Popescu, 28, Puyallup, Washington, CMV-radar detector, \$30 fine.
Tanya M. Nastase, 48, Omaha, speeding 11-15 mph interstate, \$75 fine.

Tax season gives chance to support conservation

Nebraskans receiving an income tax refund this year have an opportunity to support wildlife and habitat conservation.

On Line 46 of the Nebraska state income tax form, 1040N, individuals may donate \$1 or more of their tax refund to the Nebraska Wildlife Conservation Fund, which helps thousands of species in Nebraska, particularly those that are rare, endangered or threatened.

Donations are used to maintain and improve habitat for these and many other fish and wildlife species, as well as to provide wildlife viewing and other educational opportunities for Nebraskans. Additional information is available at NebraskaWildlifeFund.org.

Indoor plants have special needs during the winter

by Brandy VanDeWalle
Fillmore/Clay counties Extension educator

In Nebraska Extension, educators have areas we specialize within, providing clients the best, current information available.

This week, I've decided to feature Nicole Stoner, extension horticulturist for our area with her article on houseplants. The following was written by Nicole who is based out of the Gage County Extension Office.

The winter is a great time for houseplants. We can't be outside with our plants, especially in the sub-zero temperatures we are seeing right now in Nebraska.

However, we can enjoy our houseplants from the warmth and comfort of inside our homes. And now is a great time to go out and purchase a new houseplant, or possibly you will get one as a gift for Valentine's Day.

There are so many great houseplants to choose from. They can be found in a lot of colors, including their foliage colors, some are admired for

their greenery and some for their flowers. I have a few, they are all grown primarily for their greenery.

Houseplant care

Light is critical for any plant, but houseplants can have real problems if placed in incorrect lighting. In the winter months, plants struggle with poor lighting. Our homes don't provide houseplants with enough light in the winter so you may need to supplement light for proper growth.

Be sure to check on the light needs for your houseplants. Plants such as Boston fern, Peace lily, philodendron, and snake plant are tolerant to low light. These plants will "sunburn" if placed in too intense of lighting, causing the leaf or leaf tips to turn tan in color and become papery.

According to Sarah Browning, Lancaster County Extension educator, South facing windows provide the brightest light, while across the room from a north window is the darkest location. As a comparison, if light intensity near a south window is ranked as 100%, east and west windows provide about 60% as much light intensity, and north windows only provide about 20% light intensity. This should help

you decide which window is best for your plant.

If you do not have a window or location near a window with enough light intensity, you may need to supplement the light around your plant. You can purchase plant lights from many stores and online shopping locations.

Sarah Browning also discusses how humidity is another critical care factor for your houseplants. Many houseplants are tropical in nature and our homes are quite dry in comparison, especially in the winter months. Plants need 70-80% humidity for best growth.

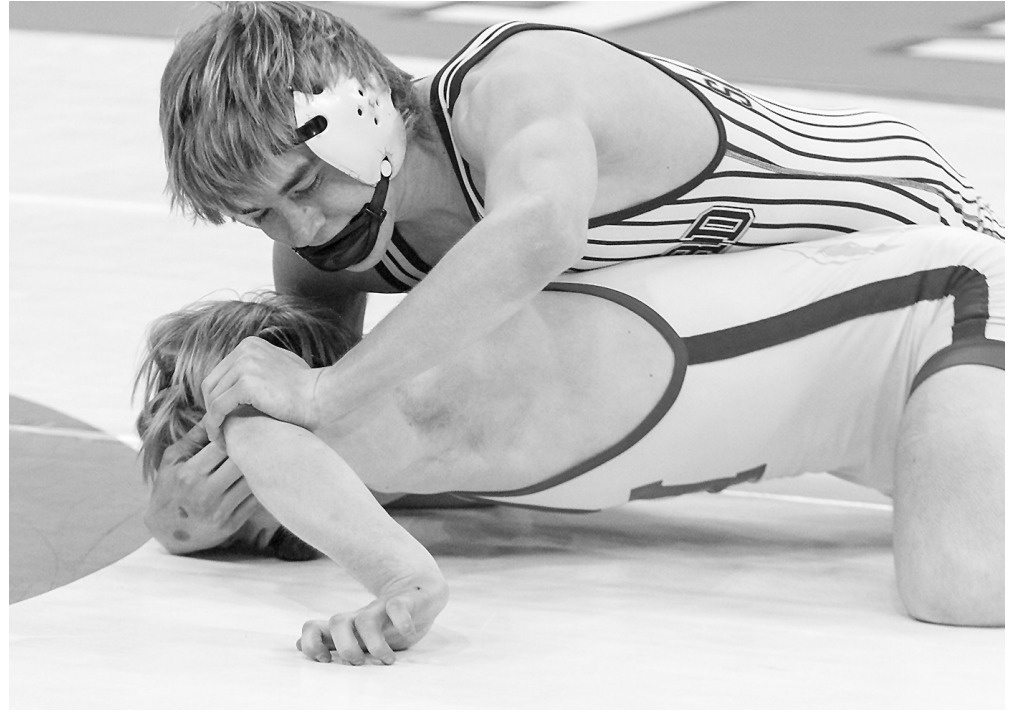
Increased humidity in the room can be accomplished through the use of a humidifier or by placing plants in bathrooms which are typically more humid. A pebble tray can also be used. Place plants on a tray of pebbles with water among the pebbles, keep the water level below the plant container. Do not leave plants sitting in water, this can lead to root rot issues.

Also, be sure to keep the plants sufficiently watered. Just feeling around in the soil to test for moisture can be an effective way to know when to water.



Eli Vondra of Milford placed sixth in Class C at 132 pounds.

STEPHANIE CROSTON/MT



Milford senior Konner Schluckebier was the Class C 126-pound runner-up at the state wrestling tournament.

STEPHANIE CROSTON/MT

Three Eagles medal at state wrestling

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

Hopes were high for the 10 wrestlers competing for Milford High at state Feb. 19 and 20. MHS brought home three medals – a silver, a fourth and a sixth.

“It’s almost impossible to come away from the state tournament and say that everything went perfectly,” Coach Joe Schluckebier said. “This weekend is always full of highs and lows, and this year was no different except for the fact that it was condensed into two days instead of three.”

“That meant quick turnarounds, quick recoveries and quick refocuses.

“With 10 guys in the tournament it seemed like we were on a very fast moving roller-coaster of emotions as individuals and as a team,” Schluckebier said. “This team is special, maybe the best to ever come through Milford, so the expectations were high and they know

that we didn’t end up how we wanted to. That doesn’t take anything away from our historic season, it’s just a credit to the high standard we have set for ourselves.”

Milford finished seventh in the Class C team standings, “a mark that we only dreamed of in this town for 25 years,” he said.

However, the wrestlers left some points on the table, he said.

“These guys know I love them, and in the end this journey is what they make of it so each one of them would tell you they expected more, and that’s what makes them so great,” he said.

Konner Schluckebier was the team’s top finisher. A returning state champion, he was looking for another chance at gold. The MHS senior pinned his way to the finals in dramatic fashion, Coach Schluckebier said.

“Most wrestlers would kill for an opportunity to wrestle in the state semi-finals and be an automatic state med-

alist, but Konner was not about to celebrate his first two victories until he got the job done in the semifinals against the kid that has handed him his only two losses this season, Alex Schademmann from Fillmore Central,” he said.

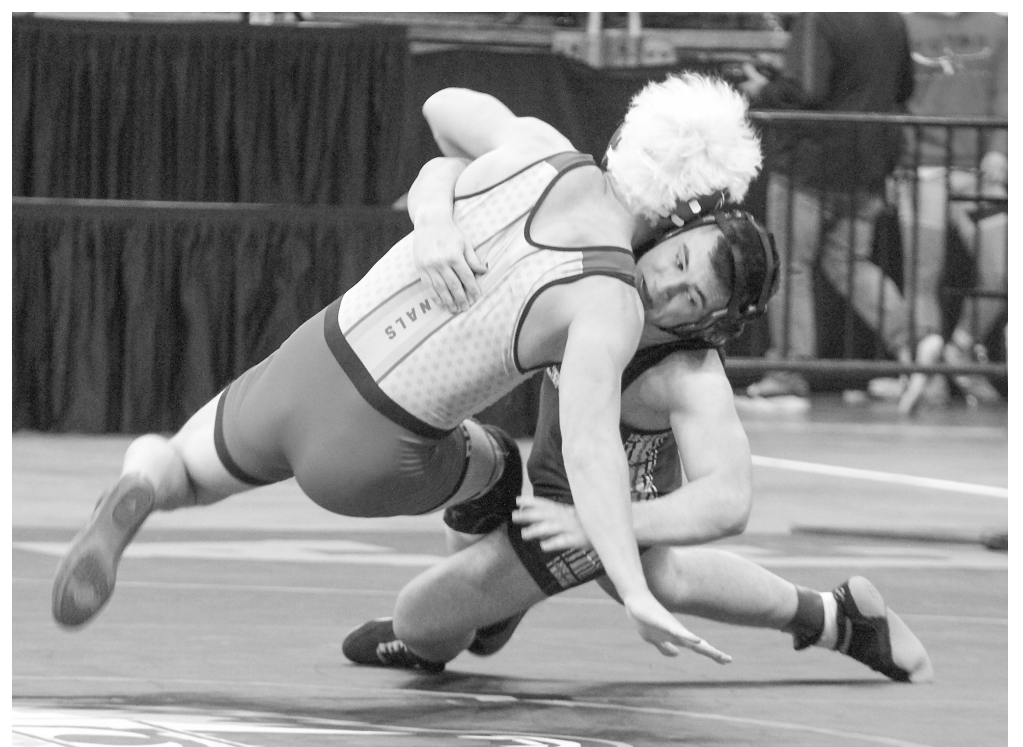
The plan was patience, since a takedown would probably be the difference, he said.

Schademmann scored an escape in the second period, giving Konner Schluckebier the chance for that difference-making takedown.

He hit that and more. “Konner hit a well-timed fireman’s carry takedown and ended up putting Schademmann on his back and getting the pin. The win was sweet vindication,” Coach Schluckebier said.

Konner Schluckebier wanted to leave no doubt about his place in the finals, the coach said. The championship match pitted Konner against Chris Williams of Valentine, a two-time state champion.

“We’ve known Chris



Thomas Vance of Milford placed fourth at 182 pounds in the Class C state wrestling tournament.

STEPHANIE CROSTON/MT

since the boys were little, but haven’t met in high school,” Coach Schluckebier said.

Konner Schluckebier got off to a slow start and could never recover. He lost the match 11-2 and finished as the state runner-up at 126 pounds.

The finish marked the end of a historic high school career. The MHS senior finished third, first and second in the last three years and only lost five matches over that time.

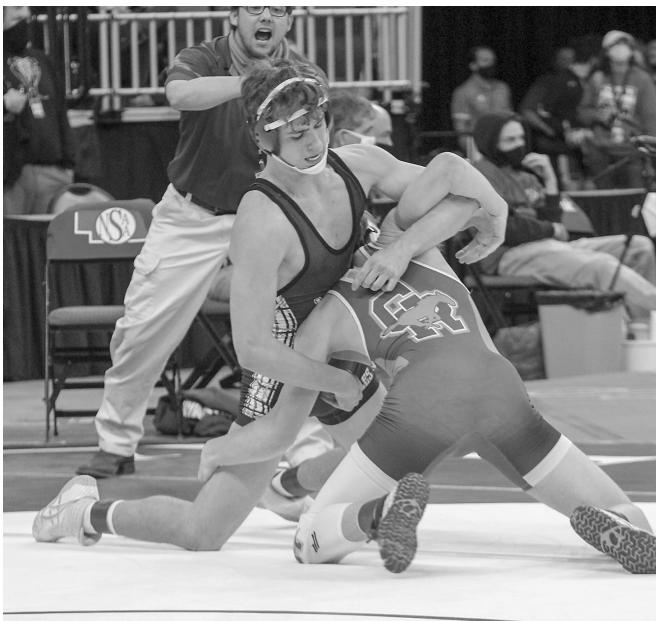
He holds school records for career wins

(178), pins (129), tournament wins, tournament points, season wins (50), season record (50-1), season pins (36) and fastest pin.

“His leadership will be missed, but there is a

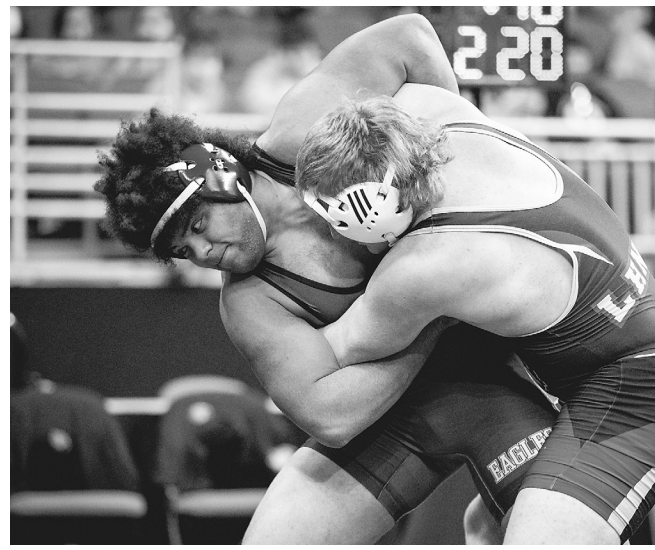
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PHOTO COURTESY BRANDON MOWINKEL

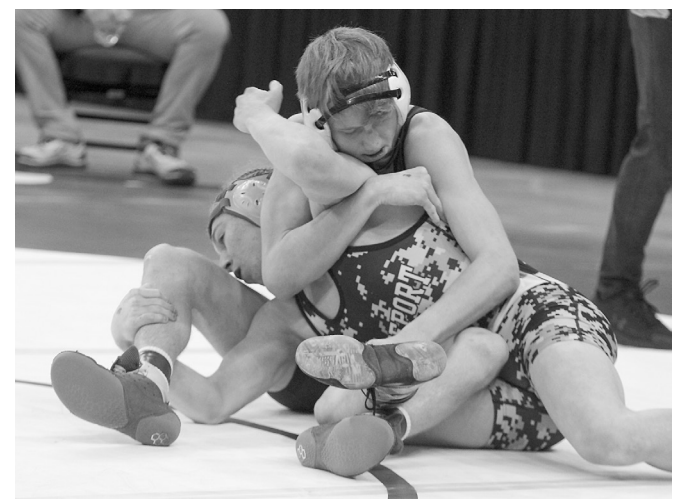


Trent Stauffer of Milford battled in a pair of 145-pound matches at the state wrestling tournament.

STEPHANIE CROSTON/MT

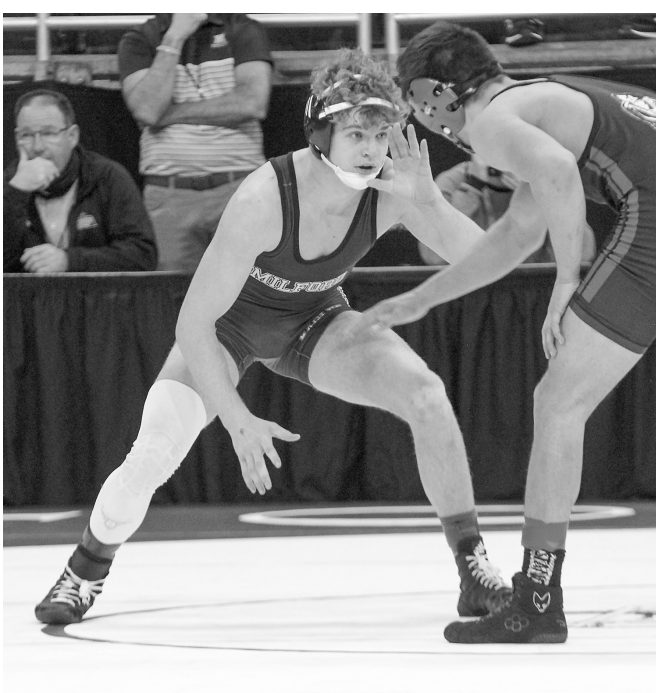


Left: Milford’s Lorenzo Temple was 1-2 in the Class C 220-pound competition at state wrestling.



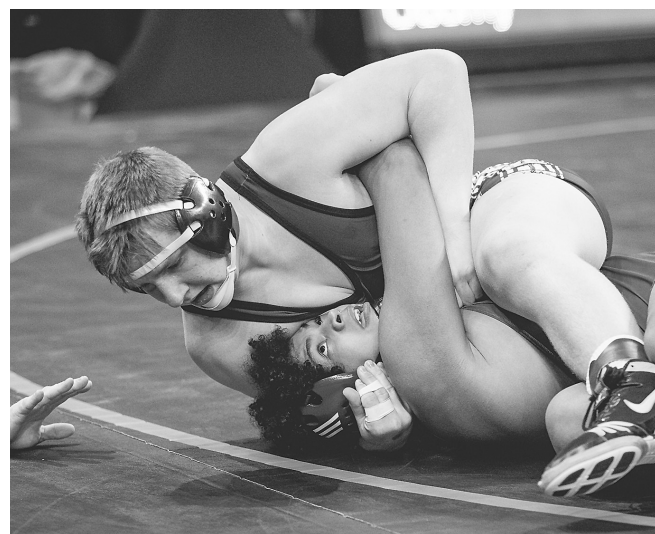
Jack Chapman of Milford wrestled two tough matches at the state tournament.

STEPHANIE CROSTON/MT



Carter Springer of Milford competed in the Class C state wrestling tournament at 160 pounds.

STEPHANIE CROSTON/MT



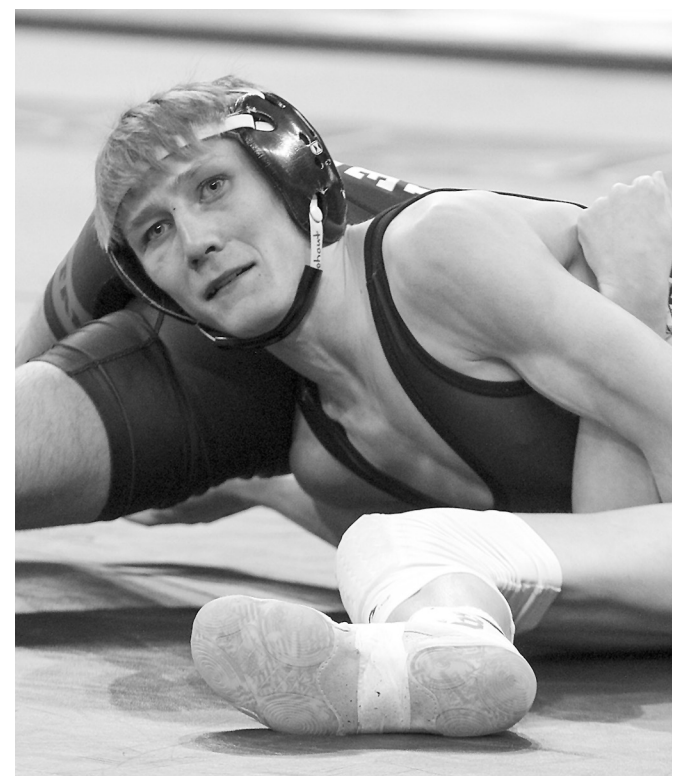
Right: Milford’s Hunter Oborny had his tournament end in the heartbreak round, one match short of a medal.

PHOTO COURTESY BRANDON MOWINKEL



Christopher Scdoris of Milford saw his tournament end in the heartbreak round, one match short of a medal.

PHOTO COURTESY BRANDON MOWINKEL



Conner Kohout of Milford saw his tournament end in the heartbreak round, one match short of a medal.

STEPHANIE CROSTON/MT

Help Wanted

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.

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.



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Accounting Manager: Full-time days, reporting to CFO. Candidate is responsible for the entire general ledger, account reconciliations, preparation of financial statements, management reports, and budget. Supervises the account payable function and the Accounting staff. Expertise in computer use, MS Excel and accounting products required. Accounting degree preferred; equivalent experience or training will be considered. —*Memorial Hospital*

RN - Days: Full-time day position, 5 am - 5 pm. Acute Care, ER and OB experience preferred. Flexible scheduling includes every third weekend with holiday rotation. RN licensure required and ACLS required. —*Memorial Hospital*

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 of Science Degree from an accredited Nursing program preferred, with a minimum of three years related experience. —*Memorial Hospital*

RN-LPN: Full-time Clinic RN/LPN Day Nurse position available, Monday-Friday with Saturday rotation. This position requires good communications skills between you and the provider. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are essential to providing excellent customer service and communicating with our patients. Computer skills are required. Previous Clinic Nursing experience and Chronic Care Management experience preferred. Current licensure required. —*Seward Family Medical Clinic*

RN-LPN: Full-time Clinic RN/LPN Day Nurse position available, Monday-Friday with Saturday rotation. This position requires good communications skills between you and the provider. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are essential to providing excellent customer service and communicating with our patients. Computer skills are required. Previous Clinic Nursing experience preferred. Current licensure required. —*Seward Family Medical Clinic*

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610 224th Road, Milford
Ph: (402) 761-3230 ext. 224

Applications at www.sunrisecountrymanor.com/careers.html

Aramark Facility Services

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

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 E. Lincoln St., Seward, Nebraska, or online at www.aramark.com/careers.

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

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

For immediate consideration, complete an application at or send your resume to:

HR Dept., 300 N. Columbia Ave.
Seward, NE 68434
or visit www.MHCS.US to complete an online application. For more information call 402-646-4618. EOE



Dorchester Public School

Looking for a dynamic, energetic, hard-working individual to fill the following position:

Food Service Worker (Cook)

- Preparing and serving meals with general kitchen duties

Those interested should contact Daryl Schrunk, Superintendent, at (402) 946-2781.

Support Staff Application may be picked up at the office or found on our website at dorchesterschool.org (located on our website under DISTRICT "Application Process")

EOE/AA Employer

For Rent

FOR RENT 1 & 2 Bedroom Apartment in Friend. \$400-\$450 Monthly Plus Deposit. Call for details (402) 202-3397

Rent Sokol Hall for various social and business functions. Hall is air-conditioned and handicap accessible. Contact Lumir Sukovaty at 402-821-2429 or Leon Slama at 402-239-2857. For kolaches, contact Joan Kotas at 402-821-2971.

LARGE, SPACIOUS 2 BR APT below Lothrop Animal Clinic. \$695/mo + \$100 utilities. No smoking/no pets. 402-826-5149.

Clean, Spacious 2 BR 1 BATH DUPLEX in Seward. Washer/Dryer hookups. Kitchen appliances included. Attached one-stall Garage. No Pets. Background checks conducted. Available March. 402-802-0508.

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All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, family status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Family status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians; pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

The Milford Times will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-642-6112. <http://www.nol.org/home/NEOC>.

PUBLIC NOTICES

You have a right to know.

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 MARCH 16, 2021

The Seward County Board of Commissioners convened on February 16, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. Present: Chairperson: John Culver Members: Misty Ahmic, Bob Vrbka, Ken Schmieding, Darrell Zabrocki Deputy County Clerk: Brandy Johnson

Approved the minutes of February 9, 2021.

Approved Seward County claims through February 5, 2021.

Gary Petersen, Emergency Manager, gave an update of his activities.

Commissioners gave an update of their activities.

Approved Fee Schedules for County offices.

Discussed Fund/Line Item for Problem Solving Court. No action was taken.

Approved Surplus Property Disposal Request for the Detention Center.

Approved Sheriff Fee & Mileage Report for December 2020.

Opened sealed bids for the painting of courthouse dome.

Approved HR Director Interview Committee & Deputy County Attorney recommendations for terms of employment and to offer the position to Carina Sanchez.

Approved the use of the Courthouse lawn/Courthouse restrooms for the 2021 Seward 4th of July Craft Show, as presented by Sharon Hambek, Seward 4th of July Committee.

Approved usage of donated catastrophic leave for employee #0117.

Adopted the agenda for February 23, 2021, and adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Brandy Johnson
Deputy County Clerk

SEWARD COUNTY CLAIMS THROUGH FEBRUARY 5, 2021

ADP LLC, SE, \$2,505.30; ADVANCED CORR HLTHCR, SE, \$4,439.57; ADVANCED OFFICE AUTOM, SU, \$112.21; AMERITAS LIFEINS, FE, \$17,343.81; BLACK HILLS ENERGY, UT, \$1,630.72; BLUE VALLEY BEHAV HLTH, SE, \$292.50; BUFFALO CO SHERIFFS OFF, SE, \$6.00; CATTLE BANK & TRUST, FE, \$203.73; CITY OF SEWARD, UT, \$9,342.66; CLERK DIST COURT, SE, \$25.00; CLERK

DIST COURT, SE, \$597.00; CONTINUUM, SE, \$3,250.00; CORI J STAVA, SE, \$1,023.00; CULLIGAN, SE, \$62.75; GREG DAMMAN, SE, \$1,729.10; EAKES OFFICE PLUS, SU, \$1,365.84; EGAN SUPPLY CO, SU, \$91.69; FARMERS COOP, SU, \$7,621.55; FIRST WIRELESS, UT, \$1,016.00; GALLS LLC, SE, \$51.71; GUARDIAN RFID, EQ, \$500.00; HELMINK PRINTING, SU, \$26.00; HERPOLSHIMERS INC, SE, \$40.66; HOMETOWN LEASING, FE, \$464.52; IDEMIA IDENTITY, SE, \$480.17; JONES BANK (FICA), FE, \$17,739.73; KONICA MINOLTA, SE, \$274.60; LANCASTER CO SHERIFF, SE, \$127.21; LEE'S REFRIGERATION, SE, \$590.86; MID AMERICAN BENEFITS, FE, \$123.25; MIDWEST AUTO PARTS, SU, \$561.52; MIDWEST OFFICE AUTOM, SU, \$61.99; MIDWEST SPECIAL SERV, SE, \$876.00; MIPS INC, SE, \$2,241.29; NE ASSN OF CO OFFICIALS, FE, \$360.00; OFFICENET, SE, \$379.66; ONESOURCE, SU, \$113.00; OREILLYAUTOMOTIVE, SE, \$519.41; ORKIN LLC, SE, \$111.78; OWENS EDUCATION SERV, SE, \$221.85; PAC N SAVE, SU, \$432.54; PAPER TIGER SHREDDING, SE, \$115.00; PETTY CASH FUND, FE, \$147.02; POLLACK AND BALL, SE, \$404.00; POTTER REPAIR, SE, \$104.71; QUADIENT LEASING, FE, \$81.98; QUADIENT, INC, SE, \$250.94; REGION V SERVICES, SE, \$2,484.58; RUMERY LANDSCAPE, SE, \$79.99; SEC OF ST - ELECTIONS, SU, \$10.00; SEW CO ASSESSOR REAP

FND, FE, \$20,000.00; SEWARD COUNTY COURT, SE, \$768.00; SEWARD CO INDEPENDENT, SE, \$661.64; SEWARD CO PUB TRANSIT, SE, \$54.00; SEW CO SHERIFF UNCOLL FEES, FE, \$116.00; SEWARD LUMBER, SU, \$10.44; SOC HUMAN RES MGMT, FE, \$219.00; SOARIN GROUP, SE, \$6,197.94; SPORTS EXPRESS, SU, \$323.73; ST OF NE DAS ST ACCTING, SE, \$22.00; ST OF NE DAS COMM, SE, \$448.00; SUMMIT FOOD SERV, SE, \$4,619.36; THOMSON REUTERS-WEST, SE, \$667.80; UPS, SE, \$22.46; VERIZON WIRELESS, UT, \$1,788.29; VISA, FE, \$1,056.84; WELLS FARGO, SE, \$198.15; WINDSTREAM, UT, \$1,094.82; WYTHERS LAW, SE, \$990.00; 3RD MILLENNIUM CLASS, SE, \$120.00; AFFORDABLE INT SOL, SU, \$74.99; KEN PANKOKE, SE, \$629.49; CATERPILLAR FIN SERV, FE, \$6,300.00; DALE JOHNSON ENT, SE, \$8,359.51; GENERAL FIRE & SFT EQUIP, SE, \$1,148.55; HYDRAULIC EQUIP SERV, SE, \$253.48; JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL, SE, \$195.33; MEDICAL ENTERPRISES, SU, \$35.00; MIDWEST SERV & SALES, SE, \$1,962.53; NE EQUIPMENT INC, SE, \$54.50; NE PUB POW DIST, UT, \$179.32; NMC, INC, SE, \$820.37; NORRIS PUB POW DIST, UT, \$1,736.29; PENNER TIRE & AUTO, SE, \$2,087.74; RDO TRUCK CENTERS, SE, \$382.13; ROCKMOUNT RESEARCH, SE, \$421.07; SACK LUMBER, SU, \$180.00; UTICA PARTS & SERV, SE, \$44.17;

VILLAGE OF GARLAND, FE, \$50.61; VILLAGE OF UTICA, FE, \$54.20; WALNUT CREEK REPAIR, SE, \$170.00; MILES PARTNERSHIP, FE, \$3,000.00; VANGUARD APPRAISALS, FE, \$2,800.00; DELTA DENTAL OF NEBR, SE, \$29.97; SEWARD CO HLTH CLM FND, FE, \$132,625.77; MILFORD AGING SERVICES, FE, \$1,913.40; MOMS MEALS, SE, \$126.21; QUILL CORPORATION, SU, \$33.98; SEWARD AGING SERV, SE, \$2,508.05; UTICA AGING SERVICE, SE, \$3,444.65; MOTOROLA, EQ, \$11,994.24; CORNHUSKER STATE IND, SE, \$1,616.00; AWARDS UNLIMITED, SU, \$42.00; CREATIVE PRODUCT SRC, SU, \$251.74; CROSS AND SONS, SE, \$2,129.16; C&S SALES LLC, SE, \$5,495.00; EMBLEM ENTERPR, SE, \$338.86; LINCOLN POLICE GARAGE, SE, \$462.28; MEYER AUTOMOTIVE, SE, \$220.95; SHERWIN WILLIAMS, SU, \$162.00; STOP STICK LTD, SU, \$548.00; TRANSUNION RISK, FE, \$160.00; WATCH GUARD VIDEO, SE, \$5,050.00; WESTERN OIL II LLC, SU, \$826.44; WINDSTREAM COMM, UT, \$220.00 SALARIES: \$253,169.11 GORSS SALARIES INCLUDE DEDUCTIONS TO: COLONIAL SUPPLEMENTAL INSURANCE; MIDAMERICAN CO WISCONSIN; DELTA DENTAL OF NEBR; VSP VISION; WADDELL & REED

SC/MT — February 24, 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

SC/MT — February 17, 24, 2021
ZNEZ

Meetings

CITY OF MILFORD
Milford, Nebraska 68405

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Regular meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Milford, Nebraska, to be held at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, at City Hall, 402 1st Street, Milford, which meeting will be open to the public. An agenda for such meeting kept continuously current, is available for public inspection at the office of the City Clerk at the City Hall.

Jeanne Hoggins, City Clerk
MT — February 24, 2021
ZNEZ

Crete aquaponics farm raises plants, fish together

by Caitlyn Nelson
Caitlyn@sewardindependent.com

Starting as a backyard hobby and giving away plants and produce to neighbors, Jeff Jirovec found success in his backyard aquaponic system and now owns Grow with the Flow, an 11-acre aquaponic farm north of Crete on Highway 103 with his wife, Heather Husen.

Aquaponics is the combination of raising fish and plants together in a symbiotic relationship to mimic a natural ecosystem. This allows for plants to grow in soil-less media, not need chemical solutions and have a closed-loop system of production.

The fish waste is used to fertilize and irrigate the plants. The plants act as a filter to clean and remove waste nutrients in the water for the fish.

"Aquaponics uses about 15% of land and 5% of the water of traditional agriculture,"

Jirovec said.

Through aquaponics, plants are able to be grown vertically to save space. Water is recycled through the system so there is no run-off or loss of water like in traditional soil gardening.

Jirovec said other benefits to aquaponics include all-natural growing including no synthetic pesticides or herbicides. They are also grown indoors, which allows for growth all-year round.

Being a local business too, Jirovec said time is cut down on delivery, which allows for a longer shelf life of the plants and flowers. Orders can be picked up on location and same-day delivery is available in Crete, Lincoln and Omaha.

This is the eighth year Grow with the Flow has been in business. Grow with the Flow offers produce, cut flowers and live plants.

Along with in-house floral design and gift



PHOTOS BY ELAYNE WOODS PHOTOGRAPHY

Grow with the Flow aquaponic greenhouses allow for plants to grown vertically. The business offers floral arrangements with in-house design.

rangements, Grow with the Flow also offers

weekly and monthly bouquet subscriptions

and gift cards.

Grow with the Flow products are available at Lincoln farmer's markets, pop-up locations and on its website, www.gwtfaquaponic.com. For

more information, visit Grow with the Flow's website or Facebook page, Grow with the Flow Aquaponic Horticulture.

Through aquaponics, plants are able to be grown vertically to save space. Water is recycled through the system so there is no run-off or loss of water like in traditional soil gardening.



Studies examine cover crop economics

by Jenny Rees
Seward-York counties Extension educator

Jenny's REESources

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 locations (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 treat-

ment 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.

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Nebraska Legislature considers ag bills

by Madeleine Grant
Nebraska News Service

Sen. Tom Brandt of Plymouth introduced LB324 with the goal of making it easier for consumers to purchase individual packages of meat directly from producers. LB324 would change provisions under the Nebraska Meat and Poultry Inspection Law.

The Nebraska Legislature Agriculture Committee heard bills over two weeks this session, including proposals for commercial fertilizer adjustments, feedlot provisions and meat processing inspection changes. Here is a summary of the nine bills heard by the committee through Feb. 9.

Meat processing
LB235, proposed by Sen. Tom Brewer of Gordon, would implement a meat processing inspection program that aims to increase meat processing capacity in rural Nebraska by accelerating the inspection process.

The bill would give small meat producers and processors a choice between USDA meat inspection or Nebraska Department of Agriculture inspection. Brewer said on Feb. 2 that the bill would be part of a two-part process to revive the Nebraska State Meat Inspection program.

Nebraska Cattlemen Association President Brenda Masek spoke in favor of the bill, but Nebraska State Agriculture Director Steve Wellman spoke in opposition of the bill.

Nebraska Meat and Poultry Inspection Law

Sen. Tom Brandt of Plymouth introduced LB324 with the goal of making it easier for consumers to purchase individual packages of meat directly from producers. LB324 would change provisions under the Nebraska Meat and Poultry Inspection Law.

The bill would also

create the Independent Processor Assistance Program, which would provide a framework for how to increase local processing capacity and expand market access for small producers.

Germination Seed Testing Provisions
Brandt also introduced LB91, a bill that would extend flower and grass seed germination testing to every 15 months. The Nebraska Seed Act requires germination testing every nine months.

If passed, seeds packaged in sealed containers may also be sold for up to 36 months after the last day of the month that they were packaged. Another change would be allowing tetrazolium testing instead of germination testing for native seeds.

Tetrazolium testing is a biochemical rapid test that determines the viability of seeds. While germination testing is considered more comprehensive, it takes longer for results than tetrazolium testing, which produces results within 24 to 48 hours.

Pesticide registration fees

LB90, introduced by Chairman Steve Halloran of Hastings, would adjust inspection fees and reallocate funds raised by the pesticide registration fee to the Pesticide Administrative Cash Fund.

As it stands, the Ne-

braska Pesticide Act directs more registration fees to the Buffer Strip Incentive Fund than the Pesticide Administrative Cash Fund. Sen. Halloran proposes more money to be directed to the Pesticide Administrative Cash Fund.

This bill would also amend the Nebraska Commercial Fertilizer and Soil Conditioner Act. If passed, the maximum annual inspection fee would increase from 10 cents per ton to 15 cents per ton of commercial fertilizers and soil conditioners. The director of agriculture may choose to increase or decrease the inspection fee every year on July 1.

Mobile Food Unit Act

The Agriculture Committee is considering LB584, which was proposed by Sen. Tony Vargas of Omaha. The bill would standardize the process for food truck permits and inspections.

Every food truck would be required to have a permit after July 1, 2022. Food truck regulations now are determined by individual municipalities. Another change is that the initial permit for food trucks would be lowered from \$86.19 to \$75.

Healthy Soils Task Force

Sen. Tim Gragert of Creighton introduced LR5 as a follow-up to a previous bill that prioritizes soil health. In 2019,

the Legislature passed LB243, which created a 17-member task force to promote soil health and advocate for agricultural methods that lead to better soil fertility.

This resolution reiterates the Legislature's dedication to soil health. It also employs state agencies such as the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources to assist the state's soil effort.

Livestock Brand Act

The Agriculture Committee is considering three different bills under the Livestock Brand Act: LB571, LB572 and LB614.

Chairman Steve Halloran of Hastings proposed LB571 and LB572, bills that aim to reduce the time and expense required for brand inspections. LB571 would create a registered backgrounder lot program. A backgrounder lot, or grow yard, is where calves are placed until they gain more weight and enter the feedlot. This bill would allow backgrounder lots to apply for a permit similar to feedlots.

LB572 would allow the Nebraska Brand Committee to use approved nonvisual identifiers,

such as an electronic tag or retinal scan, to inspect livestock. In addition, the bill would reduce the annual registration fee for registered

feedlots and temporarily reduces the physical inspection fee from \$1.10 per head to 95 cents per head until June 30, 2023.



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Frederick recalls a lifetime of ag leadership

by Greg Forbes
 editor@sewardindependent.com

Seward High School agronomy instructor Craig Frederick's career in agricultural education brought him all across the country and allowed him to influence countless students through FFA.

As he enters his final months as an instructor, Frederick acknowledges that his career could've been extremely different had it not been for a chance happening during his student teaching days.

Readying for a role as a student teacher for an unnamed district, Frederick received a call three days before his start date that the instructor he was to work under had been fired. He was instead to report to Seward High School the following Monday at 8 a.m.

After the student teaching stint at Seward, Frederick taught agriculture and led FFA chapters at Lewiston, Neb., Seward and Grand Island Northwest before working for Northard-King, now Sygenta. He soon ventured back into education before being recruited to work for the Nebraska Department of Education as the State Education Director and the State FFA Advisor. The role with

the State of Nebraska eventually transitioned into a spot with the National FFA office, where he oversaw programs in ten states.

The opportunities those roles presented are immeasurable, Frederick said, but may not have happened if not for the last minute change of plans to his student teaching.

"Everything happens for a reason," he said.

As the FFA advisor for the State of Nebraska, Frederick said he was tasked with visiting classrooms across the state and connecting with instructors to collaborate on new ideas. As a native Nebraskan, Frederick said the opportunity to influence students raised with similar backgrounds to him was an honor and a privilege he never expected to have.

"I never really had it in my mind that I would be able to do something like that," he said. "I did a lot of training and workshops and saw a lot of state officers develop. I had some National officers that got elected and had some national award winners. It was all just really exciting."

On the national level, Frederick traveled between 10 states to help with their FFA programs. The top priority of that role, he said, was to help those states find new ways to further the mission of FFA and bolster programs of all sizes. However, Frederick said the memories he cherishes the most from that role are not necessarily education related. One of his favorite stories came from the National FFA Convention in Wisconsin. Typically held during National FFA Week in February, that year's convention came with snow. Frederick fondly recalls the National FFA Officer from Texas seeing snow for the first time and having a slightly different idea of how to make a snow angel.

"She had never seen snow...and she said she was going to make a snow angel, but she was just standing up, waving her arms," he said, adding she also was able to experience her first sled ride. "I put her on a toboggan and sent her down the hill and she was screaming the whole way."

Traveling with the National FFA office allowed Frederick to see agricultural education on countless levels but the desire of constant travel faded after a number of years. Frederick soon found himself back in Seward as the new agronomy instructor and FFA leader for Seward High School. He said he knew he wanted one last teaching job in a classroom and picked Seward because of the school's and community's appreciation of agriculture.

"Seward is such a great ag community, such a



COURTESY PHOTO

Seward High School agronomy instructor and FFA chapter leader Craig Frederick examines a slide during an FFA event. Frederick will retire from his position this year.

supportive community of agriculture and do a lot for their students," he said.

Now after nine years back in Seward, Frederick said he's confident in his decision to step down and turn the position over to new leadership. He said he may consider some smaller roles in the realm of ag education but if not, he's happy how his childhood dream played out.

"It makes me feel really good and I think of my dad a lot," he said. "He was always coaching, training, talking about ag and how things worked. I feel very blessed to have had these opportunities. I never had a boring day and that's what I liked about it."



Seward High School agronomy instructor and FFA leader Craig Frederick, right, stands with 2018 State of Nebraska FFA Degree honorees at the 2018 Nebraska State FFA Convention. Frederick is set to retire this year.


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