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SEWARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Wednesday
March 3, 2021

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Seward, Nebraska
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SCHOOLS CELEBRATE FFA
SEE PAGE 2A



BOTTLE ROCKET LAUNCHES CANS
SEE PAGE 8B



Climbing COVID mountain: One year later

Part one: Area medical experts reflect on pandemic battle and a new hope

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

Four Corners Health Department Executive Director Laura McDougall recalls reading a ProMED listserv in December 2019 that told of a new strain of coronavirus spreading overseas.

That article made her think of the SARS outbreak in 2002, which began shortly after her arrival at Four Corners and introduced her to the unpredictability of coronaviruses.

"I have always kind of known that coronaviruses were one of those viruses, from a world perspective,

Over the next several weeks, the Seward County Independent will reflect on the year that has passed since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Each story will shed light on how COVID-19 touched almost every part of the community and how individuals in those areas have adapted and grown. Today's story talks to representatives from the Four Corners Health Department and Memorial Health Care Systems about when the virus first arrived on their radar, how they weathered an inevitable peak and how they plan to move forward with the presence of the vaccine.

that like to mutate to the point of being a problem and can cause a pandemic," she said. "My family teases me that I'm a germophobe. I don't see myself that way, but I have a very healthy respect for all of these viruses and antibiotic-resistant bacteria

strains. These little microbes are smart. They find ways to survive and thrive."

McDougall's suspicions and fears proved to be correct as the virus detailed in that article eventually led to the global COVID-19 pandemic that changed the life of

billions over the course of a year.

"Once we started seeing them putting up new hospitals (in China), I thought, 'This is it,'" she said. "This was going to disrupt life"

McDougall's familiarity

and respect for the strain's potential resulted in an advanced warning for communities within the Four Corners district. As cases began to spread throughout the world, the United States and Nebraska, businesses, schools and medical systems were bracing for the virus' arrival in Seward County.

"I think it was an advantage in our communities that we were really paying attention to what was going on in the world that we could get out there and start talking to the businesses and the communities and say, 'Hey,

(continued on page 5)

Broncos snare state basketball bid



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Kate Hirschfeld (2) accepts the district championship plaque as the Centennial girls' basketball team celebrates its District C2-8 championship Feb. 26 after beating Sutton in overtime. The Broncos open state tournament play March 3 at 11 a.m. against Crofton. See more photos and a recap of the game on Page 1B.

Pothole problems pester city road crews

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

The welcomed warm-up last week caused headaches for the City of Seward Street Department in the form of significant potholes.

Bob Miers, Seward street superintendent, said road crews hit the city streets throughout last week to attempt to fill in potholes that have formed in the wake of significant melting, freezing and thawing. However, Miers said, workers encountered frustration, as the material used to patch potholes won't adhere given excessive moisture and continual freezing and thawing.

"It doesn't take long to fill them. The problem is the time of year it is and when the water

flows into them with everything melting, it won't adhere," he said. "The problem with wet holes is, it freezes again and when it freezes again, it expands and pops out the seal. We did one (Wednesday) and it popped out (Thursday) morning because we got down to 25 degrees at night."

Miers said the issues will likely continue until the snow fully melts and streets can dry. While temperatures look to hang in the 50s throughout this week, Miers said he knows that winter in Nebraska may not be done yet.

"It's not over yet, either. We've got a few weeks left, maybe another whole month (of winter)," he said. "We just have to keep our fingers crossed and



COURTESY OF CITY OF SEWARD

A City of Seward crew works to fill in a pothole last week. Continual freezing and thawing have made repair efforts difficult for the street department.

hope it warms up and stays warm."

Once April comes, Miers said he hopes conditions have improved enough so crews can begin efforts to hot patch

pot holes. Hot patching essentially fills potholes with new asphalt, he said.

Until then, Miers said crews will continue to focus on the worst potholes, particularly those on Highway 15 through the city. He advised people who see potholes they think need addressing to contact the City of Seward in order to help crews identify additional problem areas. Another way the public can help the process, Miers said, is just to be patient.

"I understand the frustration. It's like driving through a minefield," Miers said. "We're going to keep doing the best we can with the bad ones and just hoping people can be patient."



COURTESY PHOTO

Peewee Schulz of Kinship Pointe in Seward has attended every one of the past 63 Goehner spaghetti feeds and is happy to be able to bring it to Kinship this year.

Goehner spaghetti feed comes to Kinship Pointe

Since 1958, the Goehner Volunteer Fire Department has held its Goehner Spaghetti Feed on the first Sunday in March.

Every year since, regardless of the weather, 1,200-1,500 hungry people of all ages have come to enjoy the homemade spaghetti sauce and sides.

The feed this year will be different though because of the COVID pandemic. Meals will not be served, but the sauce will be bagged and available for purchase at the Goehner Fire Hall on March 7 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Encourage friends and family to stop out and pick up a few bags to take home and share.

If you happen to be lucky enough to be a resident of Kinship Pointe, though, you will be able to enjoy the authentic Goehner Spaghetti for lunch that day.

PeeWee and Marilyn Schulz, who live at Kinship Pointe, were part of the original founding group that travelled to St. Francis Center Church close to Brainard to sample some spaghetti at their annual event.

The secret sauce recipe came from Father Morama's mother who lived in Italy, and that is the same sauce used in Goehner today. After helping to serve spaghetti at the Center Church event for a few years, it was time for Goehner to start its own annual spaghetti and the longstanding tradition was begun.

Be sure to thank the Goehner Volunteer Fire Department members (and all of the Fire Department members in Seward County) for their unselfish and much needed service to all of us. This year has been especially difficult with the challenges from the pandemic.

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Local schools celebrate National FFA Week with variety of activities



GREG FORBES/SCI

Centennial third grader Stella Steele holds a yellow lab puppy as classmate Ella Walford watches.



GREG FORBES/SCI

Above: Centennial third graders Elden Butzke, left, and Daniel Stinson pet a horse during the FFA Children's Barnyard at Centennial Feb. 25.

Below: FFA member Kate Luebbe, a freshman at Centennial, watches as third grader Arabella Perkins holds a guinea pig during the FFA Children's Barnyard event at Centennial.



COURTESY PHOTO

Seward FFA students recognized National FFA Week last week with a host of events and themed dress up days. One highlight was hosting a mini horse on Tuesday, Feb. 23.



COURTESY PHOTO

Thursday, Feb. 25 at Seward High School was Dress Like Your Teacher Day for National FFA Week. Student Mahri Vega dressed as FFA and agronomy instructor Craig Frederick. FFA Week carries a special meaning for Frederick, who has served as an FFA advisor on the local, state and national levels.

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SHS students shares aero, aquaponics with Seward Rotary Club

Students demonstrate the aquaponics program they entered in the recent District FFA Leadership Program-Demonstration Event

Craig Frederick, lead ag educator and FFA sponsor at Seward High School, presented the featured program at the Feb. 10 Seward Rotary meeting. He was assisted by SHS sophomores Ryley Hain and Crayton Koranda, who are involved with many of the ag classes at Seward High. The program was introduced by Rotarian SHS Vice Principal Jill Johnson.

Frederick began the program with a feature on house plants that the SHS students grow in the high school green house. He talked about the advantages and disadvantages of plants including Aloe, Cast Iron Plants, Chinese evergreen, Dumb Cane, Jade Plants, Lucky Bamboo, Mother-In-Law Tongue aka Snake Plant, Peace Lily, Pothos, Prayer Plant and Spider Plants. He also said the top reason people fail with plants is over watering.

Hain and Koranda gave a presentation on aeroponics agriculture and aquaponics agriculture.

"Aeroponics is the process of growing plants in an air or mist environment without the use of soil or an aggregate medium," Hain said. "It is sometimes considered a type of hydroponics, since water is used in aeroponics to transmit nutrients."

He showed a tub of water with nitrates and a pump action that allows the plants to grow on the top of the tub

and gives the roots the nourishment needed. He noted that aeroponics was very popular with the NASA Space Program, as the astronauts could then grow their own fresh food!

"Aquaponics is a form of agriculture that combines raising fish in tanks (recirculating aquaculture) with soil-less plant culture (hydroponics)," Koranda said. "Aquaponics is a great example of year-round, indoor farming."

He converted a 15-gallon tank with freshwater fish to assist in fertilizing the water to feed his plants, placed on top of the tank. The students spoke on the many advantages of aquaponic ag, stating, for example, there is no fertilizer run off and that they enjoy 90% less water than traditional farming operations. The program does not worry about



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Crayton Koranda, Ryley Hain and FFA Advisor and Lead Ag Instructor Craig Frederick of Seward High address Rotary on the aquaponics program and the students' demonstration of the process.

the weather and it allows farming year round.

They noted that both programs are popular in Africa, where good soil is limited. They also commented on a variety of aqua systems and the benefits of those programs, as well as some of the disadvantages.

The students used their aquaponics program for their entry in the recent District FFA Leadership Program-Demonstration Event.

Frederick talked about the school's use of the ag classes with the greenhouse and the anticipated new classroom for next year in the Ggreenhouse addition. Currently the greenhouse has a garden plant program and sale each year, the students grow and sell Christmas poinsettias and this year have Easter lilies started to also have for sale in the spring. Plus, there are a host of individual projects happening in the greenhouse as well.

He offers two dual credit classes with his ag program – an intro class and a crop and food science class.

After the program, Frederick and the students handed out complimentary green house plants to all the members of Rotary from the SHS greenhouse team.

The program concluded with a short tribute to Frederick by Johnson, commenting on the outstanding education program that he has offered to the Seward youth over his tenure at Seward High.

"Craig Frederick is a Master Teacher," Johnson said. "He often presents the material and various scenarios and then challenges and allows the students to discover ways to achieve success when presented a task to complete. He will be missed next year and we want to take this opportunity to thank and salute him for a job well done."

Students put artistic skills on display in GFWC annual art show

The GFWC Seward Women's Club and Junior Women's Club hosted their annual art show, featuring work from students in Seward County schools.

Winners include:

BEST OF SHOW—Sam Dunbar, Centennial Kindergarten—Hanna Obrien, St. Vincent
 First grade—Rose Gesell, St. John
 Second grade—Mya Boggs, Seward Elementary School; Quinn Hohman, Seward Elementary School
 Third grade—Tessa Soukup, Our Redeemer
 Fourth grade—Aveya Rixtine, Seward Elementary School; Blair from Milford
 Fifth grade—Jacob Ennis, Centennial; Bentley Juranek, Centennial
 Sixth grade—Aeva Corbin, St. John; Kassey Tieken, Seward Middle School

Seventh grade—Makennah Matalka, Seward Middle School

Eighth grade—Lauryn Breikretz, Centennial; Grant Cast, Centennial; Elizabeth Prachel, Seward Middle School

High school

Acrylic—Heidi van der Heijden, SHS
 Charcoal—Braden Adams, SHS
 Prints—Rachel Shively, Milford
 Scratchboard—Sam Dunbar, Centennial; Kayla Moore, Centennial
 Mixed Media—Samantha Keith, Centennial
 Pen & Ink—Heidi van der Heijden, SHS; Addison Opfer, SHS; Dominic Torres, SHS
 Portrait—Krislyn Guthril, Milford
 Computer—Brayden Songster, Centennial

Chalk—Brylie Strait, Centennial
 Watercolor—Miriam Voehl, SHS
 Pastels—Hannah Helmer, SHS
 Pencil—Marrisa Hurley, SHS; Audrey Davis, SHS

Hand Thrown Pottery—Hannah Helmer, SHS
 Sculpture—Lexus Prochaska, Centennial
 Misc.—Savannah Spahr, Milford
 Because of COVID-19, no in-person awards show was held. A video presentation was done on Seward's STRIV channel. Featured speakers are Heidi van der Heijden, Hannah Kolterman-Wagner, Miriam Voehl, Kitty Vacha and Jean Kolterman.

Art is on display through March at the Seward Civic Center's Langworthy Gallery. Vacha was the chair for this year's art show.

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Tournaments mark impact of coronavirus pandemic

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

Remember this time last year?

The girls' state basketball tournament was coming up, and everyone was excited.

Teams were getting ready to make a final run at the ultimate prize. Fans were submitting requests to take time off work. Students were determining what their theme days would be and how they would look.

But underneath the excitement was a rumbling of uncertainty. This coronavirus thing – how concerned should we be? Should we take any precautions? If so, what should we do?

Should we even have the boys' state tournament?

The girls' state tournament went as usual – big crowds, pep bands, student sections. The boys' state tournament, just one week later looked much different. No crowds – family only. No pep bands, no stu-

dent sections. Instead cardboard cutouts filled seats at Pinnacle Bank Arena.

Little did we know cutouts would become the norm for the next year.

I was at the girls' state tournament. It was as exciting and enthusiastic and energetic as you would expect.

I was at the boys' state tournament, too. It was definitely a different feel. With limited fans in the stands, the outside energy level wasn't as high, as you might guess. Those who were there did their best to keep the athletes pumped up, but it wasn't the same.

Kids started practices for spring sports – digging out spikes, oiling gloves, knocking mud off cleats.

Then nothing. Schools closed their doors and classes went online. Sports practices stopped. Spring concerts, musicals and graduations were canceled or reworked into a virtual format.

Summer was more of the same. Local festivals were canceled, summer vacation trips called off, events of all kinds put on hold.

It was one of the stranger summers I've lived through.

Officials tried

to determine what precautions we should take to stop or at least slow the spread of this insidious virus. Masks became more than just a fashion statement. No one liked it, but we agreed to wear them.

When schools started in-person classes again, everyone held their breath. Would the virus wipe out whole classrooms? What about the teachers and support staff? Masks were required to even enter the buildings.

We've adapted over that last year, but that doesn't mean we like it. I think we're all looking forward to going to an event and not worrying about if you've got a mask with you or not.

Virus case numbers are dropping, and that's a good thing. Crowds at ball games are slowly growing, and that's definitely a good thing, although I'd forgotten how loud a gym can get when everyone is into a game.

And this weekend and next are the state basketball tournaments – the dividing point of coronavirus before and after.

Maybe this year they'll mark the beginning of a return to something like what we call normal.



Stephanie Croston
sports editor

We asked you:

Have you done your taxes yet?

Yes: 2

No: 7

Now we want to know:

March is here and spring will be upon us soon! So what's your favorite season?

Spring

Fall

Winter

Summer

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

Marijuana use should be viewed as clear and present danger

by Gov. Pete Ricketts

The marijuana industry, which is now partially owned by Big Tobacco, has its eye on Nebraska as a new place to turn a profit.

Previously, they hid this moneymaking motive under the guise of "medical" marijuana. Now they are just pushing for full legalization.

Nebraskans have common sense and instinctively understand how this dangerous drug could harm our youth, our communities, and our economy. We don't have to guess at the steep social costs of marijuana legalization—they have already played out tragically all over the country.

States that legalize marijuana outright or incrementally (that is, through "medical marijuana") have seen a human toll. This has included devastating effects on kids, tragic accidents, decreased participation in the workforce, and horrible mental health outcomes.

While popular media has tried to reframe how the public thinks about marijuana, it's important to understand the health consequences and dangers of this drug.

There are good reasons why the federal government classifies marijuana as a Schedule 1 drug, which means it has no medical value and high potential for abuse. Other Schedule 1 drugs include heroin, LSD, and ecstasy.

Marijuana has a profoundly harmful effect on teens and young adults. THC (the psychoactive component of marijuana) impacts the developing adolescent brain severely and in many cases permanently. Actual physical changes in the grey matter of the brain in young marijuana users are documented.

Frequent marijuana use is associated with learning impairment and poor academic performance. Additionally, increased marijuana use is correlated with greater risk of depression and suicidal thoughts for adolescents.

Marijuana triggers psychotic episodes that can end in tragedy. Levi Pongi, age 19, died after consuming a marijuana cookie and jumping off a balcony. Marijuana use also increases depression, thoughts of suicide, and suicidal behaviors among young adults. Marc Bullard, age 23, committed suicide after he began using a concentrated form of marijuana. He had no previous history of depression.

These examples, both from our neighboring state of Colorado, show the potential of the drug to ruin young lives.

While putting youth at risk, marijuana use also increases the likelihood of on-the-job accidents and decreases worker productivity. States that have normalized marijuana use have experienced a sharp increase in workforce positivity rates since legalization. Examples include Oregon, Nevada, and Colorado where the rate of workers testing positive for marijuana have



Gov. Pete Ricketts

Frequent marijuana use is associated with learning impairment and poor academic performance. Additionally, increased marijuana use is correlated with greater risk of depression and suicidal thoughts for adolescents.

increased 63%, 55%, and 47% respectively.

Overall, the rate of people testing positive in the workplace went up about 17% from 2014 to 2018. Alarmingly, there was an increase of about 24% in the rate of workers testing positive whose job performance has an impact on public safety, such as airplane pilots and workers in nuclear power plants.

Along with these workforce issues, marijuana also endangers public safety on the roads. For instance, in Washington, the number of drivers involved in fatal crashes testing positive for THC has doubled since the state legalized marijuana in 2012.

Aside from its particularly harmful influence on youth and in workplaces, marijuana is bad for health, especially mental health. Marijuana poses risks to brain development and cognitive functioning.

The National Academy of Medicine, the nonprofit group that advises the federal government on health and medicine, released a report in 2017. It shows that "Cannabis use is likely to increase the risk of schizophrenia and other psychoses." According to NAM, the higher the use is, the greater the risk is.

The American Psychiatric Association's statement on marijuana says, "there is no current scientific evidence that cannabis is in any way beneficial for the treatment of any psychiatric disorder."

In contrast, current evidence supports, at minimum, a strong association of cannabis use with the onset of psychiatric disorders. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to harm, given the effects of cannabis on neurological development."

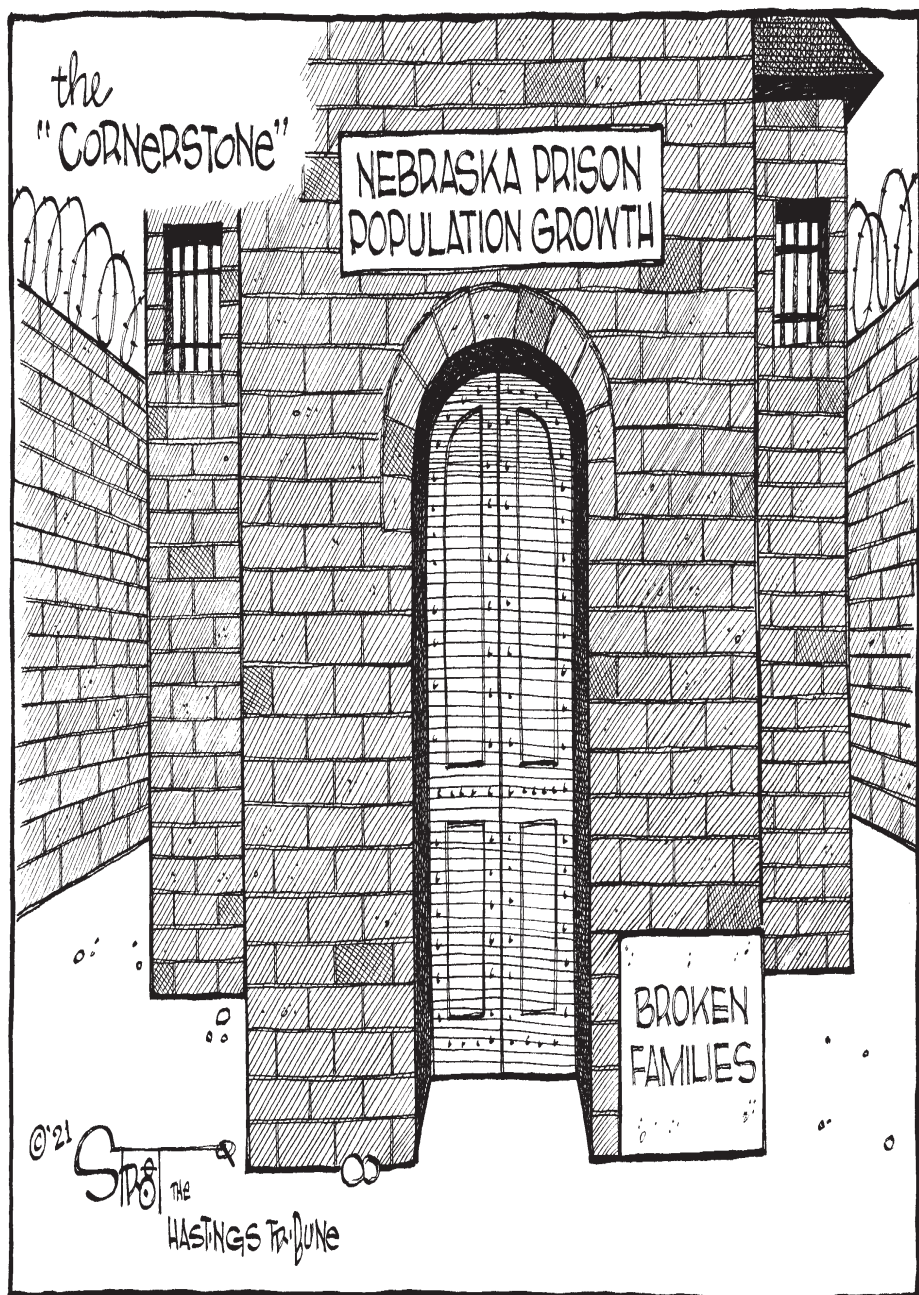
The multi-billion dollar marijuana industry will continue to say anything to get the drug legalized and avoid regulation for public safety.

I urge Nebraskans to be steadfast in resisting their tactics. As the Legislature debates bills related to marijuana this session, contact your state senator to remind them of the dangers of bringing marijuana legalization to your community.

You can find their contact information at www.nebraskalegislature.gov. If you have questions on other topics, please contact my office at pete.ricketts@nebraska.gov or 402-471-2244.

Correction

The article titled "Ordinance to end mask mandate fails first reading" in the Feb. 24 issue of the Seward County Independent stated that Memorial Health Care Systems CEO Roger Reamer said MHCS recommends the mask mandate stay in place until Jan. 3. The date should have said March 3. The Independent apologizes for the error.



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COVID

(continued from page 1)

we're going to have a problem," she said.

Business owners were informed of potential impacts to their revenues and workforces while schools were warned they may have to close buildings and educate students in non-traditional methods.

"We knew this was going to disrupt life and we wanted to talk to them about what that means, how we mitigate it, how we make sure employees are taken care of, our kids are taken care of and our businesses survive," she said.

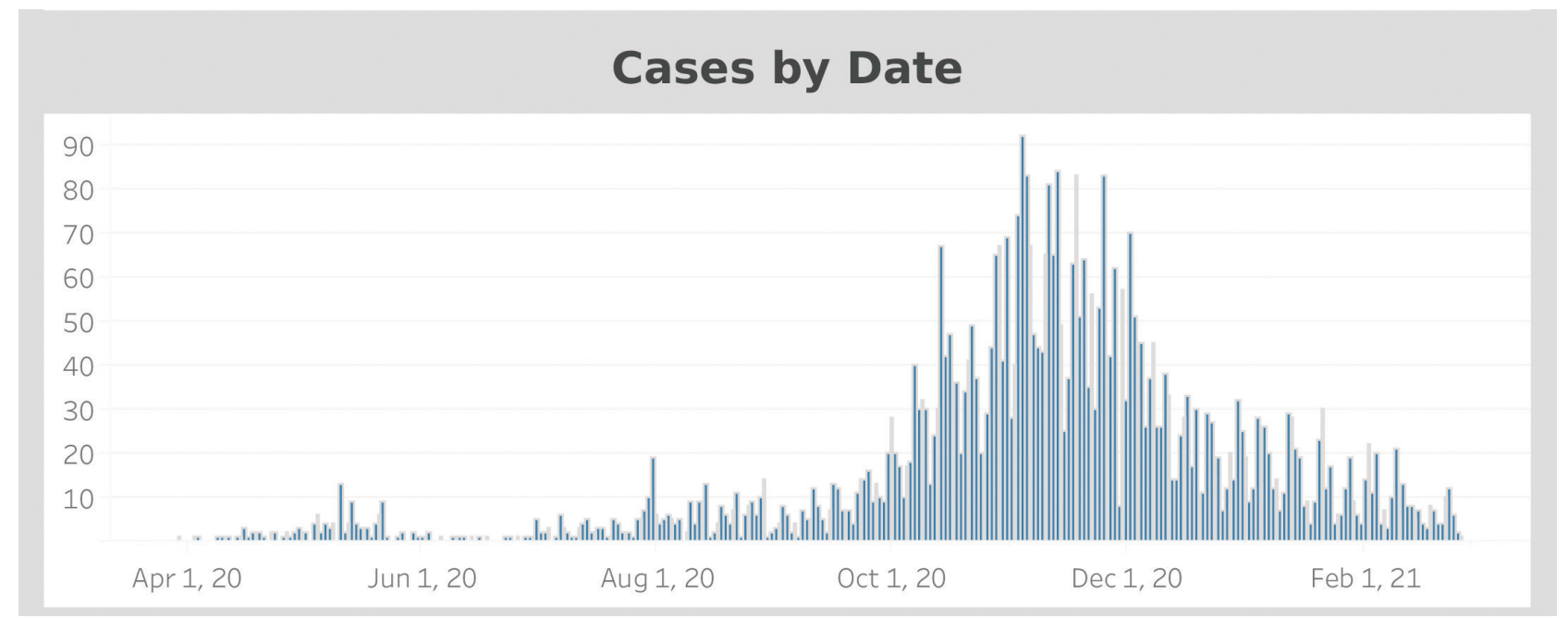
Roger Reamer, Memorial Health Care Systems administrator and CEO, said the hospital first started hearing about the virus as a threat in February of 2020 and activated its emergency response plan by early March. This involved reevaluating its infectious disease plan and how it matched up with the known effects of this particular strain.

"March was kind of when things started happening for us with planning sessions and putting together task forces as we were hearing from associations how to get geared up," he said. "The biggest thing was our infectious disease plan and how to prepare for potential PPE problems and put together an information planning team that would start meeting weekly."

"Everything was changing so rapidly"

The disruption of life McDougall and the staff warned about had arrived by March 20 and the county awaited its first case, which came on March 30. She said this challenged Four Corners to collaborate with the rest of the health departments across Nebraska in order to provide citizens with the best information to keep themselves safe and calm as they saw cases spread into their communities.

"Everything was just changing so rapidly and we were trying to stay up-to-date on the latest information," she said. "As health directors,



COURTESY OF FOUR CORNERS HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The progression of positive cases of COVID-19 in the Four Corners Health Department district shows a significant increase in October and November. However, cases have dropped and remain low since the beginning of 2021.

we were trying to stay on the same message because it gets really confusing for the public if everyone has different messages.

As cases started showing up in the community, Reamer said the hospital reacted with defensive procedures in an attempt to keep patients and staff safe. This involved taking temperatures of those who passed through hospital doors and eventually masking staff. Staff were trained how to effectively put on, take off and maintain PPE.

"The whole idea of starting it there was to try to keep our staff safe and the patients safe that are here having care and then have our waiting rooms be safe for each other," he said. "It wasn't because we had COVID in our facility - we didn't have cases yet. That's when things were really starting to ramp up in New York City, and we were starting to see travel bans, and that was getting people excited."

Reamer added that the hospital began working with Bryan Health in Lincoln to set up a surveillance method for rural hospitals to report their situations to Bryan to get hospital bed counts in anticipation of a surge. Reamer said staff kept eyes on the situation worldwide, nationally and statewide to best develop a plan.

The preparedness plan included the hospital adding more inpatient rooms with

negative air pressure, which means the air in the room is constantly pushed out so to not spread the disease elsewhere in the hospital.

"We went through that spring and summer with a lot of preparation, preparation and heard things about how this disease was taking a lot of lives," he said. "That's how this got kicked off. Most of our time was spent training and getting set up and being ready in case that big surge came and put pressure on hospitals across the state."

"Dark days in November"

The area experienced its first peak in April and May but promoted efforts to slow the spread. That, along with the arrival of summer and activities moving outdoors, knocked numbers back down for a number of months.

Reamer said the hospital capacity was never threatened in the first few months of the pandemic.

However, as people moved back inside with the colder temperatures, the virus truly took hold in the community. The region saw its highest number of cases per day on Nov. 4 at 94, and 83 new cases were recorded the following day. The next week saw multiple days with 80 or more new cases.

"We had some pretty dark days in November," McDougall said. "From our viewpoint here in the public health sector, you talk to physicians and nurses and

those caring for people with COVID and there's not really any way that you can explain what that looks like unless you're living it."

Reamer said the late fall surge impacted Lincoln hospitals to the point where they could no longer take patients who required inpatient care. At the time, rural hospitals would identify individuals that needed to be admitted and would transfer those patients to larger facilities.

"But it got to the point in October and November where they couldn't take anymore and we were in the position of managing patients," he said. "We were prepared for it, we had the tools and training for it, the rooms were prepped, so our plan did work very well."

Reamer said that the later timing of the eventual surge allowed the hospital enough time to view what treatments were being administered across the country and translate those to the clinic.

"The surge came, but we prepared, prepared, prepared," he said. "I'll never forget back when we first started this, we said we hoped we could prepare to the nth degree and never have to put it into play. But we did have to put it into play and we were proud of our team and how we were able to manage the sickest of the sick."

"Our communities will be stronger"

The November surge eventually leveled and

new cases have continually dropped since December. The receding surge coincided with the arrival of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines.

Reamer said the hospital received notice that the vaccine was close to developed in July and, again, planning for distribution with Four Corners immediately began.

"We've been through a hospital received notice that the vaccine was close to developed in July and, again, planning for distribution with Four Corners immediately began."

The first doses arrived in December and medical staff began receiving shots on Dec. 22. Four Corners and MHCS worked their way through the "1A" group for essential employees and frontline workers. The attention was then focused to the "1B" group in January, starting with the oldest and most susceptible citizens. Regular vaccination efforts have continued and as of Feb. 26, 2,950 people in Seward County have been vaccinated, according to the Four Corners website.

McDougall said the vaccine is critical piece to the fight against COVID-19, but it doesn't mean the fight is over. She equated the effort to downhill skiing, stating that medical professionals and citizens have only reached the top of the mountain. Now, she said, it's time to navi-

gate down the hill.

"You're happy to be there because you know you're at the mountain, but you also have to ski down it and hope you get down alive," she said, adding that distributing the vaccine as quickly as possible is crucial, as new variants of the virus have arrived in the United States. "It's a race against time."

Along with the growing number of vaccinated individuals in the community, the area has seen a significant drop in new cases. From Friday, Feb. 19 to Friday, Feb. 26, just 46 new cases were recorded in the four-county region.

With hope of an end increasing each day, McDougall said the situation could have been far worse and last longer than it eventually will had it not been for the cooperation of medical professionals, businesses and organizations and citizens. Collaboration and understanding, she said, have been the most important tools in regaining a sense of normalcy.

"We have all these incredible partnerships and people have gone over and above what was required of them to serve their community. There are so many people out there that are really trying to help in any way they can," she said. "Our communities will be stronger because of this because we're all in it together."


Goehner spaghetti feed still scheduled

The annual Goehner spaghetti feed will still happen this year but under a different format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Meals will not be served, but the sauce will be bagged and available for purchase at the Goehner Fire

Hall on March 7 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Encourage friends and family to stop out and pick up a few bags to take home and share.

Residents of Kinship Pointe will be treated to a full, authentic spaghetti dinner for lunch.

While the event will be a little different this year, organizers know the secret is in the sauce, which was passed down to Father Morama from his mother, who lived in Italy.



3269 Progressive Ave.
Seward
402-643-4977

RENTALS

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Other Items Available

Hours: M-F 7:30-5; Sat. 7:30-12



Spring Dog Obedience Classes

7-Week Session
March 15, 22, 29
April 5, 12, 19, 26

4-H Center, Seward County Fairgrounds

Class size will be limited. Please pre-register at sewardcountykennelclub.com or call Cindy Hill, 206-715-9995.

Masks are required for (human) participants. Arrive 10-15 minutes before the first session in order to drop off registration forms.

6:30 Kindergarten Puppy Training
Fee: \$45/7 weeks. 2-6 months
Early Training: Socialization & Beginning Basics

7:00 Basics Fee: \$50/7 weeks
Heeling, Sit-Stay, Down-Stay, Recall, On Lead

Canine Good Citizen Test on April 26

* Excellent training for 4-H dogs for obedience & showmanship

For more information call
Tanya Williams 402-761-3598
Chris Corum 402-643-5864
Cindy Hill 206-715-9995

sewardcountykennelclub.com

2021-2022 EAST BUTLER KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION/ROUND-UP

***Tuesday, March 9, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.**
at Dwight Elementary

***Thursday, March 11, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.**
at Brainard Elementary

Please call the school office at (402) 545-2081 by Friday, March 5, for a registration packet to be mailed to you.

Please bring your incoming kindergarten student along with your child's certified birth certificate, immunization record, and completed registration packet.

2021-2022 EAST BUTLER PRE-SCHOOL REGISTRATION/ROUND-UP

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 • 6:30 p.m.
at Brainard Elementary

Please call the school office (402) 545-2081 by Friday, March 26, 2021 for an application to be mailed to you.

Please bring your incoming pre-school student along with your child's **certified birth certificate, immunization record, and completed application.**

Obituaries

Melvin Loströh

Oct. 17, 1924 – Feb. 22, 2021

Melvin Loströh was born in rural Emerald on Oct. 17, 1924, the son of Arthur and Ida (Ninneman) Loströh of rural Emerald. Melvin went to be with the Lord on Feb. 22, 2021, due to cancer, at the age of 96 years, 4 months and 5 days.



He attended Lancaster County District 80 school and high school in Emerald. He attended Milford Trade School where he learned welding. He married the love of his life, Joanne Merrill, on Aug. 15, 1948, in Pleasant Dale.

Melvin was an excellent farmer from his youth, a leader in the community, a dear brother in Christ, a great father and a much loved and wonderful grandfather of 18, and great-grandfather of 34.

Melvin was a true cornhusker! What Melvin did as a boy was to walk through the corn field, picking and removing the husks before throwing each ear of corn into an old-style wagon that was pulled alongside him by a team of horses without a driver. He lived to see self-driving combines.

As a teenager, Melvin was hired as a consultant, manager and operator for several farms where the landowners knew improvement was sorely needed. By succeeding in this, he built up a reputation that earned him the admiration of his future father-in-law, Wiston Merrill, and the attention of his future wife, Joanne. Melvin spent his whole farming experience implementing conservation techniques that earned him awards. The Loströh farm that he lived on nearly his entire life recently celebrated 150 years since Melvin's grandfather Heinrich Loströh submitted paperwork under the federal Homestead Act.

Joanne and Melvin loved square dancing, round dancing and ballroom dancing, and he served as president of the Lincoln Square & Round Dance Council.

Melvin served on the Emerald elevator board, the District 80 school board and the Seward County Co-op board.

Melvin and Joanne faithfully attended church all their lives, first at Pleasant Dale United Methodist, then at Hillcrest Evangelical Free Church in Seward. Both Melvin and Joanne loved to read the Bible and pray together.

Melvin was often seen in public holding hands with Joanne. They celebrated their 66th wedding anniversary in August, 2014. Joanne went to be with the Lord on Feb. 3, 2015, at the age of 85 years.

Melvin is survived by children and spouses, David and Lorraine Loströh of Seward, Kathleen (Loströh) and John Frohner of Lincoln and Kevin and Julia Loströh of rural Lincoln; grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Julie (Loströh) and Edwin Hughlett of Anthony, Kansas, Stephen and Amy Loströh, Austin, Ryley and Audrey of Miramar, Florida, Katie (Loströh) and Bradley Ulrich, Brayden, Sienna, Kiera, Tenley and Zane of Lincoln, Amy (Loströh) and Tom Thalls of Seward, Bethany (Loströh) and Zach Soflin, Brynlee, Piper, Annika and Liam of Seward, Jonathan Loströh of Lincoln, Matthew and Amanda Loströh and Zipporah of York, Michael Loströh of Lincoln, Mary Loströh, Reuben Blowers of Lincoln, Brenda (Frohner) and Ryan Sisel, Alexis, Logan and Carson of Lincoln, Jennifer (Frohner) and Ryan McGhee, Samantha and Sadie of rural Lincoln, Melissa Frohner of Lincoln, Stacy (Loströh) Nordmeyer, Jaiden, Ava, Lane and Tessa of Malcolm, Denise (Loströh) and Travis Pritchett, Calen and Kyler of Lincoln, Mark and Ashton Loströh, Kase, Evan and Barrett of Lincoln, Lesley (Loströh) and Matthew Turek, Mason, Cale, Emma, Jackson and Mila, of Malcolm, Teresa Loströh and Todd Meysenburg and Graham of Lincoln, and Emily Loströh of rural Lincoln; sister, Alta Schweitzer of Ft. Collins, Colorado; brother, Paul and Violet Loströh of Rapid City, South Dakota; sister-in-law, Helen Busboom of Seward; brother-in-law, Charles Ott of Omaha; and many nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Henry and wife, Jean Loströh; sister, Velma and husband, Alvin Luebbe; sisters, Laverne Loströh, Ardith and husband, Sid Siegrist; sisters-in-law, Cheryl Ott and Julia Lee and Gene Melichar; and brothers-in-law, Harold Busboom and Floyd Schweitzer.

A funeral service was Feb. 27 at Hillcrest Evangelical Free Church in Seward with interment at Pleasant Dale Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Loströh family for future designations. Condolences may be left for the family and the funeral service may be viewed under Melvin's obituary at www.zabkaperduefuneralhome.com.

Traffic

Information taken from Seward County court records.

Feb. 15 – 19

Austin J. Waller, 23, Seward, disturbing the peace, seven days jail.
Cory H. Deweese, 29, Palmer, driving under suspension before reinstated, \$100 fine.

Davis L. Luebbe, 21, Milford, procure/sell alcohol to a minor/incompetent, one year probation.

Payton W. Kidder, 22, Holdrege, DUI-alcohol first offense, \$500 fine, revoked license 60 days, six months probation and interlock device.

Shawn T. Two Crow, 20, Seward, willful reckless driving-first offense, six months probation, \$467.20 restitution.

Gene A. Selby, 32, Seward, dogs running at large, \$10 fine.

Aurella Heine

1926 – Feb. 24, 2021

Aurella (Ringenberg) Heine, 95, of Topeka, Kansas, formerly of Seward, died Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021, at her McCrite Plaza home. She was born in Eustis to William J. and Olga B. (Lohmeyer Werth) Ringenberg.



In 1947, she married Gilbert R. Heine at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lexington.

Preceding her in death are her husband; her only son, William; a brother, Willard; and a nephew, Steven.

Survivors include her daughter, Kathleen (Dennis) Hintz; daughter-in-law, Melinda Heine; five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; brother, Herbert (Evelyn) Ringenberg; and sisters-in-law, Shirley Heine and Twila Smith.

A funeral service was March 2 at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Topeka. Burial will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, March 4, at Hillside Lutheran Cemetery in Dawson County. Visitation will be from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Thursday at Reynolds-Love Funeral Chapel in Lexington. Memorial contributions are suggested to St. John's Lutheran Church, 901 SW Fillmore, Topeka, KS 66606 or Martin Luther Grammar School at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1325 Burton St., Sheridan, WY 82801. Condolences may be left for the family at www.DoveTopeka.com.

Arrests

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

Michael Rengstorf was arrested Jan. 11 in connection with the offenses of willful, reckless driving and avoiding arrest. Rengstorf is set to appear for arraignment March 1.

Jonathan Foreman, 23, Seward, was arrested Jan. 2 in connection with the offenses of criminal mischief, disturbing the peace and third-degree assault. Ten percent of a \$10,000 bond was filed and Foreman has a plea hearing scheduled for March 10.

Eric Hill, 41, Seward, was arrested Dec. 26 in connection with the offenses of using a firearm to commit a felony, terroristic threats and disturbing the peace. Ten percent of a \$10,000 bond was filed and Hill has a preliminary hearing scheduled for March 17.

Matthew Boyd, 41, was arrested Jan. 9 in connection with the offenses of driving under the influence and an improper lane change. Ten percent of a \$5,000 bond was filed and a pretrial hearing is set for March 10.

Anderson Stewart was arrested Jan. 9 in connection with the offenses of flight to avoid arrest, driving under revocation with an open alcohol container, obstructing a police officer and failure to display plates. Ten percent of a \$10,000 bond was filed and Stewart is to appear for sentencing March 24.

Traffic

Information taken from Seward County court records.

Feb. 15 – 19

Cody M. Lomax, 20, Crete, speeding 21-35 mph county/state, \$200 fine.

Terrelle L. Kearney, 36, Lucama, North Carolina, no valid registration on truck, \$200 fine.

Chase L. Brown, 19, Yutan, speeding 6-10 mph municipal, \$25 fine.

Roberto Parra, 23, Grand Island, speeding 16-20 mph municipal, \$125 fine.

Trevor R. Renquist, 21, Geneva, muffler required/good working order, \$25 fine.

Valerie J. Hansen, 54, York, no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine.

Christian T. Heil, 21, Lincoln, no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine; unlawful/fictitious display of plate/renew tab, \$50 fine.

Loc T. Phan, 57, Hastings, driving below minimum freeway speed, \$10 fine.

Ayanna M. Sabatka-Turley, 18, Lincoln, speeding 21-35 mph municipal, \$200 fine.

Mark Sutton, 34, Lubbock, Texas, speeding 6-10 mph county/state, \$25 fine.

Kent G. Fickel, 55, Utica, no brake lights/turn signals, \$25 fine.

Matthew J. Robb, 28, Lincoln, no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine.

Skylor N. Altstadt, 20, Council Bluffs, Iowa, no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Reece M. Yant, 19, Seward, no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine.

William J. Bodish, 57, St. Petersburg, Florida, violation of parking regulations, \$25 fine; impeding traffic, \$25 fine.

Lori L. Sheehan, 62, Friend, driving too fast for conditions, \$100 fine.

Fru Ravinder Singh, 38, Turlock, California, careless driving, \$100 fine.

Rebecca A. O'Flaherty, 39, Seward, disobey stop lights, \$75 fine.

Real estate

Information taken from records filed with the Seward County clerk.

Feb. 12 – 23

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

Information taken from records filed with the Seward County clerk.

Stanley A. Eberspacher and Shirley A Eberspacher to Keith H. Eberspacher, Carl S.

Eberspacher and Jane A. Flanagan, an undivided, one-half interest in the NW1/4 17-9-2. DS exempt

Leah H. Pankoke and Benjamin Pankoke to Lauren E. Johnson, Lot 7, Block 4, Wright's Third Addition to Utica. DS \$310.50

Heidi J. Johnson to Robert Brauer and Frances Brauer, Lot 2, Country Club Heights Sixth Addition, Seward. DS \$528.75

297V, LLC, to the Village of Pleasant Dale, the north 60 feet of the Farmer's Co-op Grain Company Subdivision in the W1/2 36-10-4. DS exempt

Peek Property Management, LLC, to Peek Commercial Property, LLC, a tract of land in the replat of Lots 5 and 8, Twin Oaks Development in the NE1/4 32-11-3. DS exempt

Police

Information provided by the Seward Police Department.

Feb. 19

7:33 a.m.—A paperboy noticed that the papers for one of his customers in the 1100 block of Eighth Avenue were not being picked up, so his mother contacted police to ask if someone would check on them. The customers were found to be OK.

Feb. 20

9 a.m.—An officer assisted a driver whose car was stuck in a car wash bay.

4:15 p.m.—Officers arrested a female driver in the area of Moffitt Street and Locust Avenue for driving while intoxicated.

Feb. 21

12:21 a.m.—A party with suspected minors in attendance in the 200 block of Pearl Street was investigated by officers. Six citations for minor in possession of alcohol were issued, along with two citations for procuring alcohol for minors.

1:03 a.m.—A caller on Lincoln Street reported a possible party going on at that location. Two people were cited for being a minor in possession and another for procuring alcohol for minors.

2:42 p.m.—A caller in the area of Highway 34 and 14th Street reported an injured deer in the roadway ditch.

Feb. 22

1:58 a.m.—Following a traffic stop in the 1500 block of West Highway 34, two people were arrested for drug violations.

6:24 p.m.—A caller in the 500 block of Heartland Park Drive reported a snow plow had hit and caused damage to his father's vehicle.

7:37 p.m.—A caller in the 1400 block of North Columbia Avenue wanted to talk to an officer about a mirror being hit on their vehicle the past two days.

Feb. 24

10:24 a.m.—A caller in the 500 block of South Second Street reported they had photos of someone using an apartment building garbage dumpster illegally. Officers made contact with the suspect and advised him to provide his own trash service or be cited for theft of services.

2:18 p.m.—A caller in the 100 block of South First Street was looking for guidance on purchasing a gun for personal safety. An officer spoke with the caller on the matter.

3:21 p.m.—A caller in the 200 block of College Avenue reported they had found what appeared to be drug paraphernalia. Police took possession of a vape pen and cartridges.

Feb. 25

4:11 p.m.—A caller in the 600 block of South Columbia reported someone had been letting air out of the tires on their vehicle and someone also placed a large tack in the sidewall of one of the tires. The caller requested to file a report for criminal mischief.

11:29 p.m.—Following a traffic stop in the 200 block of South Eighth Street, a man was arrested and jailed on an arrest warrant.

Summary of other calls:

911 misdial 2
Abandoned vehicle 1
Abuse/neglect adult 2
Abuse/neglect child 1
Animal found 1
Death investigation 1
Disturbance 1
Extra patrol 1
Fraud 3
Funeral escort 2
Miscellaneous 16
Motorist assist 1
Non-injury accident 3
Ordinance violation 2
Parking violation 5
Reckless driving 1
Suspicious person/activity 3
Theft 1
Traffic stops 31
Welfare check 1

Jenny's REESources

How to use the UNL nitrogen equation

by Jenny Rees
Seward-York counties
Extension educator

March is here and it sounds like we're in for a beautiful week, temperature-wise.

The following website may be helpful for those wondering about frost layer depth:

<https://www.weather.gov/mbrfc/frost>. It's updated on Thursdays and is saying about 4 inches now. The snow greatly insulated the soil with the cold temps.

UNL nitrogen equation: There's several ways nitrogen recommendations are figured. Often nitrogen removal from the grain is factored and varies by the entity figuring it from 1.0-1.3 lbs N per bushel of grain. One difference between the UNL equation and soil test labs is that the UNL one takes into account organic matter.

Some don't like this and feel the equation mines nitrogen while the UNL soil scientists feel they're conservative with the way the remainder of the equation is built.

The UNL N recommendation for corn grain (lb/ac) = $[35 + (1.2 \times EY) - (8 \times NO_3-N \text{ ppm}) - (0.14 \times EY \times OM) - \text{other N credits}] \times \text{Priceadj} \times \text{Timingadj}$ where:

EY = expected yield (bu/ac) which should be about 105% of the five-year yield average

NO₃-N ppm = average nitrate-N concentration in the root zone (2-4 foot depth) in parts per million

OM = percent soil organic matter (with a minimum of 0.5 and a 3% maximum)

Other N credits include N from previous legume crop, manure and other organic material applied and irrigation water N.

Priceadj = adjustment factor for prices of corn

N Timingadj = adjustment factor for fall, spring and split applications

The UNL nitrogen equation uses a weighted average soil nitrate test for the ppm nitrate. A minimum depth of two feet is required. Thus, with a 0-8-inch soil sample, one needs to account for a weighted average. If ones doesn't, the equation will overestimate the amount of soil nitrate and result in a lower requirement than what may be needed.

If one doesn't have a deep sample, use a default of 3 ppm for silt loam/silty clay loam soils or 1.5 ppm for sandy soils in the two-foot depth. The Extension circular "Fertilizer Recommendations for Corn" (<http://extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/pdf/ec117.pdf>) explains this in detail with an example.

Higher corn prices will show that one can apply more nitrogen economically. However, the research bell curve will show little to no yield increase for that additional nitrogen.

There is also an Excel spreadsheet that does this when the depth of soil samples taken is inputted. A more visual excel spreadsheet is also available at the following website by scrolling to "Corn Nitrogen Recommendations Calculator" <https://cropwatch.unl.edu/soils>.

Other nitrogen credits include N from previous legume crops, manure applied and irrigation water. The UNL equation credits soybean as the previous crop for 45 lbs of N due to nitrogen scavenging abilities and the increased mineralization from their low carbon to nitrogen ratio.

On-farm research studies in this part of the state found, in irrigated soybeans, we could credit more: 1 lb of nitrogen for every bushel of soybean raised up to 60 bushels (so up to 60 lbs. N 'credit' from soybeans).

Irrigation water often contains a significant amount of nitrate-N (and other nutrients, including sulfur) that is readily available to corn. Dr. Charlie Wortmann shared, for every 10 acre-inches of water applied, one can take ppm in the sample X 2.265 to determine lbs. of the nutrient applied via irrigation. Irrigation amounts vary from year to year, so one could take a three-year average for irrigation amount.

I use the equation without the price and timing adjustment. Higher corn prices will show that one can apply more nitrogen economically. However, the research bell curve will show little to no yield increase for that additional nitrogen. The timing adjustment assumes nitrogen loss in the fall, building in N for that, and assigns a small reduction if applying nitrogen in-season.

You can look at this in more detail for your own operation, and the spreadsheet makes it more visual to look at these effects.

Student essays win Optimist contest

Madison Dominy of Seward, a sophomore at Seward High, was selected the winner of the Seward Optimist Club essay contest. She is the daughter of Jessica and Matt Dominy.

First runner-up for the contest is Noah Fields, also a sophomore at Seward High and the son of Kevin and Deidra Fields. The third place finisher is Emily Yelden of Seward, who is the daughter of Lynn and Marsha Yelden.

The students received their awards at the Seward Civic Center on Feb. 15. On the local level, the winning essay writers receive an Optimist medal and Certificate of Award. All other entries were considered honorable mention and also received certificates.

"We were most pleased with the number of entries this year in the contest," Melissa Pohl, SHS teacher and sponsor for the Optimist Essay Contest, said. "We appreciate these extra student writing opportunities, as there are so



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, Madison Dominy, Noah Fields and Emily Yelden show their championship medals and certificates from the Seward Optimist Essay Contest.

few and limited in scope. This essay contest is of a high quality and very professionally orchestrated. Thank you to all that support writing and students."

The top three essays will now compete at the state level, competing for the top prize of a \$2,500 scholarship, presented by Optimist International.

The students each wrote a 750-word essay on the topic "Reaching

Your Dreams by Choosing Optimism." On the State Level, Dominy is representing the Seward Optimist Club, Fields is representing the Lincoln Evening Optimist Club and Yelden is representing the Lincoln West Optimist Club.

Lana Urban with the Seward Optimist Club is the 2021 State Optimist Essay Contest. Clark Kolterman is the local Optimist Essay Chair. Each student will read

their essay at the local Seward Optimist Club meeting in the future.

Last year, Madalyn Lobmeyer, 2020 Seward High graduate, was the Seward Optimist Essay representative and won first place and the \$2,500 scholarship.

For more information on this program or the Seward Optimist Club, contact the Seward Optimist Club President Morgan Kozisek at morgan.kozisek@esu6.org.

Milford to host first 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 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 donation 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

"They are the best and brightest kids you have ever seen. There are about 3,000 applicants for a pool of about 30 selected."

– Stephanie Roth
Marketing Coordinator

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 Taric Lichty at (319) 759-0847 or at winshapecamps.org.

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Hello Spring
CRAFT & VENDOR SHOW
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Saturday, March 6 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
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**Fridays: 5–7:30 p.m.
March 5, 12 & 26**

Adults: \$9.00 • Children 5–12: \$4.00

Deep-Fried Fish

Cheesy Potatoes • Cornbread • Coleslaw
St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church
152 Pinewood Ave • Seward
Everyone Welcome!



COURTESY PHOTO

New things await us in 2021, including the popularity of bean gardens.

Common garden beans are National Garden Bureau's focus for 2021

by Sarah Browning
Lancaster County Extension educator

There are many species of beans in cultivation around the world, yet it is the common garden bean, *Phaseolus vulgaris*, that takes on celebrity status as National Garden Bureau's vegetable focus for 2021.

One of the earliest cultivated plants, garden beans can trace their beginnings to Central and South America. Vining or climbing beans were an original member of the "Three-Sisters" – a companion planting of the first domesticated crops of maize, winter squash and climbing beans. These became the three main agricultural crops used for trade and food for Native North Americans.

Green beans were once referred to as string beans due to the long fibrous thread along the pod seams. The first stringless green bean was developed in 1894 by Calvin Keeney who later became known as the "father of the stringless bean."

Breeders continue to breed this stringless trait into modern genetics. Other desirable traits include dark green succulent pods, good bean flavor, concentrated fruit set, stress tolerance, and disease resistance.

Basic types of garden beans

The common garden bean is anything but common. Green beans or 'snap' beans as they are also referred to come in a variety of flavors, pod shapes, sizes and a colorful pallet including shades of green, purple, yellow and speckled bicolors.

Bush beans are the workhorse of the garden and the mainstay in the kitchen. Bush beans are compact and fit well into both small garden patches or patio containers fitted with cages.

Pole beans with their vining habits can be trained up poles, trellises, netting or supportive structures such as a teepee. With proper support pole beans can also be grown in containers.

Filet beans or Haricots Vert (French green beans) are distinguished by elegant ultra-slim pods. Due to their delicate appearance, filet beans are gaining in popularity with foodies and chefs. Filet beans come in both bush and pole bean types.

Dried or shelling beans are grown for their edible seeds rather than edible pods. Pinto beans, kidney beans and black beans fall into this category.

Varieties to try

Pole beans

Seychelles – Seven to nine-foot vines produce multiple crops of 5-6-inch long stringless pods with excellent flavor. Fast-growing and early-to-produce crisp delicious pods.

2017 AAS Winner.

Kentucky Blue – Produces 6-8-inch dark green pods on six-foot vines with outstanding Blue Lake flavor. Can be harvested all season long. 1991 AAS Winner.

Bush beans

Mascotte – A gourmet compact variety perfect for today's small space gardens. Produces long slender pods that stay above the foliage for easy harvest. 2014 AAS Winner.

Desperado – Heat and stress tolerance makes this an easy to grow and high yielder of long straight 5-inch dark green pods.

Specialty Beans

Roma II – A Romano or Italian flat bean that produces an abundance of wide, flat 5-inch long pods with a distinctive rich, intense, beany flavor. Bush type habit.

Amethyst Purple – A French filet bush bean that produces beautiful violet-purple, long slender stringless pods on compact plants suitable for containers and raised beds.

Gold Rush – The gold standard for yellow wax beans, Gold Rush produces clusters of straight 5-6-inch long yellow pods. Pods hold well on the bush and are versatile in the kitchen.

Garden beans growing tips

- Beans are warm-weather vegetables and are best planted after soil temperatures reach 70F.

- Avoid sowing too early in the season. Cool wet soils can lead to rot.

- Beans thrive with at least eight hours of daily sun, moderate fertility and well-drained soil.

- Beans have shallow roots; weed carefully to prevent damage to the root system.

- Mulch the soil around the bean plant; consistent moisture results in the highest quality harvests.

- Quick to mature, harvests can begin 50-60 days after sowing.

- Bush beans typically grow 12 to 24 inches tall and produce harvests for about three weeks.

- Succession sowing of bush beans every 2-3 weeks will produce delicious beans all season.

- Pole beans have a long harvest season, generally lasting about six to eight weeks.

- Harvest frequently to encourage pod production.

- Pole beans can quickly grow a lush privacy wall around porches or patios.

- Create a living fort or teepee with pole beans for a fun play space.

- Yellow wax beans lack chlorophyll and will retain their beautiful golden color when cooked.

- Purple beans contain anthocyanins (the purple pigment) that disappear when beans are cooked.



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Calvary Baptist Church

208 E. Bek Ave. • Seward • 402-643-3575

www.cbcseward.com

Pastor Timothy A. Ruegg

- Sunday School (all ages).....10:00 a.m.
- Sunday Morning Worship11:00 a.m.
- Sunday Evening Worship5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study7:00 p.m.

Church of Christ

1422 Kolterman Ave. • Seward • 402-643-5802

www.sewardchurchofchrist.com

Pastor: Dr. Mike Case

- Sunday Worship9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday Bible StudySmall groups

Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)

1245 N. 2nd St. • Seward • 402-643-6116

www.faithseward.org

Pastor Greg Gabriel

- Currently worshipping online only. Watch our Facebook page for worship opportunities.
- Sunday Worship (online)9:30 a.m.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

2668 Hwy 6 (1 mile west of Milford) • 402-761-3146

www.goodshepherd-milford.org

Pastor Steve Stork

- Sunday Adult Bible Study.....9:00 a.m.
- Sunday Worship10:00 a.m.
- Monday Worship6:30 p.m.
- Adult Bible Study.....Thurs. 8:30 a.m.
- Kids' Bible Classes, Pre-K through 6th grade (during school year)Wed. 6:30 p.m.
- Confirmation Class (during school year)Wed. 6:30 p.m.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)

746 Pinewood Ave. • Seward • 402-643-4131

www.graceseward.org

Pastor Mark A. Haefner

- Sunday Bible Class8:00 a.m.
- Sunday Worship8:45 a.m.
- Sunday School and Fellowship9:45 a.m.

Great Plains Community Church

1155 May St. • Goehner • 402-730-2594

Pastor Galen Skinner

- Sunday Worship10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday Night, Adult Bible Studies, Children and Teen Activities7:00 p.m.

Hillcrest Evangelical Free Church

2433 Progressive Road • Seward • 402-643-2316

Senior Pastor Curt Coddington

Administrative Pastor Brant Taylor

Associate Pastor Brad Johnson

Worship Pastor Kyle Soflin

Youth Pastor Zach Mulvihill

- Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes....9:45 a.m.
- Sunday Worship8:15 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
- Wednesday Children and Teen Activities.....6:30 p.m.

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (LCMS)

1042 May St. • Goehner • 816-308-7859

Pastor James Dahlke

- Sunday Worship9:30 a.m.
- Sunday School & Adult Bible Class Following Worship

Lighthouse Pentecostal Church

201 S. 11th St. • Seward • 402-641-3494

Pastor Timothy Daywitt

- Sunday Worship10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
- Wednesday Worship.....7:00 p.m.

Living Word Lutheran Church (LCMC)

1300 W. Hillcrest Drive • Seward • 402-643-6445

www.livingwordseward.org

Pastor Scott Krohn

- Saturday Worship (1st & 3rd Sat.)5:30 p.m.
- Relaxed Worship
- Sunday Worship9:00 a.m.
- Traditional; Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
- Words on Wednesday (WOW).....6:30 p.m.
- Varied activities by age, from youth to adults

Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church (AALC)

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252 N. 6th St. • Seward • 402-953-FORT (3678)

www.mightyfortress.us • Like us on Facebook

Sunday Worship11:00 a.m.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (LCMS)

3.5 miles west of Staplehurst • 402-535-2625

Pastor Shawn Kitzing

Worship (church in the country).....9:00 a.m.

Sunday School (school in Staplehurst).....10:30 a.m.

Bible Class (school in Staplehurst)10:30 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

401 Dimery • Beaver Crossing • 402-532-2545

Msgr. Mark Huber

Saturday Mass5:00 p.m.

Mon., Tue., Thurs., Fri. Mass.....8:00 a.m.

Confessions 30 minutes before every Mass

Seward United Methodist Church

1400 N. 5th St. • Seward • 402-643-4156

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty, Lead Pastor

Rev. JoEllen Axthelm, Associate Pastor

Sunday Traditional Worship

(in person and online)8:00 a.m.

Sunday Small Groups9:15 a.m.

Sunday Praise Worship

(in person and online)10:30 a.m.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

6th & Hillcrest • Seward • 402-643-3829

Rev. Pam Williams

Currently worshipping online only. Watch our Facebook page for worship opportunities.

Sunday Worship (online)10:30 a.m.

Clergy office hrs.....Wed. by appt.

St. John Lutheran Church (LCMS)

919 N. Columbia Ave. • Seward • 402-643-2983

www.stjohnseward.org

Pastor Scott Bruick • Pastor Andy Schermbeck

Pastor David Rempfer

Saturday Worship5:30 p.m.

Sunday Worship8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Education Hour10:00 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)

200 Paris St. • Cordova • 402-576-3211

Pastor Brian Tuma

Sunday Worship9:00 a.m.

Sunday School/Adult Bible Study10:30 a.m.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church

110 3rd St. • Utica • 402-532-2545

Msgr. Mark Huber

Sunday Mass9:00 a.m.

Wednesday Mass7:00 a.m.

Confessions 30 minutes before every Mass

St. Paul Lutheran Church

1100 'D' St. • Utica • 402-534-2200

Pastor Jon Dunbar

Pastor of Visitation: Pastor Richard Gudel

Sunday Worship9:00 a.m.

Sunday School & Adult Bible Study10:15 a.m.

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

152 Pinewood Ave. • Seward • 402-643-3421

www.stvincentseward.org / See our FB page

Msgr. Robert Tucker

Saturday Evening Mass.....5:30 p.m.

Sunday Mass8:00 & 10:00 a.m.

Confessions 30 minutes before each Mass

The Rock (LCMS)

237 S. 3rd St. • Seward • 402-643-6624

therockseward.org • info@therockseward.org

Pastor Michael Meyer

Sunday Worship10:00 a.m.

Zion Lutheran Church (LCMS)

370 Fourth St. • Garland • 402-588-2229

Zionlcm.com • revdobb.com

Pastor David Dobbertien

Sunday Worship9:00 a.m.

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Starkey new veterans service officer for county

Matt Starkey says he hopes to help veterans get benefits they are entitled to

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

Matt Starkey has seen a variety of service. From Desert Storm as a medic to National Guard to Veterans Affairs, he knows the military.

Starkey is the new veterans service officer for Seward County, accepting the position in January.

He was born in Ashland and moved with his family to Lincoln in junior high. He graduated from Lincoln High and attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for a year.

"I floundered. I was not ready, not motivated," he said. "I walked to the recruiting office and joined the Army."

In 1989, he was sent to a tank battalion in Germany and went with it into Iraq for Desert Storm. As the unit's only medic, he was in the lead company of the Third Armored Division.

When the Army downsized in 1992, he didn't have many chances to reenlist, so he joined the National Guard. He moved to Seward the first time in 1995 and was on fulltime active duty with the National Guard until 2001.

In 2003, the Guard moved him to Kearney, then McCook and Beatrice before he retired in 2013.

He went to work for the state Veterans Affairs office and continued to travel the state. In 2017, he became the outreach and training coordinator and traveled to all 93 counties in Nebraska.

They were sent home in March because of COVID-19 and just went back to the office in February, he said. Despite working from home, he continued to help veterans, although he had to learn new ways to do so.

After seven years with Veterans Affairs, he decided he wanted a narrower focus. He always liked Seward, and when Jeff Baker, the previous veterans service officer, decided to step down, Starkey decided to step in.

"I'm very qualified on the law and benefits," he said. "I specialize in being a problem solver."

He said he likes to help veterans solve issues and is looking forward to helping them cut through the red tape.

"Government is not meant for normal people to understand," he said. "It gets more technical all the time."

"Helping with benefits is what I like to do." His goal is to increase outreach to veterans and



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Matt Starkey is the new veterans service officer in Seward County.

surviving spouses to help them get the benefits to which they're entitled.

He hopes to have alternate office hours for veterans who work during the day and can't get to his office between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

"I want to carry on what Jeff did," he said.

Because he comes from state employment, he said Seward County is a test to see if that might work for other counties.

Starkey currently lives in Lincoln with his dog, a 7-year-old Airedale terrier/German Shepherd mix "who is developing a personality," he said.

He likes to fish, travel and camp and cheers for the Denver Broncos.

He enjoys sports, he said, and is looking forward to watching more local teams, something he liked doing as a recruiter.

He's planning an open house in May to meet more Seward County veterans and residents. He encouraged all veterans to contact him to make sure they're in the database so any new benefits can be applied.

Starkey can be reached in the office at (402) 643-4105, via email at mstarkey@co.seward.ne.us or by cell phone at (402) 641-8808.

Vaccination efforts ramp back up after slight hiccup

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

After a brief hiccup due to the extreme winter weather in February, COVID-19 vaccination efforts in Seward County are once again in full swing.

At the regular Four Corners Health Department briefing Feb. 18, Executive Director Laura McDougall explained that the vaccination shipments for that week had been delayed because of the snow and cold received throughout the week.

McDougall said some clinics had to be downsized that week and some were slightly delayed last week as a new shipment arrived. Early last week, McDougall said, the Four Corners region received its delayed allotment and welcomed an additional shipment of vaccines Feb. 25.

"We've gotten two weeks' worth in one week and will get another early next week," she said. "The next clinics should be good sized and we ran a few big ones this week. We have a lot of people getting shots out there."

Roger Reamer, Memorial Health Care Systems Administrator and CEO, said the delay did not hurt MHCS' distribution efforts, as the doses that were late were ones that would be given out later instead of immediately.

"We really didn't get disrupted with our plans and it didn't throw us off of our schedule because we had kind of taken a little different route early on, so we were OK," he said. "We were pretty lucky in that and were able to

stay the course in what we would be able to get out each week."

"It showed up just in the nick of time," added Mallory Gibreal, Director of Community Relations for MHCS. "We were really thankful it arrived."

After shipments arrived, McDougall said the region continued its mission to distribute shots as quickly as they arrive and will do so as allotments allow.

"We still are dedicated to the idea of getting those shots and not letting them sit," she said. "We're going to be running things as wide open as we can go."

As of Feb. 26, Four Corners reported that 8,493 total vaccines had been given with 2,950 of those in Seward.

Last Wednesday, MHCS distributed the first round of second doses to 180 individuals in the 1B group with an additional 250 first doses Feb. 25.

"We've had some really great efforts," Gibreal said. "They went really, really well."

Reamer said MHCS is continuing to work its way down the list of 1B recipients from oldest to youngest. He said the clinics for the week of March 3 will be in the 70 to 71 age range and staff hopes to begin on individuals in the 65-year-old age range by the end of the month.

"Going forward if the doses stay exactly how we've been getting, we can anticipate each week 250 first-time and 250 second-time people," he said. "We'd like to see that get bigger, we'd like to see more but that's what we're going to do now."

Young writers win awards in annual contest

Winners for the 2021 GFWC Seward Women's Clubs literature contest have been announced.

The contest is for students in kindergarten through Grade 12. Jean Kolterman serves as the chair of the contest for both GFWC Clubs. There are two winners in each division, as there are two GFWC Clubs in Seward — the GFWC Seward Woman's Club and the GFWC Seward Junior Women's Club.

Winners included:

Short Story, Grades K-2

Emalyn Meyer, Grade 2, St. John Lutheran, "Attack on the Colony," SWC

Amiyah Fitzmann, Grade 2, St. John Lutheran School, "The Story of the Prince and the Princess," SJWC

Poetry, Grades K-2

Olivia Kitt, Grade 2, St. Vincent DePaul School, "Ginger," SWC

Ben O'Brien, Grade 2, St. Vincent DePaul School, "I Saw Christmas!," SJWC

Short Story, Grades 3-5

Kade Benson, Grade 5, St. John Lutheran

School, "Ned's Return Home," SWC

Jordyn Samuels, Grade 5, St. John Lutheran School, "A Pup's Journey Home," SJWC

Poetry, Grades 3-5

Michael Frisbie, Grade 3, St. Vincent DePaul School, "Michael's Never Poem," SWC

Trey Schultz, Grade 3, St. John Lutheran, "Cooldown," SJWC

Short Story, Grades 6-8

Abigayil Wunderlich, Grade 8, Seward Middle School, "The Water's Gleam," SWC

Molly Marroquin, Grade 7, St. John Lutheran School, "Lemon Everheart and the Professor's Plot," SJWC

Poetry, Grades 6-8

Blair Briggs, Grade 7, Seward Middle School, "SEWARD," SWC

Jane F. Friesen, Grade 7, Homeschool, Milford, "All Alone," SJWC

Short Story, Grades 9-12

Keira Lliteras, SHS, Grade 10, "Mr. Peterson," SWC

Lydia Lobmeyer, SHS, Grade 10, "Breath of Coreton," SJWC

Poetry, Grades 9-12

Noah Fields, SHS, Grade 10, "Dusted Valley," SWC

Landon Nelson, Grade 12, "The Kids in the Bath," SJWC

Judges for the writing contest were English/Language Arts education majors at the University of Nebraska, Julie Marie Smith, Alliance, and Nancy Nexton, Shelby.

The Cattle National Bank and Trust of Seward and Lincoln cosponsor the event and present commemorative coins to the winners. The students also each receive a signed certificate by the GFWC Seward Woman's Club and GFWC Seward Junior Women's Club. There were over 200 entries

in the contest this year. The awards will be distributed in their classrooms, as there is not a program this year due to Covid-19.

Students were honored with a "no host" reception Feb. 28 at the Seward Civic Center. The student writing will be on display at the Civic Center. Each winning entry is now submitted to the GFWC Nebraska Federation of Women's Club's Inc. State Literature Contest and will be judged and printed in the GFWC NFWC Anthology in the spring of 2021.

One entry per category will go on the complete at the national GFWC Literature contest to represent Nebraska and the GFWC Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs, Inc.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the 2020-2021 Seward High Academic Decathlon State Team include, from left, Braden Adams, Cole Gray, Hannah Kolterman-Wagner, Isaiah VanBeek, Emily Gokie, Miriam Voehl and Elizabeth Gokie. Coach Noelle Baker is not pictured.

SHS Academic Decathlon team is runner-up at state contest

The Seward High Academic Decathlon team earned runner-up in the medium and large school division at the state competition Feb. 19 and 20.

Seniors selected to participate were Miriam Voehl, Hannah Kolterman-Wagner, Cole Gray, Emily Gokie, Elizabeth Gokie, Braden Adams and Isiah VenBeek. SHS could have two to three in a section for testing.

While the team did not win the grand prize and a trip to represent the Nebraska Academic Decathlon Team at nationals, they did place First Runner-up in the Medium School Division, losing only to Omaha's Daniel Gross.

Elizabeth Gokie won the top score and a gold medal for being the top scorer on the Seward High team, and Cole Gray won a bronze medal for third place in the Essay Division. The Medium Schools were placed in competition with the Large and Very Large Schools.

"We are very proud of this team, they worked very, very hard and well represented Seward High and medium schools in the competition at the state level," Noelle Baker, the SHS AD coach, said. "These students were prepared and spent two full days in testing at the state level, and that doesn't count all the test taken to get to the state level."

"We look forward to honoring them at a future SHS P.R.I.D.E. Rally and are anxious to recognize them for their hard work representing SHS!"

The US Academic Decathlon program follows the overall curricular them on The Cold War. The multiple choice online tests were in the subject areas of science with a focus

on the space race, literature which includes the novel "Cat's Cradle" by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., art with an emphasis on art fundamentals and art during the Cold War, music focusing on the various musical works from the Cold War era, social science promoting the history of the Cold War, economics emphasizing the economics of the Cold War and mathematics promoting general math, geometry and an introduction to differential calculus.

Each 30-minute test had 50 multiple choice questions. The students were also asked to present a formal speech in business dress, participate in an interview and write an essay on a prepared thesis on The Cold War.

The students were divided into teams based on their academic grade scores and competed only with other students with the same grade point averages. All the students took the same tests.

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

The sponsors of the Seward High School Academic Decathlon team are the School District of Seward High Ability Learner Program and the Seward Optimist Club. The school district purchases the curriculum/study materials, and the Seward Optimist Club donates the SHS Academic Decathlon Team t-shirts. Members assist in monitoring the local testing.

Clark Kolterman served as the monitor for the state testing on Feb. 19 and Dr. Louis Reith was the monitor on Feb. 20.

Pastor's column

Listen to the silence for clarity

by Pastor Scott D. Bruick
The Ministry of St. John Lutheran

I heard the cooing of a newborn infant the other day while I was in the hospital and I thought to myself, "We need more innocent sounds around us."

I heard the belly laugh of a toddler in a Facebook video the other day and I thought to myself, "We need more joy-filled sounds around us."

I heard the excited voice of a young elementary-age child explain to their parent what they had found while hiking and I thought to myself, "We need more excitement in seeing the creation that is around us."

I heard the fun-loving voices of children playing on the school playground this past week when the temperatures were on the rise and I thought to myself, "We need more laughter around us."

What sounds have been entering your ears this week? Have they been sounds of innocence, joy, excitement, laughter? I believe life would be put back into a better perspective if some of these sounds were filling our ears more often.

When such sounds fill our ears, they will then fill our brains and then maybe, just maybe, fill our hearts.

Also, have you had much silence to listen to this week? Yes, I said that correctly! Have you had much silence to listen to this week? I heard the calls of God's creation around me as I sat on a bluff by a river this past week and

I thought to myself, "We need more silence around us."

I know for the lonely and the grieving, silence may be challenging for we long to be in community and conversation with others. However, I have found it helpful, and you may too, if we would have silence to listen to on a regular basis.

Listening to silence does some amazing things for me. It pauses the droning of the world. It pauses the shouting of media and social media. It even can cause my own voice to be hushed. And in all of this, I find that the sound of silence becomes a gift that helps to clear my head and also my heart

And for me, it is in that silence that often I can hear the One, in whom I would like to trust in the most, speak the clearest. Who is that I trust the most in? Not myself! Not other mortals! No, I don't have trust issues! I can trust myself and I can trust others; I just pray that I do so at an appropriate level.

For me, I have been led to trust again and again in the One who has revealed Himself in His Son, Jesus Christ. He speaks through His creation and through His revealed Word.

There is a great line

from "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" that I hear in light of these thoughts: "All the Noise! Noise! Noise!" In this children's classic Christmas tale, the Grinch was referring to how every Who in Whoville would wake up and celebrate Christmas.

That line has been running through my head long after Christmas is over this year. "All the Noise! Noise! Noise!"

One can only guess where the noise in my ears is coming from. You know where the noise that is ringing in your ears is coming from.

For you and me, the noise may be from similar sources and from some very individualized specific sources. But no matter the source, I suspect that the noise has been too noisy lately.

There is a proverbial saying that states, "Silence is golden." That is often used when one is reminded that it may be better to say nothing. Most of us could learn from that saying.

But there is even better saying from which we can all learn: "For God alone my soul waits in silence; from Him comes my salvation." (Psalm 62:1). Enough said! It's time for me to be silent.

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Picture this – students win competition

The annual GFWC Seward Woman's Club High School Student Photography Contest for 2021 was again held at the Seward Civic Center sponsored by the GFWC Seward Junior Women's Club and the GFWC Seward Women's Club.

The contest was open to all high school students in Seward County. This year all the student winners attend Seward High School. The contest entries are on display in the East Fireplace Room of the Seward Civic Center, 616 Bradford Ave.

The winners include:

Living Things-Color

Boone Duncan, GFWC Seward Junior Women's Club
Kaitlyn Porter, GFWC Seward Woman's Club

Living Things-Black and White

Maximus Kelly, GFWC Seward Woman's Club
Nyanit Duol, GFWC Seward Junior Women's Club

Still Life Color

Kambryn Nelson, GFWC Seward Junior Women's Club

Brenna Cihal, GFWC Seward Woman's Club

Still Life Black and White

Kaitlyn Porter, GFWC Seward Junior Women's Club
Andrew Alley, GFWC Seward Woman's Club

Scenes Color

Maximus Kelly, GFWC Seward Junior Women's Club
Olivia Benes, GFWC Seward Woman's Club

Scenes Black and White

Megan Hague, GFWC Seward Junior Women's Club
Cortney Stava, GFWC Seward Woman's Club

Kary Bolder, UNL Art/Photography major, Lincoln, was the judge/juror. Each winner receives a certificate, ribbon and commemorative dollar, compliments of the Cattle National Bank and Trust of Seward and Lincoln.

GFWC chairman for the project is Jean Kolterman, and the photography instructor at Seward High is Nathan Knott.

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The 2021 Our Redeemer Gala event being held on March 12th is a fundraiser for Phase 2 of the new Ministry Center being built in Staplehurst for Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and School. Phase 2 is the gym/multi-use area to be connected and work in unison with Phase 1, which is currently under construction and on schedule for the 2021-2022 school year. Phase 1 includes classrooms, offices, lunchroom, and chapel area. A ribbon-cutting dedication along with the 150th anniversary celebration of the Our Redeemer congregation is planned for August 15th, 2021. Our Redeemer is excited about the opportunities that the new Ministry Center will bring to the church, school, and community.

The 2021 Our Redeemer Gala is a Four Corners Health Department approved event. **Gala tickets need to be purchased in advance for this event no later than March 7th, 2021.** Purchase your tickets today and view/bid online auction items on our website at orls.home.qtego.net. For more information or to purchase tickets other than online, contact Our Redeemer Lutheran School at (402) 535-2251 or email gala@orlcn.org. Please join us for this evening of food, fellowship, and fundraising.

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Gala Schedule

All guests must be age 21 and over

- 5:00 Doors open
 - Social hour with open bar
 - Browse auction items
- 7:00 Meal served
- 8:00 Live auction
- 9:00 Entertainment
 - Chad Thornsberry
- 10:15 Silent auction closes
- 11:00 Event ends

See you March 12!



Check us out on social media and our website at www.orlcn.org



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CONGRATULATIONS Broncos!

2021
Girls
Basketball
District C2-8
Champions

The Centennial High School girls basketball team defeated Sutton 49-46 in overtime for the district title Friday, Feb. 26.

Good luck at State!



Stephanie Croston, SCI

Team members are, from left: (sitting) Kierra Green, Jaci Opfer, Daylee Dey, Asia Nisly, Jaycee Stuhr, Kate Hirschfeld, Kiley Rathjen, Kailey Ziegler and Maddie Avery; and (standing) Coach Mark Ortmeier, Savannah Horne, Karley Naber, Cora Payne, Hailey Heidtbrink, Madison Brandenburgh, Halley Kinnett and Coaches Ann Endres and Jake Polk.

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SECTION B SPO RTS

Seward County Independent

March 3, 2021



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Bryce Jakub of Milford defends against a Lincoln Christian drive Feb. 25 during the subdistrict final.

Eagles win, move on in postseason

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Milford boys' basketball team picked up a couple big wins in subdistricts Feb. 23 and 25 to advance to a March 1 district final.

The Eagles (25-0) were to play Mitchell March 1 in North Platte with a trip to the state basketball tournament on the line.

Milford took care of business in subdistricts, beating Raymond Central 85-53 and Lincoln Christian 64-53.

The Eagles built a 55-29 lead at halftime against Raymond Central Feb. 23 and continued to pull away in the second half.

Coach Tony Muller said Milford did a good job pressuring the Mustangs and forcing turnovers. Raymond Central shot well to start the game, he said, with 18 first-quarter points.

This was the second time the teams had played, and Muller said Milford went with more full-court pressure and speeded up the tempo.

Jaxon Weyand and Micah Hartwig led Milford in the first half with 17 and 14 points, respectively. Weyand finished with 25 and Hartwig scored 17. Seth Stutzman and Cabe Schluckebier joined them in double figures with 10 each.

Schluckebier added six rebounds, four of them offensive. Stutzman recorded six assists and four steals.

Muller said Stutzman does a good job finding the open man when he's double teamed in the post.

Raymond Central was 9-23 from three-point range, while Milford was 3-5. Muller said the Eagles scored more quickly, allowing the Mustangs more possessions.

The Eagles, however, were 14-17 at the free throw line, while RCHS was 4-7.

The win put the Eagles in the subdistrict final against Lincoln Christian Feb. 25. The Milford High gym was at 75% capacity, the limit at this point. The fans were loud, and both schools brought their pep bands.

"The intensity was up the whole time," Muller said.

The match-up on paper was not favorable for the Eagles, he said. Lincoln Christian has Drew Buekelman who's 6-7 and Easton Marshbanks who's 7-0. In addition, the Crusaders have talented guards who can shoot well from outside.

Isaac Yeackley drew the task of guarding LC's Buekelman, while Schluckebier stuck to

(continued on 3B)



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

The Centennial girls' basketball team won the District C2-8 title Feb. 26. Team members are, from left: (sitting) Kierra Green, Jaci Opfer, Daylee Dey, Asia Nisly, Jaycee Stuhr, Kate Hirschfeld, Kiley Rathjen, Kailey Ziegler and Maddie Avery; and (standing) Coach Mark Ortmeier, Savannah Horne, Karley Naber, Cora Payne, Hailey Heidtbrink, Madison Brandenburgh, Halley Kinnett and Coaches Ann Endres and Jake Polk.

CHS makes state

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

It's been awhile since the Centennial girls' basketball team has played at the state tournament.

Since 1999, to be precise.

The Broncos can add 2021 to their tournament appearance list after beating Sutton 49-46 in overtime to win the district final Feb. 26.

"It's been a long time coming for the team and the school," Coach Jake Polk said.

The game was the third meeting between Centennial and Sutton this season. Centennial won the first two 47-40 and 38-28.

Polk said the Broncos knew the gym would be loud for the district final, so the team worked on hand signals to call their plays.

He said the subdistrict loss to Cross County the week before, also played in a very loud gym, helped prepare for that atmosphere.

The Broncos knew Sutton would try to pressure them, but CHS was able to handle the pressure. The Broncos limited their turnovers until the end of the game when both teams were tired, Polk said.

Centennial also wanted to shoot better from outside, he said. CHS made no three-pointers against



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Centennial's Daylee Dey stares down the Sutton defense during the Broncos' overtime win over the Fillies Feb. 26.

Cross County but was able to go 6-21 from beyond the arc against Sutton.

The bench came up big for the Broncos, the coach said. Jaci Opfer came in to score 10 points, hitting a pair of big three-pointers.

"She is a special player. She's capable of doing that at any time," Polk said. "She's been a dynamic athlete for us."

He was happy to see the Broncos finish with 13 assists, led by seven from Kate Hirschfeld. He said Sutton focused on shutting down Hirschfeld's offense, but the senior did a

good job distributing the ball.

Asia Nisly led the team with 12 points. Jaycee Stuhr scored nine, and Daylee Dey contributed eight. Kiley Rathjen grabbed nine rebounds.

"It was great to see others step up and put the ball in the hoop," Polk said.

The Broncos (23-2) will play top-seeded Crofton (23-3) in the Class C2 state tournament opener.

"They are the hardest working team I've seen," Polk said. "They are relentless on both sides of the ball."

He said Centennial will have to limit easy layups and not let Crofton speed them up.

The Broncos will try to make the game a half-court contest and play tough physical defense, Polk said.

Tip-off is set for 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 3, at Lincoln Southeast.

Centennial 49, Sutton 46 (OT)
SHS 8 9 14 12 3 46
CHS 7 14 13 9 6 49
CHS—Kate Hirschfeld 3-9 0-1 6, Kierra Green 0-4 0-0, Daylee Dey 3-7 2-3 8, Jaci Opfer 4-7 0-10, Kiley Rathjen 2-5 0-1 4, Maddie Avery 0-1 0-0, Asia Nisly 3-6 3-5 12, Jaycee Stuhr 4-11 0-0 9, Totals 19-50 5-10 49.
Three-point goals—CHS 6-21 (Hirschfeld 0-2, Green 0-3, Dey 0-2, Opfer 2-5, Avery 0-1, Nisly 3-5, Stuhr 1-3). **Rebounds**—CHS 28 (Rathjen 9). **Assists**—CHS 13 (Hirschfeld 7). **Steals**—CHS 9 (Nisly 3). **Blocked shots**—CHS 3 (Hirschfeld 2). **Turnovers**—CHS 11. **Fouls**—CHS 13.

Bluejays end with pair of overtime showdowns

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

Overtime was the way to go for the Seward boys' basketball team in subdistricts.

Drew Covalt hit a three-pointer at the overtime buzzer to down Crete 72-70 Feb. 22, but Aurora held the Jays to two points in the extra period to win 53-46 Feb. 23.

The Bluejays ended the season at 8-16.

"We're so proud of our guys who continually got better all year," Coach Trevor Menke said.

Against Crete, he said, the Jays found a way to win.

"We talk about it all the time whether you play well or not, go find



CAITLYN NELSON/SCI

Traety Schaefer (2) and Carson Tvrdy (40) of Seward try to block Crete's Isaac Kracl as Sam Schroeder (52) watches during the first round of subdistricts Feb. 22.

a way to win," he said. "When you get to this point, you survive and advance and us coaches are proud of our guys."

Jackson Trost scored 17 to lead the Jays, and Covalt finished with 15. Sam Schroeder notched nine points and six rebounds, and Traety Schaefer recorded nine points and six assists.

The Jays forced overtime the next night on another Covalt three-pointer. The Huskies, however, shut down the SHS offense in the overtime period.

Schroeder paced the Jays with 13 points. Gavin Sukup and Covalt scored 10 each. Trost grabbed 10 rebounds and Schaefer delivered seven assists.

"We played a really

good Aurora team three times this year and played better each time out," Menke said.

The Jays will graduate Carson Tvrdy, Cole Gray and Nathan Miller.

Seward 72, Crete 70 (OT)
SHS 19 14 15 13 11 72
CHS 13 17 15 16 9 70
SHS—Drew Covalt 6-21 0-2 15, Traety Schaefer 4-5 0-0 9, Jackson Trost 6-10 0-0 17, Gavin Sukup 3-4 3-4 9, Leighton Limback 3-8 1-2 8, Sam Schroeder 3-6 3-9 9, Carson Tvrdy 1-2 2-2 5, Totals 26-56 9-19 72.
Three-point goals—SHS 11-28 (Covalt 3-12, Schaefer 1-2, Trost 5-9, Limback 1-4, Tvrdy 1-1). **Rebounds**—SHS 23 (Schroeder 6). **Assists**—SHS 14 (Schaefer 6). **Steals**—SHS 3 (Covalt 2). **Blocked shots**—CHS 1 (Limback 1). **Turnovers**—SHS 7. **Fouls**—AHS 13.

Aurora 53, Seward 46 (OT)
SHS 11 10 8 15 2 46
AHS 13 7 10 14 9 53
SHS—Covalt 4-10 1-1 10, Schaefer 1-4 0-0 2, Trost 0-3 0-0 0, Sukup 4-7 2-2 10, Limback 3-7 0-0 8, Schroeder 4-9 5-9 13, Tvrdy 1-2 0-0 3, Totals 17-42 8-12 46.
Three-point goals—SHS 4-18 (Covalt 1-7, Schaefer 0-2, Trost 0-3, Limback 2-4, Tvrdy 1-2). **Rebounds**—SHS 25 (Trost 10). **Assists**—SHS 12 (Schaefer 7). **Steals**—SHS 1 (Schroeder 1). **Turnovers**—SHS 9. **Fouls**—SHS 16.

Clippers miss state

by Heath Kramer
Seward County Independent

Some days, nothing goes your way. 'The Malcolm girls' basketball team had two of those days in the past two weeks.

After winning their first 21 games, the No. 2 ranked Clippers dropped their final two — including a 51-49 district final loss to Winnebago — and failed to qualify for the state tournament.

Riding a six-game win streak into the (continued on 2B)

Bronco season ends in district final game

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

To get to the state boys' basketball tournament, the Centennial boys' basketball team had a tough road.

The Broncos had to get through Grand Island Central Catholic, No. 2 in the wildcard standings, and BRLD, No. 7 in wildcard points.

"I think we had the toughest subdistrict in the state in our class," CHS Coach Cam Scholl said. "The quality of teams – it's like the state tournament."

The road started, though, against Doniphan-Trumbull Feb. 23. The Broncos took care of DT 59-51 to advance to the subdistrict semifinal.

"We played really well. We did what we wanted to defensively," Coach Cam Scholl said.

Centennial scored 42 points in the paint, led by a season-high 21 from Lane Zimmer.

Scholl said Doniphan-Trumbull was quick but smaller than the Broncos, and CHS was able to take advantage of that.

"It was a good team win for us," he said. "We had to win to keep playing. Credit the guys."

In addition to Zimmer, Jake Bergen also hit double figures with 17 points, and Maj Nisly added 10 points to go with nine assists.

The win put CHS in the subdistrict final Feb. 25 against GICC. CHS stayed close but came up short 49-44. Scholl said the Broncos couldn't quite recover from a 20-7 second quarter.

"We wanted to make it interesting," he said. In the third quarter,

Bergen went on a 9-0 run by himself, and CHS cut into the lead by outscoring the Crusaders 18-9.

Cooper Gierhan led the team with 17 points, and Bergen added 15. Scholl said Jayden Hartshorn played well inside against the Crusader posts who stand 6-9 and 6-8.

Scholl was pleased to see the Centennial defense hold GICC to one of its lowest scoring games of the season.

Despite the loss, the Broncos were high enough in the wildcard standings to earn a district final game. Across the scoreboard was BRLD, a team Scholl said is the second-best in the state behind GICC and the two-time defending state champion. He said their record is deceiving because they dealt with Covid and injuries.

"They are the real deal," he said.

BRLD built a 46-25 lead at halftime and maintained it through the second half, winning 67-49.

"Lucas Vogt is the best player we've played against since I've been at Centennial," Scholl said.

The BRLD point guard did a good job controlling the game's pace, Scholl said. The Wolverines made three-pointers early to help build the lead.

"They shot as well as they have all year," Scholl said. "We just couldn't overcome their hot shooting."

Gierhan led the Broncos with 26 points in his final game in a CHS uniform.

"It's a tough way to go out," Scholl said.

Overall, however, he



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

The Centennial boys' basketball team was the District C2-7 runner-up Feb. 27, falling to BRLD in the championship game. Team members are, from left: (kneeling) Lance Haberman, Jayden Hartshorn, Reiden Fowler, Elijah Utter, Conner Clouse and Michael Nisly; and (standing) Coach Cam Scholl, Maj Nisly, Carson Prochaska, Lane Zimmer, Jake Bergen, Cooper Gierhan, Shawn Rathjen, Alex Hirschfeld, Jayde Gumaer and Coaches Craig Barjenbruch, Jordan Ortmeier and Bob Fish.

said the Broncos had a good season, finishing with a 17-7 record.

Gierhan is the team's only senior, and he'll be hard to replace, the coach said. Gierhan finished with close to 1,400 career points, second in Centennial's all-time scoring records.

"He's a really good player, and the younger kids look up to him," Scholl said. "We will be sorry to see him go."

Centennial 59, Doniphan-Trumbull 51

CHS 18 10 16 15 59
DTHS 7 12 14 18 51

CHS—Alex Hirschfeld 0-1 0-0 0, Maj Nisly 4-8 2-2 10, Jake Bergen 8-11 0-0 17, Cooper Gierhan 3-8 3-3 9, Lane Zimmer 8-9 5-10 21, Jayden Hartshorn 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 24-39 10-15 59.

Three-point goals—CHS 1-6 (Hirschfeld 0-1, Nisly 0-2, Bergen 1-1, Gierhan 0-2). Rebounds—CHS 25 (Bergen 6). Assists—CHS 11 (Nisly 9). Steals—CHS 1 (Gierhan 1). Turnovers—CHS 14. Fouls—CHS 10.

Grand Island Central Catholic 49, Centennial 44

CHS 10 7 18 9 44
GICC 10 20 9 10 49

CHS—Nisly 3-6 0-0 8, Bergen 6-16 2-2 15, Gierhan 5-17 6-6 17, Zimmer 0-1 2-2 2, Hartshorn 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 15-43 10-10 44.

GICC—Totals 16-37 9-13 49.

Three-point goals—CHS 4-17 (Nisly 2-4, Bergen 1-8, Gierhan 1-5), GICC 8-25. Rebounds—CHS 26 (Gierhan 8), GICC 22. Assists—CHS 3 (Gierhan 2). Steals—CHS 2 (Nisly, Hartshorn 1). Turnovers—CHS 9, GICC 6. Fouls—CHS



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Cooper Gierhan of Centennial tries to avoid contact as he takes a shot against BRLD Feb. 27 in the district final.

14, GICC 9.

BRLD 67, Centennial 49

CHS 14 11 10 14 49
BRLD 21 25 9 12 67

CHS—Michael Nisly 1-1 0-0 3, Ma. Nisly 3-10 5-6 11, Bergen 2-7 1-2 5, Gierhan 10-25 2-2 26, Zimmer 1-4 2-2 4. Totals 17-47 10-12 49.

Three-point goals—CHS 5-19 (Mi. Nisly 1-1, Ma. Nisly 0-3, Bergen 0-4, Gierhan 4-11).

Rebounds—CHS 23 (Gierhan, Zimmer 6). Assists—CHS 8 (Ma. Nisly 5). Steals—CHS 4 (Ma. Nisly 2). Turnovers—CHS 12. Fouls—CHS 17. Fouled out—Bergen.

Malcolm

(continued from 1B) Feb. 26 game in Malcolm, the girls from Winnebago came to play. The No. 16 seed Indians' answer to the Malcolm zone defense was to launch long balls from beyond the arc.

It worked. Winnebago made four three-pointers in the first quarter to build an 18-14 lead.

"We knew they would chuck it up," Malcolm head coach Andy Klepper said. "We didn't defend their ball movement well and they got good looks and the shots were falling."

Winnebago added a few more points to its lead in a defense-heavy second quarter and went into the halftime break up 26-19.

"We talked about making some defensive adjustments at halftime," Klepper said. "The girls and the coaches thought we could get it done by sticking with our zone and upping the intensity."

Malcolm wasted no time erasing the Indians' lead as it came out of the break on fire and beat Winnebago at its own game. The Clippers nailed three straight three pointers – two from Alyssa Fortik and one from Diamond Sedlak – to quickly grab a two-point lead. Additional long balls from Joslyn Small and Reagan Wondercheck added to the lead.

"Things felt a little better at that point,"

Klepper said. "I thought we might be at a turning point where we could pull away."

But 'Bago had more fight in them. The actual turning point came in the closing seconds of the third quarter when the Clippers had possession of the ball and a four-point lead. Klepper called for one shot to close the frame. With 14 seconds on the clock, Fortik saw an opening and took the ball to the hoop, but the layup try failed.

Winnebago grabbed the rebound and point guard Natasha Deal found a wide open Ciarra Frenchman in the corner. The sophomore reserve buried a three-pointer at the

buzzer to make it a one-point game.

"They took all the momentum back at that point," Klepper said. "We came out flat in the fourth quarter and they took advantage."

Keisha Snyder scored the first seven points of the fourth quarter as the Indians quickly jumped back ahead by six points. The teams traded punches from there as Fortik, Sedlak and Emma Brown all made three-pointers for the Clippers to keep it close.

Out of a timeout with 14 seconds remaining, Malcolm had one last try, but Fortik failed to find an open look or an open teammate. An errant pass went out of



DOUG CARROLL/SCI

Malcolm's Ashlynn Sehi drives to the basket as Winnebago's Sylvia Valentino defends.

bounds with one-tenth of a second on the clock. With that pass went the Clippers season.

Fortik finished with 22 points. Small added eight points and five assists while Brown scored seven and grabbed 10 rebounds.

"It's such a hard way for our seniors to go out," Klepper said. "Losing twice on your home court to end your career was not the plan."

"I hurt for those three. They stepped up when we couldn't have practices due to Covid and they ran drills and

taught our system to the younger players. They did a lot for our program. We'll miss them for sure."

Malcolm finished the season with a 21-2 record.

C1-1 District Final Winnebago 51, Malcolm 49

WIN 18 8 7 18 51
MAL 14 5 15 15 49

MALCOLM—Joslyn Small 3-15 0-0 8, Reagan Wondercheck 2-3 0-0 6, Jasmine Small 0-2 0-0 0, Ashlynn Sehi 0-4 0-0 0, Jordan Denton 0-1 0-0 0, Alyssa Fortik 8-14 2-3 22, Diamond Sedlak 2-8 0-0 6, Emma Brown 1-9 4-6 7.

WIN—18-40 5-6 49.

Three-point goals—MAL 11-32 (Jo. Small 2-11, Wondercheck 2-3, Ja. Small 0-1, Fortik 4-9, Sedlak 2-7, Brown 1-1), WIN 10-24. Rebounds—MAL 35 (Sehi 11, Brown 10), WIN 30. Assists—MAL 12 (Jo. Small 5), WIN 14. Steals—MAL 9 (Sehi 5), WIN 5. Turnovers—MAL 9, WIN 16. Fouls—MAL 10, WIN 8.



DOUG CARROLL/SCI

The Malcolm girls' basketball team finished as the District C1-1 runner-up Feb. 26. Team members are, from left: (first row) Jordan Denton, Joslyn Small, Ashlynn Sehi, Jasmine Small and Alyssa Fortik; (second row) Diamond Sedlak, Madison Schultz, Alanea Babb, Lauryn England, Kiley Elkins and Cora Schweitzer; and (third row) Coaches Jonathan Hunt and Michael Trausch, Camry Sehi, Emma Brown, Reagan Wondercheck and Coach Andy Klepper.

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SEWARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT



PHOTO COURTESY BRANDON MOWINKEL

Hayden Frank of Malcolm lays the ball in against Raymond Central in the opening round of subdistricts Feb. 22.

Clipper boys' season ends in subdistricts

by Heath Kramer
Seward County Independent

Not the start they wanted. Not even close.

When the Malcolm boys' basketball team opened its Feb. 23 sub-district game against Raymond Central by missing a layup and its next few good looks, it was apparent it could be a long night. It was. The Clippers' season came to an end as the Mustangs advanced with a 62-57 win.

"Like we've done too many times this year, we dug ourselves a pretty deep hole," Malcolm head coach Chris Lewandowski. "It was the complete opposite of how I thought we would start."

A combination of poor shooting and defensive breakdowns by the Clippers allowed Raymond Central to build a 12-point lead by the close of the first frame.

"Nothing was going our way and we started forcing things," Lewandowski said. "We settled for too many long-range shots that weren't falling and that we weren't rebounding."

The Clippers shot 37% from the field, including going 7-of-26 from three-point range while also missing eight attempts from under the basket.

"If we're going to shoot that poorly, we need to be crashing the boards," Lewandowski said. "A one-shot possession is a lot like a turnover."

By contrast, Raymond Central shot 51% from the floor while also attempting 23 free throws.

"They attacked the basket, drew fouls and got to the line," Lewandowski said. "We didn't and that was the difference in the score."

The Clippers attempted 12 free throws. While the Mustangs only converted on 12 of their attempts from the charity stripe, they made six

more free throws than Malcolm.

After trailing by 14 at the half, the Clippers cut into the Raymond Central lead through the second half and got it as close as four points. But, it was too little, too late.

"The story of our season," Lewandowski said. "It takes so much energy to come back that, when we do, our tank is empty and we can't finish the job."

In his final game in a Malcolm uniform, Maclain Beach led his team with 14 points while Brayden Boehle came off the bench to score 10. The junior went 4-of-5 from the floor and also grabbed seven rebounds.

"Brayden didn't see a lot of varsity action this year," Lewandowski said. "We needed him to step up in this game and he answered the call. I'm really pleased with his performance."

Malcolm finished with a 6-15 record. While the Clippers say goodbye to several seniors, including some four-year contributors, the future appears bright as two of the top three scorers, Drew Johnson (11.7 PPG) and Hayden Frank (9.9 PPG) return.

"We're going to miss our seniors," Lewandowski said. "They were probably the most intelligent and hard working group I've had."

"I am excited about what's to come. Our JV squad only lost one game this year and with Drew, Hayden, Brayden and Connor (Zegar) all getting good experience this year, we should have some good talent and leadership going forward."

C1-2 Subdistrict	
Raymond Central 62, Malcolm 57	
RC	20 14 9 19 62
MAL	8 12 15 22 57
MALCOLM —Hayden Frank 9, Malcolim Saltzman 7, Brayden Boehle 10, Maclain Beach 14, Jacob Schweitzer 6, Drew Johnson 8, Connor Zegar 3.	
Rebounds —Frank 5, Saltzman 3, Boehle 7, Beach, Schweitzer 8, Johnson 3, Zegar, Ethan Robotham. Assists —Frank 2, Saltzman 2, Boehle, Beach, Schweitzer 3, Johnson 2, Zegar, Robotham. Steals —Saltzman 2, Boehle, Beach, Schweitzer 3, Johnson 2.	

Milford

(continued from 1B) Marshbanks. Muller said both played very good defense, and the team did a good job helping out. Both Crusaders got in foul trouble and had to spend time on the bench.

The Eagles led by five at halftime. In the third quarter, the pace slowed and the Lincoln Christian big men were able to block some Milford shot attempts, Muller said.

LCHS outscored Milford 10-6 in the period.

MHS came back in the fourth after struggling from the free throw line all game and started making free throws to keep and even build the lead. Milford was 24-39 from the line for the game after going 6-14 in the first three quarters.

Muller said Lincoln Christian tried to cover Milford's perimeter shooters but couldn't

stop the drives to the hoop.

"It was a great win," Muller said.

Weyand led the Eagles with 21 points, and Stutzman added a double double with 15 points and 10 rebounds.

Milford 85, Raymond Central 53	
RCHS	18 11 11 13 53
MHS	26 29 13 17 85
RCHS —Totals 20-47 4-7 53.	
MHS —Isaac Yeackley 4-6 0-0 9, Micah Hartwig 7-9 2-3 17, Bryce Jakob 0-0-10, Camden Springer 0-1-2-2, Maddox Baack 1-1 0-0 3, Jaxon Weyand 8-12 9-10 25, Carter Roth 2-2 1-1 5, Kaleb Miller 1-3 0-0 2, Seth Stutzman 5-10 0-0 10, Cabe Schluckebier 5-6 0-0 10, Nelson Girmus 1-3 0-0 2.	

Totals 34-53 14-17 85.
Three-point goals—RCHS 9-24, MHS 3-5 (Yeackley 1-1, Hartwig 1-2, Baack 1-1, Weyand 0-1). **Rebounds**—RCHS 12, MHS 31 (Schluckebier 6). **Assists**—MHS 17 (Stutzman 6). **Steals**—MHS 15 (Stutzman 4). **Blocked shots**—MHS 1 (Schluckebier 1). **Turnovers**—RCHS 17, MHS 12. **Fouls**—RCHS 12, MHS 12.

Milford 64, Lincoln Christian 53
MHS 16 15 6 27 64
LCHS 15 11 10 17 53
LCHS—Totals 19-44 9-13 53.
MHS—Yeackley 2-3 0-0 6, Hartwig 3-6 4-4 12, Jakob 0-0-2-2, Weyand 4-11 11-17 21, Miller 1-2-0-0 2, Stutzman 6-14 2-6 15, Schluckebier 1-6 4-10 6. Totals 17-42 23-39 64.
Three-point goals—LCHS 6-22, MHS 7-13 (Yeackley 2-2, Hartwig 2-5, Weyand 2-5, Stutzman 1-1). **Rebounds**—LCHS 30, MHS 29 (Stutzman 10). **Assists**—MHS 13 (Yeackley 5). **Steals**—MHS 7 (Yeackley 3). **Blocked shots**—LCHS 10, MHS 3 (Stutzman 2). **Turnovers**—LCHS 16, MHS 4. **Fouls**—LCHS 27, MHS 15.

Seward seniors announce college plans



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Jackson Warren of Seward recently signed to play football at Doane. Pictured are, from left: (seated) Shane, Jackson and Lydia Warren; and (standing) SHS Coach Jamie Opfer, Samantha Warren, Cameron Warren and SHS Coach Wade Miller. Jackson said he chose Doane because he liked the campus and the coaches pursued him. He chose to play football because he loves the sport. "I don't want to say goodbye," he said. He plans to play on both the offensive and defensive lines, but prefers defense. Jackson said he's going to study education with an emphasis on either physical education or history and hopes to earn coaching certification, as well. He said he's looking forward to college life and living on his own. Jackson graduated in December and is taking time off to let his wrist heal. "I'm very thankful to my coaches and family and all who helped through this decision," he said.



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Tayden Vandenberg, a senior at Seward High, recently signed to play football at Dakota Wesleyan University. Pictured are, from left: (seated) Nicole, Darek and Tayden Vandenberg and Erica Galvan; and (standing) SHS Coach Jamie Opfer, Jaela Franklin, Makenzie Vandenberg and Kathy and Darin Engle. Tayden said he chose Dakota Wesleyan after meeting the coaches. He liked the atmosphere in the locker room and said it was what he was looking for. He decided to continue with football after the Aurora game. "I knew I'd miss it forever if I didn't keep playing," he said. He plans to play defensive end and study athletic training or wildlife management. Tayden said he's looking forward to the freedom to hang out with friends and study whatever he wants to. Fall camp starts July 31.



COURTESY PHOTO

Lilli Heaston of Seward recently signed to swim at Midland University. She chose to go to Midland because she thought it would be the best place to help her grow as a person and an athlete. She also loved the friendly atmosphere surrounding the team. Lilli will be studying pre-med, and she isn't sure what type of medicine she will continue on with. Her favorite events to swim are the 100 back and the 100 breast. Pictured are, from left, Mark, Lilli and Jenny Heaston.

Workshops begin March 6

Turkey hunters with limited experience are invited to expand their knowledge through the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission's Spring Saturday Series of workshops.

These free, virtual Facebook sessions, starting March 6, will help develop specific skills necessary to increase hunting success and enjoyment.

Each session begins at 9 a.m. All are listed at OutdoorNebraska.com/Workshops.

The Spring Saturday Series schedule, with topics, is as follows:

- March 6, shotgun patterning for success;
 - March 13, decoy placement;
 - March 20, using calls;
 - March 27, cleaning wild turkey; and
 - April 3, wild turkey recipes.
- Also, for those wanting to get the most from Spring Saturday Series, a special Turkey Hunting Mystery Box is available for purchase. The mystery box, which includes some must-haves for spring turkey hunting, is limited in supply.

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Concordia University

Dance

In the most significant competition of the 2021 season, the Concordia University Dance team produced two of its highest scores all season. As a result, the Bulldogs placed fourth in the GPAC and fifth in the region at the GPAC Dance Championships/NAIA Northwest Group Qualifier. Nine GPAC dance squads were joined by Viterbo University (Wis.) at the event hosted in Crete by Doane Feb. 26.

Head Coach Mandi Maser's Bulldogs posted scores of 73.13 in the preliminary round and 75.30 in the second and final round of the competition. With an aggregate score of 74.76 (75 percent finals/25 percent prelims), Concordia finished comfortably in front of sixth-place Dordt (69.30).

"We are proud of how this team competed today," Maser said. "Every week they improved, pushed themselves to be better technical dancers and came together to form unbreakable bonds. This is an amazing group of student-athletes."

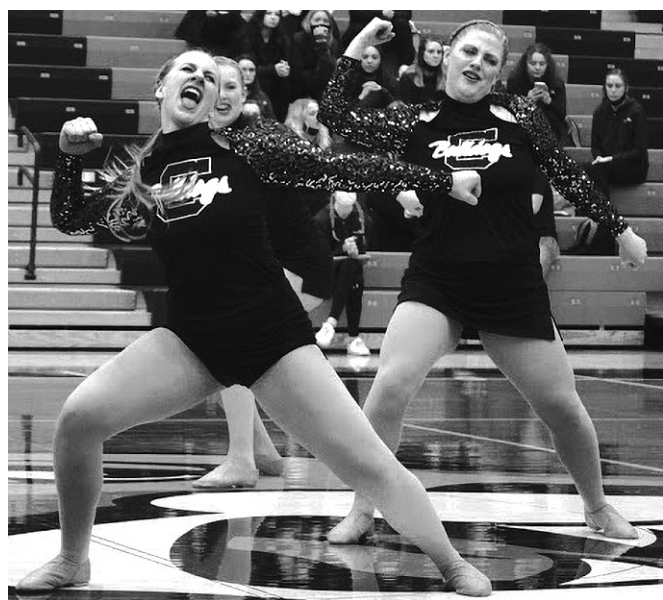
The Bulldogs were credited with similar scores across the categories of jazz technique, pom technique and hip hop technique. Concordia also scored high in its musicality, choreography and team turns/leaps.

Cheer

In highly anticipated championship action, the Concordia University cheer team displayed a continuation of the improvement that has characterized the 2021 competition season. When the scores came in, the Bulldogs placed fourth in the GPAC Cheer Championships/NAIA Northwest Group Qualifier. The event included all seven GPAC institutions that sponsor the sport of cheer.

Maser's Bulldogs posted scores of 69.63 in the preliminary round and 74.03 in the second and final round of the competition. With an aggregate score of 72.93 (75 percent finals/25 percent prelims), Concordia edged in front of fifth-place Northwestern, a foe it trailed after the prelims.

"We have a really tough conference," Maser said. "Six of the seven teams hit their routines really, really well both times. It was a high level of competition. We came out of the gate well for finals and increased our score. I'm really proud of the effort and the perseverance the kids showed coming back for the second routine. It was the most competitive season so



Concordia dance team members perform on the Haddix Center floor during the 2021 NAIA Northwest Regional and GPAC Championships on Feb. 26 at Doane University. The Bulldogs took fifth place at the dance competition with a final score of 74.76.



Concordia cheer team members hold their flyer up during competition. Concordia received fourth place at the 2021 NAIA Northwest Regional and GPAC Championships cheer competition on Feb. 27. The Bulldogs scored 72.93 points.

far for Concordia Cheer. I'm proud of how we've improved and what we're building towards in the future."

As evidenced by their lack of any deductions in the finals, the Bulldogs put together a clean performance. Concordia earned high marks for its basket tosses and jumps while posting solid scores across the board.

Baseball

Finally, Concordia University baseball is back. The program waited 347 days between official games after the COVID-19 shortened 2020 campaign. In their return to action, the Bulldogs were up to the challenge while winning twice on Tuesday (Feb. 23) as part of the Rube Foster Classic held at the Kansas City Urban Youth Academy. Concordia dismantled York College, 15-1, before defeating Missouri Baptist University, 5-2, in late night action.

Six different Bulldogs collected two or more hits as part of an 18-hit onslaught.

In a night cap, the Bulldogs got on top early with a run in the first and three in the third.

Dogs split two
Chillier temperatures in the 40s greeted the two sides that met up at Bob Smith Field in Point Lookout, Missouri, for a Feb. 26 doubleheader. With the help of a well-pitched college debut from Alex Johnson, Con-

cordia won game 1, 6-3, before falling in game 2, 4-2, while up against College of the Ozarks.

In continuing an early theme, the pitching staff was nearly spotless as Concordia took two from host College of the Ozarks Feb. 27. The Bulldogs allowed a grand total of four hits while winning by scores of 5-0 and 5-1 in action at Bob Smith Field in Point Lookout, Missouri.

Head Coach Ryan Dupic's squad won three of four overall in the weekend series with the Bobcats. Concordia went 5-1 in its first week of the 2021 season.

The Bulldogs will wait until next Saturday, March 6, to return to action. They have a doubleheader scheduled for that date in Sabetha, Kansas, where they will take on Grand View University (Iowa) (1-2). The same two sides are also set to play a twin bill on Sunday, March 7.

Men's basketball

Hopes of repeating last year's GPAC tournament championship run ended abruptly Feb. 24. Instead of jubilation at the Corn Palace, the Concordia University men's basketball team walked away somberly after a 70-58 defeat in the quarterfinals of the GPAC tournament. Fourth-seeded Dakota Wesleyan's rugged man-to-man defense got the best of the Bulldogs.

The Bulldog top three scorers of Justin Wiersema, Carter Kent and Gage Smith entered the night combining to average 45.9 points per game. They were held to a collective total of 37 (12-for-33 shooting) on Wednesday. Wiersema and Kent paced the team with 13 points apiece. Wiersema scored in double figures in all 26 games this season (and in 28 straight dating back to last season).

Women's basketball

Put this one under the category of a gritty, no frills type of performance. It's all about surviving and advancing this time of year. While hosting a GPAC tournament quarterfinal clash, the 17th-ranked Con-

cordia University women's basketball team held visiting Dakota Wesleyan to 31% shooting in a 70-58 victory Feb. 24. The Bulldogs overcame some of their own shooting struggles by going 18-for-25 from the foul line.

The Bulldogs provided a glimpse at just how good it can be when it's playing at peak levels. The backcourt trio of Taylor Cockerill, Bailey Conrad and Taysha Rushton exercised control of Feb. 27's GPAC tournament semifinal while leading the Bulldogs to an 83-70 win over visiting Northwestern.

Concordia (20-7) is headed to the GPAC tournament final for a fifth year in a row.

The backcourt features the veteran Cockerill and rising freshmen in Conrad and Rushton. They seemed to make all the right decisions on when to drive and when to drop the ball over Northwestern for easy buckets for the likes of post players Kayla Luebbe (Seward) and Rylee Pauli. Rushton scored 11 of her game-high 21 points during a second quarter that saw the Bulldogs outscore the Red Raiders, 24-8.

Softball

Quality pitching performances from Camry Moore and Jerzi Rowe and timely hitting led to a doubleheader sweep for the Concordia University softball team as it opened the 2021 season at Benedictine College Feb. 23. In both ends of the twin bill, the Bulldogs managed to hold off rallies by the Ravens. Concordia won game 1, 6-4, before taking game 2, 3-2, in eight innings.

Brena Brown and Kylee Nixon starred with the bat while Jerzi Rowe fired a five-inning shutout as part of a doubleheader sweep at Bethany College (Kan.) on a chilly and windy Feb. 28. The Bulldogs team won by scores of 5-4 and 10-0 (five innings) in action in Lindsborg, Kansas.

Head Coach Shawn Semler's squad has started 2021 with a spotless 4-0 record that includes a pair of wins at Benedictine College (Kan.). Dating back to last season, the program has won 16 of its last 18 games.

Next up is the Friends University Invitational in Wichita, Kansas, where the Bulldogs will play two games each day from March 5-7. That stretch begins on Friday with matchups against Tabor College (Kan.) and University of Saint Mary (Kan.). Concordia is also scheduled to play road doubleheaders on March 9 and 10 as part of a hectic week of spring break.

Tennis

In action for the second time this spring, the Concordia University men's tennis team won all but two of the nine matches while up against Bethany College (Kan.) Feb. 27. The Bulldogs swept through doubles and then took four of six singles decisions over the Swedes. The match was contested inside Genesis Racquet Club in Lincoln.

Head Coach David DeSimone's squad has also defeated William Jewell College (Mo.) and Sterling College (Kan.) during the 2020-21 season.

The duo of Jack Kitson and Eduardo Rojas held down the No. 1 dou-



Concordia freshman Sadie Powell looks to score during the Bulldogs' 70-58 win over Dakota Wesleyan in the GPAC tournament quarterfinals Feb. 24 in Seward.

bles spots that earned DeSimone's praise. They held off their counterparts for a 6-4 win. The closest decision in doubles came at No. 2 where Jeremy Berryman and Joe Bindl squeaked out a victory. Then at No. 3, Juan Rabellino and Luke Zoller teamed up on a 6-1 win.

The victories in singles came courtesy of Isaac Howes at No. 1, Kitson at No. 2, Bindl at No. 5 and Rabellino at No. 6. In six singles, Rabellino won every game in a 6-0, 6-0 decision. Each of the singles matches were decided without tiebreakers being necessary. Rojas and Zoller played at the Nos. 1 and 2 spots, respectively.

The Bulldogs will now have a break in the action with the next scheduled match slated for Thursday, March 11 when they will be at Bethel College in North Newton, Kansas. Match time is set for 11 a.m.

Women's action

While depth is a strength for the Concordia University Women's Tennis, the Bulldogs can also compete at the top. Junior Claudia Miranda Viera starred at the No. 1 position in both singles and doubles as Concordia remained unbeaten thanks to a 5-2 win over Bethany College (Kan.) Feb. 27.

The Nos. 1 and 2 doubles partners came through for the Bulldogs when play got underway. Miranda Viera teamed up with Tara Ferrel on a 6-4 win at No. 1 while Luisa Esquivel and Katy Krejci collaborated on a victory by the same score at No. 2.

Three of the six singles matches were decided by tiebreakers. That was the case at No. 1 where Miranda Viera persevered after dropping the first set. Krejci also outlasted her opponent in a tiebreaker at No. 4. At the bottom of the lineup, Esquivel (No. 5) and Kaitlin Seja (No. 6) needed less dramatics while helping clinch the team win. Ferrel lost her tiebreaker at No. 2 and Ansley Gates also dropped a close one at No. 3 (6-4, 6-4).

Wrestling

Freshman Jacob Telles and junior Mario Ybarra represented the Concordia University Wrestling team on the all-conference team released Feb. 24 by the GPAC. Telles landed on the first team while Ybarra garnered honorable mention recognition. The all-conference list is made of 12 honorees on both the first and second teams and six within the group of honorable mentions.

A native of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Telles made a splash at

the conference championships by winning the heavyweight GPAC title. He upset Doane's Brandon Antesberger in the conference final while locking up an automatic bid to nationals. Telles leads the Bulldogs in both wins (33) and pins (13) heading into the national tournament. This season he has been ranked as high as 15th nationally at 285. During the regular season, Telles turned in four tournament place finishes: second at the Dakota Wesleyan Open, third at the York Open, fourth at the Sioux City Open and fifth at the Doane Open.

Ybarra, who hails from Scottsbluff, has had his season impacted by injury, but carries an impressive 12-1 overall record into the national tournament. He has been rated as the GPAC's top 133-pounder for the entire 2020-21 season after winning the 125-pound conference title in 2020. Ybarra was ranked fourth nationally at 133 in the most recent NAIA rankings. Ybarra has earned all-conference recognition for the third-straight year (first team in 2020). Ybarra is now a two-time national qualifier with a career record of 59-23 at the collegiate level.

Head Coach Levi Calhoun will take three competitors to next week's NAIA Wrestling National Championships March 5-6 held at Hartman Arena in Park City, Kansas. Telles and Ybarra will be joined at nationals by two-time qualifier Gabe Crawford.

Track and field

Courtesy of their performances at last week's GPAC Indoor Track and Field Championships, 51 members of the Concordia University Track and Field program have collected all-conference honors. In addition, Matt Beisel has been named the GPAC Women's Coach of the Year after guiding the women's team to a fourth-straight conference title.

Junior Rachel Battershell was honored with the GPAC Women's Track Performance of the Meet for clocking in at 56.67 in a winning effort in the 400 meters. It marked her third career GPAC title in the 400. The top eight individuals and top three relays in each event are considered All-GPAC honorees. The GPAC announced major awards for the 2021 indoor season Feb. 26.

The complete list can be found at www.cune.edu/athletics.

The 2021 indoor season will culminate March 3-6 with the NAIA Indoor Track and Field National Championships in Yankton, South Dakota.

Teams represent Seward Middle School in basketball season



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI
The 2020-21 Seward Middle School seventh-grade boys' basketball includes, from left: (first row) Kain Roth, Aidan Summa, Blake Pierce, Lucian Gunn, Calvin Shipley and Kameron Niehardt; (second row) Tylan Wohlford, Karson. Dyer, Bostyn Happ, Peyton Else, Kobe Policky, Kyle Riley, Brenden Ruth, Brycen Burt, Carter Frazey, Cooper Hill and Ceden Fleischman; and (third row) Cardin Goracke, Kayson Salyer, Tresten Hass, Sam Sagehorn, Jack Vhynalek, Deklan Lindau, Ayden Siebert, Riley Calway, Cale Oborny and Jayden Hernandez. Evan Hall is not pictured.



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI
The eighth-grade boys' basketball team at Seward Middle School for 2020-21 includes, from left: (first row) Bryson Manske, Dylan Hoehler, Will Ratkovec, Lawson Luebbe, Landon Ford, Connor Sveeggen, Daylon Salyer, Kolton Koetter and Ben Nottingham; (second row) Holden Bremer, Edison Knott, Dylan Hochstein, Lathan Janousek, Max Briggs, Brecken Grady, Erik Kirby, Dean Plouzek, Henry Lewis, Austin Rikke, Hector Sanchez and Presston Duryea; and (back row) Dalton Mobley, Riley Pierson, Josh Keller, Esten Johnson, Kolton Loos, Lukas Howe, Nathan Mason, Caden Schadwinkel, Zack Parra, Jacob Kimbrough and Nathan Shafer.

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SEEKING FRIENDLY, energetic person to manage our meat department in Winner, SD. Three years meat management experience required. Great salary, bonus, health insurance, and 401K. Resume to msteck58@gmail.com.

BECOME A Published Author. We want to read your book! Dorrance Publishing - trusted by authors since 1920. Book manuscript submissions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services: Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution. Call for your free Author's Guide, 1-877-858-2822 or visit http://dorranceinfo.com/Nebraska.

PUBLIC NOTICES

BIDS

PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
The State of Nebraska, Department of Transportation (NDOT) is issuing this Request for Proposal (RFP), R211-21, for the purpose of selecting a qualified Contractor to provide Right-of-Way Mowing Services for NDOT, District 1.

Those interested in bidding on this proposal may view the Prequalification information and the Request for Proposal (RFP) #R211-21 at the Nebraska Department of Transportation website: http://dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/business-opp/pre-maint/. A copy of the RFP may be obtained from the Nebraska Department of Transportation.

An Optional Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on March 8, 2021, at 10:00 A.M. CT at Nebraska Department of Transportation District 1 Headquarters, 302 Superior Street, Lincoln, NE. Written questions are due no later than March 9, 2021, and should be submitted via e-mail to: NDOT.OperationsProcurement@nebraska.gov. Sealed proposals from pre-qualified Contractors must be received in the Nebraska Department of Transportation, PO Box 94759, Lincoln, NE 68509-4759, on or before March 18, 2021, 3:00 P.M. CT at which time the opening of the proposals will be announced. SCI/MT/FS/WR/CR — March 03, 10, 17, 2021 ZNEZ

In print weekly and online.

Ads must be prepaid unless you have pre-approved credit.
Cash, personal check, Visa, Mastercard or Discover are welcome.

**CLASSIFIED
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RATES**

25 words or less: \$19 per week for three weeks; fourth week is free.
Includes placement in online classifieds.
FREE "For Sale" ads for subscribers.
Private party ads • \$200 or less • One/customer/week
Contact our office for classified display ad pricing.

HOW TO PLACE YOUR AD

Call: 402-643-3676 • Email: office@sewardindependent.com
Online: sewardindependent.com • In person: 129 S. 6th St., Seward, NE

**AD DEADLINE:
NOON FRIDAY***
FOR ALL PUBLICATIONS

* Subject to
change on
holidays

POLICIES: Advertisers should check their advertisements in the first issue and report any error to the Seward County Independent at 402-643-3676. We will be responsible for only a one-time error or omission.

Your ad appears in SIX newspapers and reaches readers in two counties!

SEWARD COUNTY
INDEPENDENT
sewardindependent.com

THE
CRETE NEWS
cretenewsonline.com

THE MILFORD
Times
milfordtimes.net

Friend
the Sentinel
friendsentinel.com

THE
**WILBER
REPUBLICAN**
wilber-republican.com

CONNECTION

HELP WANTED

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.

CLEANER NEEDED

Typically work as two-person team with repeat residential clients. Crete, Lincoln. Transportation generally provided but must have good reliable vehicle. \$10-\$15/hr depending on experience.

**Sparkle Queen
Cleaning Service**

Dorchester, NE 402-314-5249

Classifieds GET THE JOB DONE!
By • Sell • Rent • Buy

Evening & Weekend Cook
Full-time or Part-time
Stop in for application

Spartime Lounge & Grill
123 S. 4th • Seward

Help Wanted
Equipment Operator/ Maintenance
Duties include feed truck operation. Mechanical, welding and other maintenance skills preferred.
Inquiries can be emailed to djdmfc@yahoo.com or on location at **Midwest Feeding Co.** 851 238th Milford, NE

Memorial Health Care Systems
WE ARE RECRUITING FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

RN/LPN - 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*

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*

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

Memorial Health Care Systems

PEN RIDER WANTED
Midwest Feeding in Milford
Experience helpful. Full-time position available. Benefits.
Apply in person or mail resume to:
Midwest Feeding Co. • 851-238th, Milford, NE 68405
Feedlot is immediately south of the I-80 Milford exit

• **Nurse:** (LPN/RN) FT Evening Shifts & Weekend Only RN
• **CNAs:** FT & PT Day, Evening & Night Shifts
• **MedAide:** FT Evenings | • **Dietary Aide:** FT
• **Cook:** FT PM Shift | • **Housekeeping:** FT

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
SUNRISECOUNTRYMANOR.COM
610 224th Road, Milford
Ph: (402) 761-3230 ext. 224

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Applications at www.sunrisecountrymanor.com/careers.html

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SERVICES

GUITAR, UKULELE, and DRUM LESSONS now available. All ages, beginning to advanced players. Professional studio. Over 30 years of teaching experience. Jim Krutz jimkrutz@gmail.com 402-450-0282

Oatman Paint & Repair
All your home interior & exterior needs
Jeff Oatman
402-540-5473
Milford, NE

HELP WANTED
2021 Swimming Pool Staff
The City of Milford is accepting applications for **Lifeguards for the 2021 season.**
Join the lifeguard and management team and enjoy a summer of working outdoors with people of all ages. Competitive wages, uniform allowance and training paid. Applications are now available at the City Office and will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on 3/19/21. An equal opportunity employer.

FOOD SERVICE POSITIONS AVAILABLE
The School District of Seward is accepting applications for food service positions.
Applications are available at the District Office, 410 South St., Seward, NE 402-643-2941
The position is subject to a veteran's preference.

Justice
Refrigeration, Heating & Air
Residential & Commercial
24-hour service
402-803-8788

Schweitzer Auction Service
Brian D. Schweitzer
402-641-1266
Estates, Antiques & Collectibles, Firearms, Farm & Acreage Equip, Vehicles, Coins & More
Premier Real Estate Broker • 402-761-2291
Milford, NE • www.nebauction.com

East Butler Public School is accepting applications for a **Food Service Manager**
This position will follow a 188-day contract and will consist of 40 hours per week at \$16.00 per hour and will include an insurance plan. Job duties will include: manage and coordinate the day-to-day foodservice operations; assure compliance with District, State, and Federal requirements and laws regarding nutrition, sanitation, safety, and record-keeping; select, assign, schedule, supervise, and direct assigned food service personnel. A complete list of performance responsibilities, knowledge, and abilities is available at the Superintendent's office. The position is open until filled.
Interested persons should send a letter of application and resume to:
Mr. Michael Eldridge, Superintendent
East Butler Public School, PO Box 36, Brainard, NE 68626
402-545-2081 • meldridge@ebutler.esu7.org • EOE

City of Seward is accepting applications (until positions are filled) for the following seasonal positions:
• **Golf Shop Seasonal**
• **Summer Seasonal Laborer (Parks, Street, Water/Wastewater, Golf Grounds)**
Applications available at Seward City Hall, 537 Main St., PO Box 38, Seward, NE 68434-0038; Telephone 402-643-2928 and at City website: www.CityofSewardNE.gov.
Reasonable accommodations available for persons needing assistance in completing application and should be made at time of application.
All positions of employment with the City of Seward are subject to a Veteran's Preference. Equal Opportunity Employer.

WENDY'S Premier PAINTING
Interior Home or Business
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MARTIN EXCAVATING INC.
(FORMERLY LEICHTY EXCAVATING, INC.)
TROY MARTIN, OWNER
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(402) 761-3059 HOME (402) 641-6821 CELL
BASEMENTS, DEMOLITION, FILL SAND, BLACK DIRT, CLAY, TREE REMOVAL, LAGOONS

Lee's Refrigeration Heating & Air Conditioning
24/7 Service-Sales-Installation
— Commercial & Residential —
734 Seward St. • Seward, NE 68434
402-643-3644 • 800-274-3644

DURRE'S PLUMBING
• New Construction
• Remodeling • Water Heaters
• Water Treatment Products
— Service and Installation —
Phone 402-643-9327

STELLING CARPENTRY LLC
Custom cabinets & trim work, finish work, remodeling, subcontracting, soffit, siding & fascia, replacement door & windows, any residential needs
Ryan Stelling 402-761-2869

Case IH Nebraska Equipment dealership in Seward, NE, is looking for a **Shipping and Receiving/Parts counter person**
Qualifications:
Ag equipment knowledge • Shipping & receiving parts sales counter person
Responsibilities:
Perform the daily office support operations of the Nebraska Inc. shipping and receiving, warehouse functions. This will include working well with other employees, tracking all shipments; inbound and outbound and parts counter sales.
• Good computer skills • Must be able to lift up to 50 lbs. occasionally with help, 25 lbs. regularly
402-643-6641 • www.nebraskaequip.com

City of Seward is accepting applications (until positions are filled) for the **Seward Dowding Swimming Pool** for the following seasonal positions:
Assistant Manager (Age 18 & Up)
Lifeguard (Age 15 & Up)
Water Safety Instructor and Instructor Aide (Age 14 & Up)
Applications available at Seward City Hall, 537 Main St., P. O. Box 38; Seward, NE 68434-0038, Telephone 402-643-2928 and at City website: www.CityofSewardNE.gov.
Reasonable accommodations available for persons needing assistance in completing application. Request for accommodations should be made at time of application.
All positions of employment with the City of Seward are subject to a Veteran's Preference. City of Seward is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

BOB'S HANDYMAN
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Seward, NE
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309 1st Milford **402-761-2433**
• Air Conditioning
• Heating
• Sales & Service
Bill Saltzman **DAIKIN**
Air Conditioning & Heating

FOR RENT
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.

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 30, 2021

The Seward County Board of Equalization convened on February 23, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. Present: Chairperson: John Culver Members: Bob Vrbka, Ken Schmieding, Darrell Zabrocki Deputy County Clerk: Brandy Johnson

County Assessor: Marilyn Hladky Absent: Member: Misty Ahmic

Approved the minutes of February 9, 2021.

Hladky updated the Commissioners on activities of her office.

Convened as the Board of Commissioners.

Approved the minutes of February 16, 2021.

Commissioners gave an update of their activities.

Discussed wage for the new HR Director.

Awarded the bid for the preparation and painting of the exterior of the courthouse dome to Lindner Painting, Inc.

Approved Conditional Use Permit for a new telecommunications tower in K precinct.

Approved 3 short form plats in I precinct, J precinct and L precinct.

Carrie Rodriguez of District 5 Probation was present to discuss creating a fund for Problem Solving Court.

Approved the Seward and Butler County Comprehensive Juvenile Services Community Plan for 2021-2025, as presented by Casey Tiemann of the County Attorney's Office and Megan Kahler, Seward County Chamber & Development Partnership.

Signed contracts with Adams and Fillmore Counties to House Safekeep Inmates at the Seward County Detention Center.

Approved establishment of Seward County Detention Center House Arrest Fund.

Approved Interlocal Agreement with Butler County for Diversion and Truancy Services, as presented by Katrina Ramer of the County Attorney's office.

Adopted the agenda for March 2, 2021, and adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Brandy Johnson Deputy County Clerk

SCI/MT — March 03, 2021

ZNEZ

ORGANIZATIONS

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has formed a Limited Liability Company under the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act.

The name of the company is SMC INVESTMENTS, LLC

The address of the designated office is 4557 Superior Road, Utica, NE 68456. The registered agent and address for service upon the company is Spencer Clouse, 4557 Superior Road, Utica, NE 68456.

The company shall engage in any lawful business and act for which a Limited Liability Company may be organized under the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act.

MICHAEL G. MULLALLY MICHAEL G. MULLALLY, P.C., L.L.O.

Attorney at Law 510 Seward St. Seward, NE 68434 (402) 643-4581

SCI — March 03, 10, 17, 2021

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has formed a Limited Liability Company under the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act.

The name of the company is DEVELOPMENT412, LLC

The address of the designated office is 2463 Hawthorn Street, Seward, NE 68434. The registered agent and address for service upon the company is Anita Foor, 2463 Hawthorn Street, Seward, NE 68434.

The company shall engage in any lawful business and act for which a Limited Liability Company may be organized under the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act.

MICHAEL G. MULLALLY MICHAEL G. MULLALLY, P.C., L.L.O.

Attorney at Law 510 Seward St. Seward, NE 68434 (402) 643-4581

SCI — March 03, 10, 17, 2021

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF BSHB Holdings, LLC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that BSHB Holdings, LLC has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska with a designated office located at 2225 182nd, Bee, NE 68314. The Registered Office of the company is 2225 182nd, Bee, NE 68314, and the Registered Agent at such address is Brian Byerly. The affairs of the Company are to be managed by its member. Brian Byerly, Manager

SCI — February 24, March 03, 10, 2021

BAIRD HOLM LLP
1700 Farnam Street
Suite 1500
Omaha, Nebraska

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF JOE PENNY, LLC

Notice is hereby given that Joe Penny, LLC has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska on February 8, 2021. The street and mailing address of the initial designated office is 851 238th Rd., Milford, Nebraska 68405-8711. The street and mailing address of the initial agent for service of process is 851 238th Rd., Milford, Nebraska 68405-8711. The name of the initial agent for service of process is Molly A. Dickinson. The general nature of its business is any and all business which is lawful under the Uniform Limited Liability Company Act of the State of Nebraska.

Sharon R. Kresha, Organizer Joe Penny, LLC

SCI — February 17, 24, March 03, 2021

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

1. The name of the limited liability company is Hackbart Brothers Logistics, LLC.

2. The address of the designated office of the company is 993-280th Rd, Seward, NE 68434.

3. The initial agent for service of process is Corey Hackbart, 993-280th Rd, PO Box 434, Seward, NE 68434.

4. The purpose for which the company is organized is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska.

5. The company commenced its existence on February 17, 2021, and the period of duration is perpetual.

6. The affairs of the company shall be conducted by its members.

Ryan K. McIntosh, Attorney Brandt, Horan, Hallstrom & Stilmock Law Firm

1310 1st Avenue PO Box 399

Nebraska City, NE 68410 (402) 873-7888

SCI — February 24, March 03, 10, 2021

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

The Company name is: Burd Construction and Consulting, LLC.

210 Walnut St, P.O. Box 173 Pleasant Dale, NE 68423

The general scope of business and work will include general light construction and renovation.

Andy Burd 402-450-4452

SCI — February 17, 24, March 03, 2021

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

1. The name of the company is Seward Jazzercise, LLC.

2. The street address of the designated office of the company is 648 Seward Street, Seward, Nebraska 68434.

3. The registered agent and address for service upon the company is Roxanne Wohlford, Seward Jazzercise, LLC, 1548 336th, Seward, Nebraska 68434.

4. This Limited Liability Company is organized solely for the purpose of providing exercise fitness classes.

5. This Limited Liability Company commenced business on February 2, 2021, and shall have perpetual existence.

Roxanne Wohlford

SCI — February 17, 24, March 03, 2021

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has formed a Limited Liability Company under the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act.

The name of the company is CLOUSE PROPERTIES, LLC

The address of the designated office is 4557 Superior Road, Utica, NE 68456. The registered agent and address for service upon the company is Spencer Clouse, 4557 Superior Road, Utica, NE 68456.

The company shall engage in any lawful business and act for which a Limited Liability Company may be organized under the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act.

MICHAEL G. MULLALLY MICHAEL G. MULLALLY, P.C., L.L.O.

Attorney at Law 510 Seward St. Seward, NE 68434 (402) 643-4581

SCI — March 03, 10, 17, 2021

ZNEZ

ESTATES

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF SEWARD COUNTY, NEBRASKA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF FRANKLIN REYNOLDS, Deceased.

Case No. PR21-09

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that on February 12, 2021, in the County Court of Seward County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said decedent and that GREGORY W. ZABKA, whose address is 1768 Karol Kay Blvd., Seward, NE 68434, and JENI MORGAN, whose address is 633 N. 8th Street, Seward, NE 68434, were informally appointed by the Registrar as Co-Personal Representatives of this estate. Creditors of this estate must file their claims with this court on or before April 24, 2021, or be forever barred.

/s/Sheila R. Beins CLERK OF THE COUNTY COURT

MICHAEL G. MULLALLY, #17373 MICHAEL G. MULLALLY, P.C., L.L.O.

510 Seward Street P.O. Box 411 Seward, Nebraska 68434 (402) 643-4581

Attorney for Personal Representative SCI — February 24, March 03, 10, 2021

NOTICE IN THE COUNTY COURT OF SEWARD COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Estate of Eldon L. Gruntorad, Deceased

Estate No. PR21-11

Notice is hereby given that on February 18, 2021, in the County Court of Seward County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said Decedent and that Ann J. Gruntorad, whose address is 3026 Bluff Road, Seward, Nebraska 68434, was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Representative of the Estate. Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before April 24, 2021, or be forever barred.

/s/Sheila R. Beins Clerk of the County Court

Seward County Court 261 S. 8th Street P.O. Box 37 Seward, Nebraska 68434

Timothy L. Moll (#20451) Rembolt Ludtke LLP

1128 Lincoln Mall, Suite 300 Lincoln, NE 68508 (402) 475-5100

SCI — February 24, March 03, 10, 2021

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF SEWARD COUNTY NEBRASKA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF VERNA J. DEINERT, Deceased.

Case No. PR21-14

NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that on February 25, 2021, in the County Court of Seward County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said decedent and that MELVIN H. DEINERT, whose address is 1851 NW 98th Street, Lincoln, NE 68528, and JOANN C. BOSCHART, whose address is 3100 NW 98th Street, Lincoln, NE 68524, were informally appointed by the Registrar as Co-Personal Representatives of this estate. Creditors of this estate must file their claims with this court on or before May 3, 2021, or be forever barred.

/s/Sheila R. Beins CLERK OF THE COUNTY COURT

MICHAEL G. MULLALLY #17373 MICHAEL G. MULLALLY, P.C., L.L.O.

510 Seward Street P.O. Box 411 Seward, Nebraska 68434 (402) 643-4581

Attorney for Personal Representative SCI — March 03, 10, 17, 2021

ZNEZ

MEETINGS

NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The board of education of the School District of Seward will meet in regular session on Monday, March 8, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. for a board study session to be followed by the 7:00 p.m. regular business meeting. The meeting will be held at the Administrative Offices located at 410 South St., Seward, Nebraska. An agenda for the meeting which shall be kept continually current is readily available for public inspection at the Superintendent's Office during normal business hours. To view the agenda go to <http://SewardPublicSchools.org/> and find the eMeeting link. SCI — March 03, 2021

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The March meeting, followed by a work session, of the Board of Educational Service Unit 6 will be held at the Holthus Convention Center in York, NE, on Thursday, March 18th, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. The agenda for said meeting is on file at Educational Service Unit No. 6 offices in Milford, NE, and kept continually current. SCI/MT/FS/WR/CR — March 03, 2021

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Seward County Ag. Society Monday, March 15, 2021 7 p.m.

Harvest Hall Seward County Fairgrounds

Michael J. Fyrr Secretary Seward Co. Ag. Society

SCI/MT — March 03, 10, 2021

NOTICE

A Public Meeting of the Seward County Planning Commission will be held, March 15th, 2021, 7:30 pm, Seward Civic Center, 616 Bradford Street, Seward, Nebraska. Notice of said meeting will be posted on the Courthouse bulletin board and in the Zoning Administration Office. The agenda for said meeting will be kept continually current and available for public inspection at the Zoning Administration Office during normal business hours. The agenda will be held open until 4:00 p.m. of the day, five days before the day of the meeting. The Planning Commission has the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such meetings. Seward County Zoning Administrator SCI/MT — March 03, 2021

NAME CHANGE

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SEWARD COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Case Number C121-43

IN RE NAME CHANGE OF Brenda Rae Topil

Notice is hereby given that on the 23 day of February 2021 a petition was filed in the District Court of Seward County, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which is for the change of petitioner's name from Brenda Rae Topil to Brenda Rae Luebbe. A hearing will be had on said petition before the Honorable James Stecker, in Courtroom No. 1, 261 S. 8th, Seward Justice Center, on the 5 day of April 2021 at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as will be convenient for the Court and that unless sufficient cause is shown to the contrary, the petitioner's name will be changed from that of Brenda Rae Topil to Brenda Rae Luebbe.

Brenda Topil 2365 N 4th St. Seward, NE 68434 402-643-5758

SCI — March 03, 10, 17, 24, 2021

ZNEZ

PROPERTY SALES

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Re: #1 - Deed of Trust filed for record on October 7, 2009, at Instrument No. 200903242 and refiled on December 10, 2010, at Instrument No 201003222

Chad J. Wythers Wythers Law Office P.O. Box 98 Seward, NE 68434

Phone 402-643-3639

You are hereby notified that the following-described property will be sold by Chad J. Wythers, Attorney at Law, Successor Trustee, at public auction to the highest bidder at the North side of the Seward County Courthouse, 529 Seward St., in the City of Seward, Seward County, Nebraska, on March 19, 2021, at nine o'clock a.m. (9:00am):

Lots 1 and 4, in Block 3, in Mary R. Spear's Addition to the City of Seward, Seward County, Nebraska, commonly known as 945 North 5th St., Seward, NE 68434.

The highest bidder will deposit with the Trustee, at the time of the sale, cash or a cashier's check in the amount of \$5,000.00, with the full purchase price, in certified funds, to be received by the Trustee by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the sale, except this requirement is waived when the highest bidder is the beneficiary. (If the sale is held after 1:00 P.M., the deposit requirement remains the same, and the full purchase price, in certified funds, shall be received by the Trustee by 5:00 p.m. the following business day.) This sale is subject to any and all (1) real estate taxes, (2) special assessments, (3) easements, covenants, restrictions, ordinances and resolutions of record which affect the property, (4) unpaid water bills, (5) prior mortgages and/or deeds of trust, (6) ground leases of record, all applicable fees, and all taxes, including the documentary stamp tax. This property is sold "as is" and this sale is made without any warranties as to title or condition of the property.

Chad J. Wythers Attorney at Law, Successor Trustee.

By: s/ Chad Wythers Chad J. Wythers, #22383 Wythers Law Office 129 N. 5th St., Box 98 Seward, NE 68434 (402) 643-3639

SCI — February 03, 10, 17, 24, March 03, 2021

ZNEZ

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Re: #1 - Deed of Trust filed for record on October 7, 2009, at Instrument No. 200903242 and refiled on December 10, 2010, at Instrument No 201003222

Chad J. Wythers Wythers Law Office P.O. Box 98 Seward, NE 68434

Phone 402-643-3639

You are hereby notified that the following-described property will be sold by Chad J. Wythers, Attorney at Law, Successor Trustee, at public auction to the highest bidder at the North side of the Seward County Courthouse, 529 Seward St., in the City of Seward, Seward County, Nebraska, on March 19, 2021, at nine o'clock a.m. (9:00am):

Lots 1 and 4, in Block 3, in Mary R. Spear's Addition to the City of Seward, Seward County, Nebraska, commonly known as 945 North 5th St., Seward, NE 68434.

The highest bidder will deposit with the Trustee, at the time of the sale, cash or a cashier's check in the amount of \$5,000.00, with the full purchase price, in certified funds, to be received by the Trustee by 5:00 p.m. on the day of the sale, except this requirement is waived when the highest bidder is the beneficiary. (If the sale is held after 1:00 P.M., the deposit requirement remains the same, and the full purchase price, in certified funds, shall be received by the Trustee by 5:00 p.m. the following business day.) This sale is subject to any and all (1) real estate taxes, (2) special assessments, (3) easements, covenants, restrictions, ordinances and resolutions of record which affect the property, (4) unpaid water bills, (5) prior mortgages and/or deeds of trust, (6) ground leases of record, all applicable fees, and all taxes, including the documentary stamp tax. This property is sold "as is" and this sale is made without any warranties as to title or condition of the property.

Chad J. Wythers Attorney at Law, Successor Trustee.

By: s/ Chad Wythers Chad J. Wythers, #22383 Wythers Law Office 129 N. 5th St., Box 98 Seward, NE 68434 (402) 643-3639

SCI — February 03, 10, 17, 24, March 03, 2021

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DRYLAND CROPGROUND

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» SELLING IN 2 TRACTS «

Tract #1: 54.87± Acres

Lot 14 in the SE 1/4 of Section 7-7-8E Lancaster County, NE.

Location: From Hickman, NE, (Hickman Rd & 68th St.) go south on 68th Street 2 miles turn east on Panama Road, go to 120th Street, and go 1 mile south to the intersection of 120th Street and Olive Creek Road. Tract #1 will be on the north side and Tract #2 will be on the south side of the road. Or from Lincoln, NE, go south on Hwy 77 to Hickman Road, then go east to 68th Street and follow the above directions. Watch for the For Sale signs.

Tract #2: 91.5± Acres

Lot 5 in the NE 1/4 of Section 18-7-8E Lancaster County, NE.

» BID ONLINE MAR. 9-23, 2021 «

BIDDING ENDS AT 11 A.M. CST



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Johnathan Hoops, a junior at Centennial, goes through the script under the lights for a recent episode of Bronco News.

Lights, camera, Bronco News!

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

“Welcome to Bronco News.”

With that, Johnathan Hoops launches into an overview of what’s going on at Centennial High School for the week.

Hoops is the primary anchor for the short broadcast. He reads the introduction, welcome and headlines and presents the weather forecast. The lunch menu, a financial fact, Quick Qs, birthdays and Broncos of the Week are additional staples.

The idea came from Leah Pankoke who was assigned to teach a video editing class.

“It was a great opportunity to do a broadcast every week,” she said. “We thought if we did it during the day, we’d have better participation.”

So, they went for it. “It’s become bigger than we thought,” Pankoke said. “It’s been cool to see how some who are really shy find a way to break out of their shell and try something new.”

The class also created the intro video for this year’s athletic events, as well.

Most of the Bronco News broadcast is recorded Thursdays and Fridays, but Hoops waits to record the weather until Monday, when he can use the most up-to-date forecasts.

“It’s the same format week to week,” he said.

The students who work on the Bronco News focus on the school and school-related information. Sometimes they’ll change the format to fit what’s happening, Hoops said.

Austin Nave, a senior, and Ryan Richters, a junior, are among the students providing content for the broadcast. Nave interviews people about their jobs, what they like, hobbies and where they would be if they weren’t at Centennial. So far, he’s mainly interviewed teachers and other



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Tyson Rodewald, right, and teacher Leah Pankoke watch as Johnathan Hoops reads through the script before a recent taping of Bronco News.

employees.

“It’s pretty easy. It takes about two minutes,” he said.

His most interesting interview was Evan Klanecky, he said. Klanecky teaches physical education and coaches football.

Richters hosts a segment called Around the Hallways where he asks teachers about different classes, why students should take them and opportunities that might arise because of them.

He started with welding because it’s a class he’s in and also stopped at an art class.

“It’s a way to get the word out,” he said. He uses background footage and voiceover to build the segment.

Richters helped work on the commercials for the video boards this year for the sports marketing class.

One of his challenges is lacking the technology to do some of the things he’d like to see.

Because of that, he’ll sometimes use his phone to record the video footage. He hopes to buy his own equipment and create videos like this on his own.

“It’s something I’m good at,” he said.

Sophomore Tanner Rodewald is the sports anchor, a position he said was “kind of assigned.” He also presents the financial fact, finding information online that students could use.

One of the biggest challenges, Hoops said, is getting the script written in a day so they

can start recording.

They try to leave time to re-record a segment if needed, he said.

“Sometimes we push the clock,” Hoops said.

Pankoke does review the scripts before they’re presented and is the final say for the video editing.

He tries to leave enough time to read over the script and make sure he’s pronouncing the words and names correctly.

For Rodewald, the challenge is just doing the broadcast. He enjoys hanging out with the other students and making jokes.

“I make jokes a lot,” Rodewald said.

For Hoops, some of the more fun things they’ve done are the Christmas special and having some fun with the weather report.

Dylan Nissen, a sophomore, runs the camera. He was not available for an interview.

Hoops, a junior at CHS, said as basketball draws to an end he’ll have more time to help with the editing process.

“That’ll lessen the load on other people,” he said.

Hoops said the experience helps students see some career opportunities. In fact, Hoops said, he’s now considering meteorology as a potential career.

“I’m really proud of the hard work they’ve put in and their willingness to try something new,” Pankoke said.



GREG FORBES/SCI

Bottle Rocket Brewing on Saturday, Feb. 27 celebrated the launch of its can distribution. Three Bottle Rocket offerings are now available at stores statewide. Pictured from left, are: Selena McMeekin, who modeled for one of the can’s art, brewmaster Ryan Koch, Bottle Rocket president and owner Gerald Homp, Bottle Rocket vice president and owner Jason Berry and McKenzie Gravo, who also modeled for one of the cans.

Below: The silo where Bottle Rocket brews its product, located at its new production facility at the former Seward Youth Center building.



Bottle Rocket cans cleared for take off across grocery aisles

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

Bottle Rocket Brewing cans hit shelves across Nebraska for the first time in the brewery’s five-year existence last week, checking off a goal the owners had circled since its first day.

“When we came up with a business plan, we had phases. We knew we wanted the taproom, we knew we wanted to build on the space and have events with a location with beer and drinks provided,” vice president and co-owner Jason Berry said. “We had about a dozen or more phases we wanted to try to get through. As a goal from day one, we wanted to do a large scale distribution.”

To celebrate the occasion, Bottle Rocket hosted a launch party at the brewery Feb. 27. Guests were invited to see the cans, tour the brewery, talk with those involved in the brewing and canning process and sample snacks provided by local retailers.

The process to achieve that goal was not an easy one and took several large steps and detours, said president and co-owner Gerald Homp. The first, and biggest piece, he said, was finding a facility that would accommodate an expanded brewing and canning. They found that need in the

former Seward Youth Center building on Fourth Street.

With a facility secured, Bottle Rocket began discussions with Johnson Brothers of Nebraska to distribute the beer throughout the state. Before distribution could move forward, another set of hiccups hit, largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent product and material shortage.

“With the current aluminum can demand in the beer industry, it took six months for us to receive our first shipment,” Homp said, adding that the determination to distribute by March 2021 didn’t stop them from hitting their goal. “We knew we wanted to launch in March and made it happen.”

Cans arrived on the shelves at local stores, and social media posts and text messages showed the product at stores in Lincoln, Omaha and other locations. For now, three beers - Bottle Rocket Blonde, M-80 Pale Ale and Wicked Spark IPA - are available for purchase outside of the brewery. Seeing those pictures, Berry said, brought smiles to all involved with Bottle Rocket.

“All these firsts are exciting,” he said. “That first can coming off the

line, the first beer that comes out of the fermenters...all these firsts are exciting. Down the road, it becomes another can of beer, but the first one is always exciting.

“There’s a sense of affirmation from a sense that you’re taking a risk on putting your beer, your product out there for the masses to consume. You’re going to get all the feedback but it’s a little bit of a leap to take this kind of step.”

Knowing the cans would be alongside some of the biggest brands in the nation and the state, Berry wanted to take the opportunity to bring awareness to Seward and its history. The names of the beer pay homage to the city’s standing as America’s Fourth of July City. The art features local models and nods to Seward. Each can comes with a description of both the beer and the significance of the name.

“We wanted to tell a story. A lot of thought went into our can design,” he said. “I wanted the cans to not only reflect us and the town, but the era of the building. We are not just representing ourselves. We are promoting the town of Seward and the entire county of Seward. We want to promote the town that has embraced us and be able to give back.”

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