

SEWARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Wednesday
March 10, 2021
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Seward, Nebraska
sewardindependent.com

SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD SATURDAY
BEFORE YOU GO TO BED



SEWARD BAND HOSTS CONCERT
SEE PAGE 3A



Seward County 911 dispatcher Rachel Borges (center) was recognized during the March 2 County Board of Commissioners meeting for her actions helping to save a county deputy's life. Also pictured are Seward County Sheriff Mike Vance, left and 911 director Andrew Matney, right.

Seward county dispatcher honored for life-saving actions

by Hope Moural
hope@sewardindependent.com

Rachel Borges really loves her job.

She thrives on the chaos that comes with being an emergency 911 dispatcher for both Seward and York County Communication Centers.

But nothing in her three years in the position could prepare her for an incident that took place on Feb. 12.

While working alone at the Seward center that morning, she was called for details about a person being pulled over by Seward County Sheriff Deputies Matt Wambold and Anthony Gann for driving under the influence.

A white, powdery substance was also found and seized at the scene.

Gann was transporting the driver to the

Seward County Jail and Wambold was handling the passenger involved when things began to change.

"The thing about it was that it was so routine," Borges said. "I thought we were waiting for a family member to pick the (passenger) up when I heard (Wambold) shout a code for help."

Listening entirely through the phone, Borges heard the person get physical with Wambold, prompting him to call for backup.

Borges alerted Gann who was driving away and although he did turn around to help, Gann was exposed to the powdery substance and had a potentially life-threatening reaction.

"Suddenly I heard a code for an ambulance request, so I just started getting people there," Borges said.

She immediately notified York County deputies and Seward police officers and medical personnel to the scene.

A York County deputy arrived on scene and issued Narcan to Gann, who was then transported to the hospital by medical services Borges sent.

The incident and Borges's actions prompted the Seward County Board of Commissioners to recognize her with a commendation award on March 2.

Her husband, best friend Samantha Besemer and another co-worker were in attendance when she received the award.

"It was a pleasant surprise and I'm grateful everything worked out as it did," Borges said. "I love this and I'd never have another job."

Mask mandate ends

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

The Seward City Council last week elected to not extend its mask mandate, which required face coverings in public.

The mandate was initially put in place in December and extended until March 3 in January. The council met for its regular meeting on Tuesday, March 2, a day ahead of the sunset date and discussed the future of the mandate.

At its Feb. 17 meeting, the council considered an ordinance to amend the city code to remove language related to mandatory face coverings. The ordinance at that meeting failed its first reading with five votes opposed and three in favor. Members of the council said they would like to see the mandate last until its scheduled sunset date of March 3.

However, since the ordinance would need to go through three readings, it remained on the table at the March 2 meeting. The council last Tuesday elected to not extend the mandate, but instead unanimously voted to suspend the rules of the new ordinance, which would then allow them to pass the ordinance before the three hear-

ings. Following the suspension of the rules, the council then unanimously passed the new ordinance, which effectively ended the mask mandate in Seward.

Prior to the votes, the council opened the discussion to the public. Citizen Kristi Ideus spoke in favor of lifting the mandate, citing declining case rates in the area. She recounted that council members at previous meetings stated they would like to see cases continue to drop and would prefer to see the mandate run until March 3. With the sunset date arriving and the current risk dial at 1.75, Ideus urged the council to approve the new ordinance.

"There's not one peer-reviewed study that prove masks work but there are hundreds of peer-reviewed studies that prove that masks don't work," she said. "Please respect wishes of the business owners and citizens that would like to see this expire and let it sunset."

Citizen Stephanie Rouse said she understands that mask wearing has grown tiring but expressed concern regarding the repeal of the mask mandate. Citing recent comments by Centers for Disease Control and Preven-

tion Director Rochelle Walensky that pleaded with officials to not ease on safety precautions, Rouse said she would like to see the mandate continue.

"We aren't just a little island, we are part of a country that has experienced 500,000 deaths," she said. "Nobody thinks it's fun, but this is a bigger fight we're in and we're trying to beat this thing on a national level."

After public comment, some council members voiced their opinions. Most of the council agreed that the mandate could be lifted now, with the understanding that if cases start to increase dramatically, the council could revisit the issue if need be.

"What we did with the mask mandate, which was requested by health officials locally, served a good purpose. We have seen numbers decline," said council member Jessica Kolterman. "I'm comfortable letting it expire tonight with the caveat that if we were to see dramatic spikes or were to see a situation where the health department and the doctors together came back and said they were concerned again that we would consider looking at this again."

Variants arrive in Nebraska as Seward vaccinations ramp up

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

Four Corners Health District Executive Director Laura McDougall had a straightforward request for residents as two types of COVID-19 variants were found in Nebraska last week.

"Keep up non-pharmaceutical interventions, wear a mask, socially distance and wash your hands," she said. "It's really important that if someone has been exposed to another case or has symptoms

that they get a test. It's important to keep testing so we know what we're dealing with."

At the bi-weekly Four Corners briefing March 4, McDougall said that 13 cases of the California variant had been detected, with one case of the UK strain.

McDougall said the arrival of the variants in Nebraska furthers the importance of the vaccine. She urged everyone who is able to get vaccinated in order to limit the risk presented by the variants.

"It's really important that if anyone gets the vaccine offered, to take up that offer and get the vaccine," she said. "The less COVID we have here, the better."

Vaccination-wise, she said efforts in the four-county region continue to work through the 1B group. Throughout the region, most people receiving the vaccine are now in the low 70s. Staff members of area school districts are also being registered and

(continued on page 2)



St. John Lutheran School fifth grader Mackenna Wollenburg holds the poster she drew that won the Nebraska Missing Children's Day poster contest, sponsored by the Nebraska Attorney General's Office.

Awareness through art

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

St. John Lutheran School fifth grader Mackenna Wollenburg used her love of art to bring attention to a subject that she feels deserves more attention.

Wollenburg recently won the Nebraska Missing Children's Day poster contest, which is sponsored by the Nebraska Attorney Gen-

eral's Office. The contest challenges fifth graders across the state to bring awareness to missing children and remind parents and guardians to hold their children's safety with the upmost importance.

Wollenburg's piece portrays a network of children from all walks of life and shows how this issue is a problem in small towns and real life. She said she hopes

that when people see it, they better understand how many people are affected by missing children.

"I want them to see that it's not just one single nationality, it's not just white and black, it's everyone," she said. "No matter the child, there's always the risk."

"We were talking about how missing chil-

(continued on page 2)

Edward Jones

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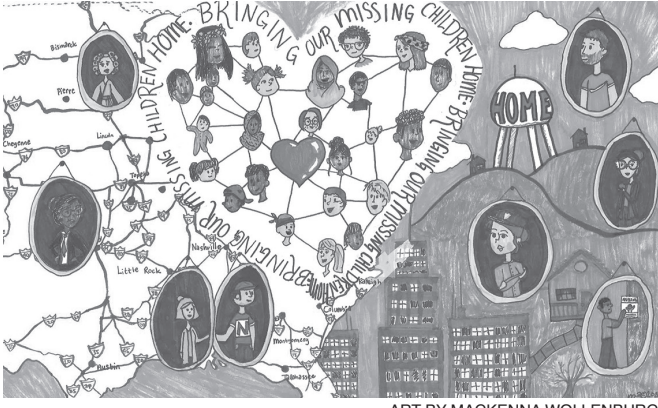
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Mackenna Wollenburg's winning poster for the Nebraska Missing Children's Day poster contest shows how children of all backgrounds are at risk and highlights the people who help prevent incidents.

Wollenburg

(continued from 1)

dren, it doesn't matter what community they're in and it doesn't stereotype to anybody," added her mother, Anita Foor.

Along with the snapshots of children are portraits of influencers who are on the front lines fighting against child abuse and work help keep children safe.

"They're parents, lawyers, police officers, social workers and teachers," she said.

Wollenburg said she was aware of the topic of missing children ahead of project, but working on the piece allowed her to better understand its wide-reaching impact.

"I realized that it's more diverse than I thought it was," she said.

The project was not mandatory, but Wollenburg was notified of the project because of her love of art and the fact that she's used her talents to draw attention to the importance of diversity. She said she

was confident in her work but still surprised to know it was selected as the state's winner.

"I just got really excited," she said.

Now, her poster will go up against the winners from the other 49 states. If her piece is selected as the top winner, she will travel to Washington, D.C., to be honored at the annual ceremony in May that recognizes National Missing Children's Day. The opportunity to have her art analyzed alongside the best in the contest, she said, was one she can't put into words.

"I just can't explain it," she said. "I am kind of nervous."

If she wins the contest, she said she most wants to see the cherry blossom trees and draw the various famous scenes for which the nation's capitol is known.

The winner is expected to be announced in April.



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Libbie Reil (at machine) puts together a quilt block as, from left, Neliyah Yoder, Brynlee Ficke and Staccia Johnson watch her progress Feb. 18. The project was offered, in part, to celebrate Career and Technical education month



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Annika Hendl, left, helps Lane Jensen get his sewing machine ready to go during a Career and Technical Education program at Milford Feb. 18.

Milford sixth graders build skills to celebrate Career and Technical Education

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

Program offers students a chance to dream big and explore a variety of areas

Milford Public School is helping people share their passions – not just students, but teachers, too.

To help celebrate Career and Technical Education Month, which was February, MPS created a CTE exploration program that met seven times during February.

Shelly Mowinkel and Mallory Gregory, teachers at Milford, put together seven after-school sessions for Milford sixth graders.

Gregory said the program was a chance to dream big and explore a variety of areas, "just to get exposure to them, to get their toes wet."

Topics covered included culinary knife

skills, photography and digital editing, floral design, the vinyl t-shirt printing process, sewing, woodworking and saving and investing.

"It's a chance to teach skills they can use outside of school," Mowinkel said.

Students left each session with something to take home. For example, after the knife skills workshop, they took home a stir-fry kit. They made their own floral arrangements during that session.

As part of the sewing session, students made quilt blocks to be put together into a Quilt of

Valor. Mowinkel, whose mother was a quilter, said her father provided money for the students to have their own sewing kits to take home.

Gregory said she had a class do a Quilt of Valor at a previous school and described it as a humbling experience. She hopes the students who worked on the quilt squares get to meet the veteran who receives the quilt.

Mowinkel said she and Gregory found other presenters to share their passions, as well.

Brandon Mowinkel talked to the students about photography, and Katrina Polk of Friend gave the presentation on floral design.

Because this was the first year for the program, Shelly Mowinkel and Gregory capped participants at 20. Gregory said about half the sixth-grade class signed up.

The program was funded by the anonymous donor, who gave money to Milford Public Schools to be used for projects not included in the district budget.

The sessions lead into the seventh-grade exploratory classes, Gregory said.

Variants

(continued from 1)

scheduled for the shots. Mallory Gibreal, community relations director for Memorial Health Care Systems, said the hospital as of last Thursday had vaccinated 2,200 people and is currently addressing individuals in the 70- to 71-year-old age range.

"We've been trying to get those out as soon as they come in," she said. "We hope to get through 69-year-olds next week."

Gibreal added that MHCS is adjusting visitor policies. Now, one healthy adult can accompany an individual to any type of appointment.

"Whether it's at the ER or the specialty clinic or any of our different departments or entities, if you have an appointment and need a support person or an accompaniment, you are welcome to bring those individuals," she said.

She said those visitors must be 19 years of age or older and must pass a temperature check and routine health screening in order to enter. All visitors must wear masks, as well.

Cases in the Four Corners area continue to decrease, McDougall said. In the last week, she said Four Corners registered just 32 new cases. However, 22 of those cases were in Seward County, she said.

"We're heading in the right direction," she said.

Commissioners accept name change of Seward County Visitors Committee

With the consensus of the Seward County Commissioners and those serving on the Seward County Visitors Committee, the committee is now known as the Seward County Visitors Bureau.

The bureau is active in promoting the tourism available in Seward County.

The bureau is a stand-alone organization, but does partner with many. It is solely funded by lodging taxes collected and submitted to the Nebraska Department of Revenue.

In the 1980s a law was established allowing counties to request a certain percentage of these taxes to come back to each county. Clark Kolterman initially put into place this action.

It does come back through the County

Commissioners, and is utilized and marketing strategies developed by the board of directors of the committee (now known as the Bureau).

Members of the board are all involved in tourism or lodging and have many years of combined experience. Members are Clark Kolterman, Sharon Hambek, Sue Imig, Jeanne Wiemer, Mary Meyer, Pat Coldiron, Doug Brand, Phil Bangert and Ken Schmeiding.

The bureau has contracted with Megan Koehler with the Seward County Chamber and Development Partnership for administrative support and to have a contact number.

The Seward County Visitors Bureau provides many avenues for marketing Seward County including a website, signage, advertis-

ing in state magazines, and provides brochures and other material. It is also well represented with the Nebraska State Tourism and other pertinent organizations.

The reasoning for this technical change is to enhance recognition of this entity and establish an identity for it. The members work between two bureaus who each have thousands of dollars in funds.

However, what this small group of volunteers accomplishes for Seward County is invaluable and remarkable.

Visit the website at www.sewardnebraskatourism.org and check out the Seward County Visitors Facebook page for more information.

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GREG FORBES/SCI

Seward High School band director Amanda Kenney reads notes from a song the wind ensemble was about to perform at the Seward Music Department's instrumental concert Monday, March 1. Kenney recently was named as a Nebraska State Bandmaster's Association Jack R. Snider Young Band Director Award winner.

SHS band performs spring concert



GREG FORBES

The Seward Middle School eighth grade band performed three songs at the Seward Music Department instrumental concert "Never Stop Looking Up" on Monday, March 1.



GREG FORBES/SCI

The Seward High School symphonic band performed a series of songs at the Seward Music Department's instrumental concert Monday, March 1.



GREG FORBES/SCI

The Seward High School wind ensemble led off the Seward Music Department's instrumental concert on Monday, March 1.

Seward High band, director earn awards for excellence

by Greg Forbes
 editor@sewardindependent.com

The Seward High School band last week added to its already banner year.

The band last week received the Excellence in Academic Achievement Award, given by the Nebraska State Bandmasters Association to bands that compile a cumulative 3.5 grade point average. Director Amanda Kenney said this is the second time in three years the band has earned the distinction.

Kenney said the award is something she encourages the band members to strive for each year.

"We have very, very smart kids in our program and a lot of other band programs have that, too," she said. "Many times, student musicians are very high achievers in all aspects of their lives, including music, the classroom, athletics and in any other thing they do outside of school."

Kenney added that it was especially a point of focus this year, as the band narrowly missed the award in 2020, with a GPA of 3.49.

She said the award was especially important this year because it showed the band members' resilience and ability to adapt to all the difficulties the COVID-19 pandemic posed to education.

"All these students were involved in online learning during the fourth quarter (last year) and unlike some other schools, the

SHS vice principal Jill Johnson was the primary nominator.

Looking at the list of previous recipients, Kenney said she's humbled to now be mentioned in the same sentence as band directors who made a significant impact on music statewide and nationally.

"What it means to me is a chance to be recognized among my colleagues and band directors in Nebraska for the work I've been doing specifically at Seward," she said. "The awards chairperson, Steve Steager, summed it up that when you look at the list of people who have received this award, it's a who's who of band directors in Nebraska. To be considered among them really is an honor."

With the award in hand, Kenney said she's more motivated than ever to continue to shape young musicians and use her knowledge to influence the next round of professionals in the music industry.

"What I'd like to do is continue doing a lot of things that I'm already doing, get more students involved in the program and continuing to recognize that our band program is an open and welcoming place to be where students can have a lot of enjoyment and fulfillment performing music with other students," she said.

The award, named after the co-founder of the NSBA and the Nebraska Marching Band Festival, honors directors in their third through seventh years of teaching. Nominations can be made by a variety of individuals, including students or their parents, fellow directors, supervisors and school administrators.

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grades they earned during on-line learning still counted," she said. "Then, they had to come back in the fall and try to figure out how to do school again after having so much time away."

Additionally, Kenney herself was also honored for her talents, taking home a Jack R. Snider Outstanding Young Band Director Award. This year marks her fifth year as a band director.

The award, named after the co-founder of the NSBA and the Nebraska Marching Band Festival, honors directors in their third through seventh years of teaching. Nominations can be made by a variety of individuals, including students or their parents, fellow directors, supervisors and school administrators.

Have something to celebrate?

Announce your special event in the Seward County Independent. You can have fun with that special someone's birthday, anniversary, baby announcement, note of thanks or special occasion with a personal ad. Contact us at 402-643-3676 or email office@sewardindependent.com

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Best laid plans of mice and men

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

Last week, you may have noticed a (lengthy) article that was prefaced with the promise of a weekly story reflecting on a year in COVID from a different perspective.



Greg Forbes
managing editor

I assure you, that was the plan. But as the saying goes, “the best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry.”

I can't say too much about the mice in this situation, but it's true for the humans. Thanks to a number of factors, this week's planned COVID reflection story did not happen. This became a growing realiza-

tion throughout last week and eventually, we just had to cut bait and plan to continue the series next week. I'm sure many, if not all, of you know the frustration that comes with the unsettling feeling that plans aren't going to happen as you had hoped. It's part of the human experience.

We assure our readers who were looking forward to part two of the series that it is coming, just not as soon as we had hoped. We also promise you, our readers, that this delay was necessary in order to produce a piece that did justice to the story itself and the sources we interview.

This is an intensive, involved series that we feel ranks at the top of importance. Everyone was impacted by the events of the last year. Everyone's story matters as much as each other's. It would be

a disservice for those particular voices if we rush any part of this series in the name of putting a story in the paper.

While you wait for part two, we would like to ask for your help. If you own a business, run an organization or event, teach, care for the sick and elderly or just have a story that shows the human side of the pandemic, we would like to hear it. Tell us about the last vacation you went on or the last concert you attended. Tell us how you had a new grandchild born and had to meet him or her in nontraditional ways for the first time. Or better yet, tell us what you hope to do once the pandemic clears. Email editor@sewardindependent.com or call (402) 643-3676 with a story you think would make a good addition to this series.

We asked you:

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Summer 3	Fall 7

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LB 61 would allow formal protest procedure for large state contracts

by Sen. Mark Kolterman
District 24

This week, I'd like to highlight another important piece of legislation that I introduced this legislative session that will help fill a serious gap in



Sen. Mark Kolterman

the state's procurement process. I introduced LB 61 which will provide a formal protest procedure for state contracts exceeding \$10 million which was heard in the Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee on March 4.

Currently, Nebraska law does not provide an express right of judicial review of an agency award decision. The current appeal process

is very limited, allowing a disappointed vendor to write a protest letter and a meeting with the Director of the Department of Administrative Services. Following the meeting, the director will make the final decision. This puts Nebraska at a disadvantage.

LB 21 would allow for an unsuccessful vendor to protest an award decision, and within 60 days of receipt of the protest, the Department of Administrative Services will hold a hearing. After the decision is made, any party to the decision could then appeal the decision to court.

Without judicial review of procurement decisions, this puts Nebraska at a disadvantage. Over half of all states and the United States Government provide for a judicial review of procurement decisions.

During the hearing, the committee heard testimony that without an appeal process which includes judicial review, many companies are being dissuaded from investing in Nebraska. LB 21 will show vendors that they will be treated fairly during an appeals process and would give them certainty that errors in the process can be corrected.

Time after time, we receive news that a state contract has been terminated after millions of dollars in state funds have been spent due to the vendor not being able to complete its work. The most recent was in December when contracts with two technology companies were terminated. The two contracts were terminated after \$12 million of state tax money was spent.

This is not the only example. In 2007, the State awarded a \$50 million contract to a Medicaid Management Information System project to a company with 75 employees even though a larger company with 20,000 employees and a history of completing similar projects also bid. After the contract was awarded, the contract was terminated when the State found out that the smaller company wouldn't be able to complete the contract, costing the state \$7 million in tax dollars.

A recent contract failure, that being the contract that was awarded to Saint Francis to provide child welfare services in Douglas and Sarpy counties, is the most egregious example of why we need this legislation. Saint Francis submitted an unreasonably low bid to win the award, and returned to the state less than two years later to ask for more funds than what competing bidders were

requesting to provide these same services and the Department of Health and Human Services rewarded Saint Francis for doing so.

This sloppy, mismanaged procurement for child welfare services, which did not follow the Department of Administrative Services' own procurement manual, RFP or Nebraska law, puts the children of Nebraska at risk. All of these issues would have been discovered by an independent third-party review of the procurement decision that allows for discovery, depositions and judicial review.

I look forward to working with the Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee to advance this important piece of legislation to help make the state's procurement process more fair and transparent in order to save the state, and most importantly, the taxpayer, their tax dollars. While allowing for ju-

ridical review may slow down the procurement process slightly, these are contracts that cost our taxpayers tens of millions of dollars and could put our most vulnerable citizens at risk, and it is better to do things correctly rather than to do them fast.

As always, if we can be of assistance to you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact my office. My door is open and I have made it a goal to be accessible to the constituents of our district. Please stop by any time. My e-mail address is mkolterman@leg.ne.gov, and the office phone number is (402) 471-2756. Tyler and Katie are always available to assist you with your needs. If I am not immediately available, please do not hesitate to work with them to address any issues that you may need assistance. Please continue to follow me on Facebook at Kolterman for Legislature and on Twitter at @KoltermanforLegislation.

Letter to the Editor

Team effort deserves praise

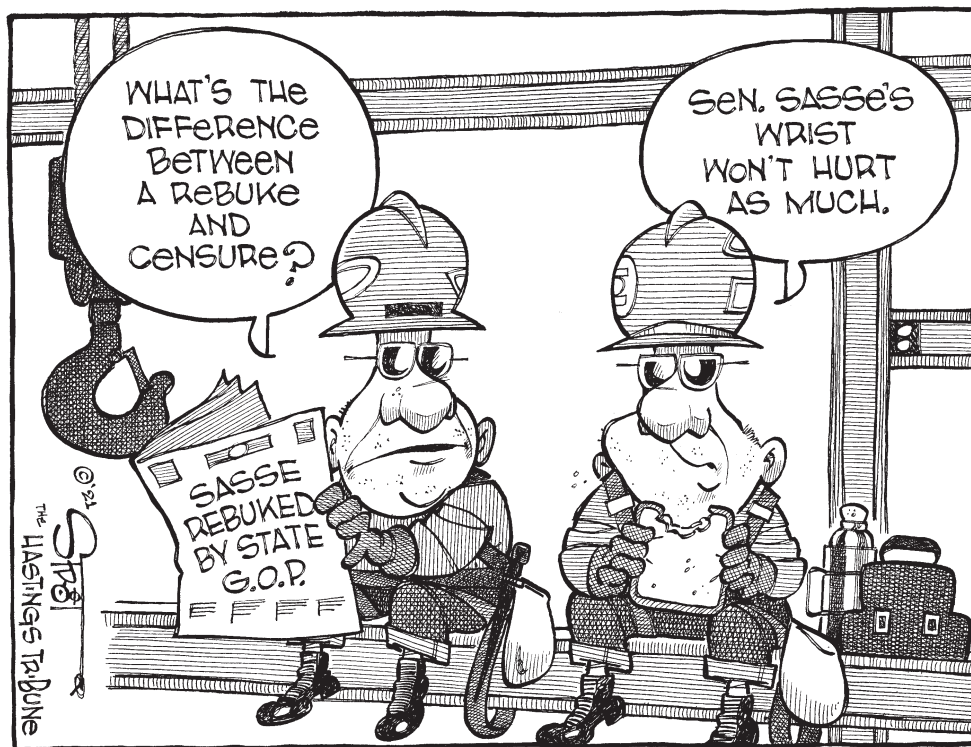
I want to share with your readership the scenes I saw play out this week at the Ag Pavilion in Seward. I was taking my dear friend and World War II veteran, Ralph Hansen, to get his second COVID vaccination shot and I witnessed something I wanted to share. As a veteran also, this makes me really proud.

The weather on the day was cool and windy

down at the county fairgrounds. The group that was being vaccinated was quite elderly (Ralph is 95). I parked as close as I could and helped him walk up to the front door. The members of the Nebraska National Guard were on hand to assist in helping others to the door and into the Ag Pavilion. After I handed Ralph off to a soldier, I went back to the car to wait for him to get his shot. I witnessed this care and love for our elderly as they arrived for their

vaccinations. Holding hands with strangers and helping them walk (slowly) to the awaiting medical personnel. Not only were the Nebraska National Guard soldiers and airmen fantastic but the medical staff and Ag Pavilion crew were outstanding. What a great team effort! Makes you proud to be a veteran and a member of the community.

Gerald D. "Jerry" Meyer
Colonel (retired)
NENG Historian



Correction

Dylan Nissen, right, and teacher Leah Pankoke watch as Johnathan Hoops reads through the script before a recent taping of Bronco News. Dylan was misidentified in the March 3 Independent. He is also a junior, not a sophomore.



1st Amendment, U.S. Constitution

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Jones Bank gives donations to help Seward community



COURTESY PHOTO

Jones Bank contributed \$10,000 to Seward Elementary School and Seward Public Schools for the new playground project at the elementary school. Pictured are, from left: Christy Schegg, SES nurse and PTO, Katie Wergin, mortgage loan processor at Jones Bank, Derek Tesinsky, AVP/loan officer at Jones Bank, Dr. Josh Fields, Seward superintendent, Jessica Dominy, SES principal, Rick Gray, commercial lender/business development officer at Jones Bank, Samantha Zegers, customer service representative at Jones Bank, and Megan Burkey, bookkeeper and electronic banking specialist at Jones Bank.



COURTESY PHOTO

Jones Bank recently presented Our Redeemer Ministry Center with a check for \$5,000 for its annual gala. Pictured are, from left: Gary Ayres, Nancy Cradick, Michelle Spahr, Derek Tesinsky, Harlan Anson, principal of Our Redeemer Lutheran School, Diane Holtorf, Sandy Wright, Jim Kremer, Jill Kruse, Shawn Kitzing, pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Angie Fuller and Rick Gray.

CPS gets pepped up for state!



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: Asia Nisly, left, eats her cookie as Kailey Ziegler tries to get a cookie from her forehead to her mouth without using her hands during a pep rally March 1. The two are seniors at Centennial and members of the girls' basketball team that qualified for state.

Left: Centennial girls' basketball coach Jake Polk addresses the student body during a pep rally March 1 at CHS. The Broncos qualified for the state basketball tournament.

Women IN BUSINESS

In honor of Women's History Month, we'd like to recognize our past Women in Business Award recipients:

Renee Coufal ('20)
 Dixie Zabka ('19)
 Joanie Tanderup ('18)
 Carla Ketner ('17)
 +Suzanne Kolterman+ ('16)
 Nancy Velder ('15)

Mary Schluckebier ('14)
 Lou Anne Mueri ('13)
 Lucy Bennett ('12)
 Pat Coldiron ('11)
 Julie Wisheart ('10)
 Becky Vahle ('09)

Helen Fliege ('08)
 +Marian Fosler+ ('08)
 Shirley Liesener ('08)
 Bonnie Elwell ('07)
 Trish Johnson ('06)
 Barb Springer ('05)
 +Lucille Duerr-Gaibler+ ('04)

The 2021 Women In Business Luncheon is postponed, but please join us Friday, March 25, 2022, where we will recognize Renee Coufal!

CONCORDIA'S ANNUAL WOMEN IN BUSINESS LUNCHEON IS MADE POSSIBLE BY:

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 Sid Dillon-Crete, Inc. | Suhr & Lichy Insurance Agency | Volzke Funeral Home | Walmart | Zabka-Perdue Funeral Home



Baumbach says goodbye after 32 years with city

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com



As the utility billing customer service representative for the City of Seward for the past 28 years, Ronda Baumbach's knowledge of Seward homes is vast, but she still appreciates a specific address from customers.

"We joke about the 'pink house on the corner' a lot," she said. "We get people who call the office and give us an order and instead of an address, they'll say something like, 'We're at the pink house on the corner.' We need a specific address."

However, with her April 4 retirement approaching, the "pink house on the corner" puzzles will be less frequent for her.

"I'm really going to miss the people I work with, the public and always knowing what's going on with the city," she said. "I'm just going to miss being down there where everything is happening."

Baumbach, a Seward native, first came to the utilities department in 1988 as a part-time clerk in the utility billing office to supplement a part-time job at Johnson's Cafe, which her parents owned at the time.

Johnson came into her current position in 1992 and said it was the opportunity to work with the public and help the City of Seward to provide the best possible customer service that kept her in the position this year.

"I enjoyed the people that I worked with and I enjoyed working with the

public," she said. "Over the years, the one thing I think the city needs to be most proud of is, we do have good customer service. You're able to just walk in and pay your bill and we're just a phone call away."

Baumbach said that while her focus on customer service never changed, the position did come with consistent adjustments over the years, particularly from a technology standpoint. She said she's seen meter reading go from manual recording to digital and billing transition to email.

"The city really tries to stay on top of that because it's going at such a fast pace," she said.

Baumbach said she hasn't quite determined how she'll fill her time in retirement but knows it'll involve the outdoors and some leisure. One definite thing she said that won't change in retirement is her love for the city she's called her home for her entire life and her employer for the past 33 years.

"It's just a good place to raise kids," she said. "Seward is a growing community and has so much to offer."

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Roger Gamble

Area events happening soon

THROUGH MARCH 25
Our Redeemer plans gala

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and School will host their 2021 gala Friday, March 12, from 5 to 11 p.m. at the Seward County Ag Pavilion. The event is a fundraiser for the new ministry center. More information is available on the church's Facebook page.

MARCH 18
Committee sets meeting

The monthly meeting of the Seward Fourth of July Celebration Committee will be Thursday, March 18, at 7 p.m. at the Seward Civic Center at 616 Bradford Street, in Seward in the West Fireplace room. The meeting is to plan and organize the 2021 Fourth of July Celebration and select honorees and committee chair. Volunteers are welcome and the meeting is open to the public. For more information, contact Clark Kollemann at clark.kollemann@sewardschools.org

MARCH 26
Save the date and study up

The 11th annual PTL Trivia Night has been moved to Friday, March 26, at the Seward County Ag Pavilion. Doors open at 4:45 p.m. and trivia starts at 7:15 p.m. The team with the most correct trivia answers wins \$400; second place wins \$200. All proceeds will benefit the children of St. John. Cost is \$200 per table of eight players, and must be paid in advance. You may register your team at <http://www.tinyurl.com/stjohntrivia>. The event will follow public gathering guidelines from four Corners Health Department. Participants will be asked to wear masks. For more information, email stjohntrivia@gmail.com or call Michelle Meyer at (402) 219-3008. Also, contact Meyer to be a corporate or memorial sponsor for a team or trivia round.

MARCH
Library hosts Pre-Three Story Time

During the month of March, Seward Memorial Library will host a Pre-Three Story Time. Families with children who are under age 3 are invited to come on Wednesday mornings from 10:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. for 30 minutes of stories, songs and activities. The first Story Time is March 3 and registration is required. Masks and social distancing will be practiced.

THURSDAYS
Family history questions? Society can help

The Seward County Genealogical Society meets every Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. downstairs at the Civic Center.

TOPS meets weekly
Take Off Pounds Sensibly, a nonprofit weight management organization, meets every Thursday in the Audio-Visual Room at the Seward Civic Center. Weigh-in starts at 11:15 a.m., with meetings from noon to 12:30 p.m. The first meeting is free. Masks are worn and social distancing is practiced.

Pandemic closes doors but museums continue to expand offerings

by Gerald D. "Jerry" Meyer
NENG Historian

On March 17, 2020, the Nebraska National Guard Museum closed its doors in response to the outbreak of COVID-19. It remained fully shuttered until June 12 with mitigation procedures in place.

With the drastic reduction of patrons visiting the museum in 2020, it wasn't a complete loss. The facility was able to add an additional exhibit and modify an existing room during the pandemic.

The pandemic caused a dramatic shift in how the museum handles patron flow and prevention of exposure to the virus. Large gatherings, which were a norm in previous years, were nonexistent or were virtual.

Just like everyone, the NENG Museum had to adapt to the changing requirements to be safe. We went from record crowds in 2019 to the worst attendance we've ever had since 1979 (year the museum was founded).

The biggest financial hit on the museum was the Gift Shop. During Airborne Day 2020, we were able to sell off our Airborne merchandise and were given COVID assistance funds to restock the shelves. This



The NENG Amphitheater received a portable stage to allow for better viewing of entertainers. The gift was from Becky and Van Vahle of Seward. They along with many other donors continued to support the museum to build out areas for the future return of patrons post-COVID.

allowed the Gift Shop to be fully stocked and ready for patrons to visit and shop in the future.

The new amphitheater was utilized to produce several virtual concerts for people to enjoy online.

A lot of classes that usually visit the museum were cancelled. Summer classes were also cancelled. Outreach events such as the annual Run to St. Lo 5K and others were cancelled.

During the pandemic, the museum staff continued to work on new exhibits and rooms. The newest exhibit to the facility is "Nebraska's Women Warriors." It features artifacts and interviews with women

who have served the organization since the early 1970's. It is set to be dedicated on July 4, 2021.

The other large exhibit is the Weapons Display Room. The NENG facilities director and staff invested a lot of resources into the room during the pandemic. The new cherry wood cabinets, lighting, carpeting, etc. have made this one of the most popular rooms in the museum. The collection has been moved out of the vault into the highly secure room. The NENG Historical Society raised \$25,000 to assist with signage, storyboards and displays in the room. It is tentatively set for dedication this summer.

Several other large projects are in the works at the museum. The adding of air handlers and computer technology to the Cornrow to Hedge-row 4D Experience are still being considered. A \$100,000 grant was prepared and the process was met with a denial of funds. Other grants are being considered to support this addition. The exhibit is our cornerstone display to the heroes of our NENG World War II veterans.

Several early guard exhibits are being set up for the future. The first is the Nebraska National Guard in the Civil War exhibit. It features a full scale artillery piece and horses. It will focus on the units of the territory (1st Nebraska and Curtis Horse - Cavalry) and the legacy of artillery in the NENG. This \$25,000 exhibit will feature numerous life like man-



The new NENG in the Civil War exhibit is starting to come together. The artillery pieces and horses will be the centerpiece of an \$25,000 exhibit to be dedicated in February 2022 for the 160th anniversary of the victory at Fort Donelson, Tennessee, in the Civil War.

nequins and images on display. Set to be dedicated on the 160th anniversary of the victory at Fort Donelson in February, 2022.

One of the newest exhibits is to Sgt. Mad Bear of the NENG's Pawnee Scouts. In 1869 during a battle in southwest Nebraska, his valor was rewarded with him receiving the Medal of Honor. He was a Pawnee from around Columbus and the first Native American to receive the award. This exhibit is in the planning stage and many ideas have been considered.

The museum has been able to weather the pandemic and continue to build and secure funds to manufacture exhibits. As the pandemic runs its course, the Nebraska National Guard Museum is ready to go forth again with its outreach programs and events pre-COVID.

If you can assist the museum with future exhibits, consider a financial contribution: NENG Museum, Attn: Exhibits, 201 N. 8th St., Seward, NE 68434. The NENG Historical Society is a 501(c)3 organization.



Female veterans of the Nebraska National Guard check out the progress on the Nebraska's Women Warriors exhibit at the NENG Museum. The new exhibit features artifacts and interviews of former members of the organization. It is set to be dedicated on July 4, 2021.



The new Weapons Display Room is being built out at the Nebraska National Guard Museum in Seward. The state-of-the-art room features custom cherry wood cabinets, monitors, storyboards and displays. One of the cabinets is dedicated to Gary Anderson, two-time Olympic gold medalist and member of the NENG. The room is set to be dedicated this summer.

County museum adjusts for covid

The Seward County Historical Society Museum in Goehner also faced challenges during the summer of 2020. The museum is usually open from May through October but did not open until June in 2020.

It was able to maintain its regular hours on Thursdays and Sundays with volunteers manning the desk, social distancing encouraged and sterilizing done reg-

ularly. The Chippewa Northern Railroad, a miniature steam railway at the museum, did not run its regular hours.

The museum did host its annual car show the first weekend in October and had good turnout.

It plans to open for the summer Sunday, May 2.

Council takes steps to fill clerk's position

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

The Seward City Council approved two items to help hire a new city clerk/human resources director for the City of Seward at its March 2 meeting.

The council first unanimously approved an updated job description for the position. Seward City Administrator Greg Butcher said it refreshed the job description since the last time the position was open. He said updated a job description is standard when the city looks to fill a position.

"Every time we have a transition, we look at job descriptions to see if what's listed is accurate, remove items that aren't handled by

that position and add new items if needed," he said.

The second item was to change the title on the pay plan to more accurately reflect the position.

The updates are necessary because the city is looking to fill the position, as current City Clerk Bonnie Otte will retire in April.

Butcher said the position has been advertised and applications will be received shortly. He said he and Mayor Josh Eickmeier will look through applications and select a team to conduct interviews. The council will then ultimately approve the candidate. Butcher said the city ideally hopes to have the position filled within a month.

Have something to celebrate?

Announce your special event in the Seward County Independent. You can have fun with that special someone's birthday, anniversary, baby announcement, note of thanks or special occasion with a personal ad. Contact us at 402-643-3676 or email office@sewardindependent.com.

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Support the local museums this summer.

Obituaries

Donald "Don" L. Freeman

Dec. 1, 1935 – March 5, 2021

Donald "Don" L. Freeman, 85, of Seward passed away March 5, 2021. He was born Dec. 1, 1935, in Milford to Louis and Amanda Freeman.

Don is preceded in death by his wife, Carol; parents, Louis and Amanda; and brother, Virgil; and Holli Rigby.

He is survived by his children, Cheryl Stoltenberg of Indianapolis, Indiana, Scott Freeman of Spencer, Iowa, Steve and Julie Freeman of Bentonville, Arkansas, and Alan and Kristin Freeman of Saint Charles, Missouri; grandchildren, Tony and Ashley Bennett, Patrick and Lacey Bennett, Kelley and Cory Collins, Sean Stoltenberg, Tyler and Justine Patsch, Jake Freeman, Ryan Freeman, Hunter Freeman, Matthew Freeman, Connor Freeman, Holly Freeman and Sammy Freeman; 10 great-grandchildren; long-time companion, Sherry Rigby and her daughter, Shelley Rigby; one step-brother; four step-sisters; many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Visitation is from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, March 12, at Volzke Funeral Home in Seward. A funeral service is at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 13, at St. John Lutheran Church in Seward with interment at the Seward Cemetery. Condolences may be left for the family at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.



Patricia A. Turner

May 7, 1937 – March 3, 2021

Patricia Ann Turner was born May 7, 1937, in Boelus to Edwin Hubert and Mary (Kwiatkowski) Jolkowski and passed away March 3, 2021, in Lincoln at the age of 83 years, 9 months and 24 days.

Pat grew up on the family farm near Boelus. She attended and graduated from Boelus High School with the Class of 1955. She then attended Grand Island Beauty School.

On April 23, 1960, Pat was united in marriage to Henry "Bud" L. Turner in Hastings. She worked at a beauty salon for several years before the couple began having children. Pat then opened her own shop in her home.

In 1966, the couple moved to Lincoln when Bud was transferred with Burlington Northern Railroad. They moved back to Hastings in 1970 where they began remodeling houses. Never one to sit still, Pat worked on the plaster board and painting of the interior. This was the beginning of Turner Construction which they owned and operated from 1970-1976. Pat also worked at Golden Corral for several years. The couple had lived in Hansen for several years before moving to Bee in 2006. After their retirement, they enjoyed being camp host in several Nebraska parks; the last was at Branched Oak for two seasons. Pat was very active at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church, where she helped with many funeral lunches. She also worked at Lou and Mary Anne's Bar for several years. Pat loved her family, working outdoors in her vegetable and flower garden, crocheting and other crafts. Pat genuinely loved people and helping them. Her pleasant demeanor and smile will be missed.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Bud (2011); and two brothers, Willy and Jerry Jolkowski.

Survivors cherishing Pat's memory include her three children, Brian and wife, Sherry Turner, Omaha, Ken Turner, Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Stephanie and husband, Brad Mensik, Lincoln; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; sister, Rose Cyborn, Grand Island; and brother-in-law, Bruce Turner, Kansas.

A Mass of Christian Burial was March 10 at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Bee with interment at Westlawn Cemetery in Grand Island. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the church or to Masses. Condolences may be left for the family at www.zabkafuneralhome.com.



Priscilla A. Lawin

Aug. 6, 1941 – Feb. 24, 2021

Priscilla Ann Lawin was born in Detroit, Michigan, on Aug. 6, 1941, to Herbert and Emma (Knuth) Lawin. She passed away peacefully on Feb. 24, 2021, at age 79 in her home at Kinship Pointe in Seward. Priscilla was baptized and confirmed in her faith at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Detroit.

Priscilla earned a bachelor of science degree in education from Concordia Teachers College in Seward in 1963. Her first call after graduation was to Zion Lutheran School in Akron, Ohio, where she taught for seven years. While in Akron, she earned a master of education degree from Kent State University.

In 1970, Priscilla returned to Concordia as an assistant professor of education and a student teacher supervisor. Priscilla's love of travel was tested as she logged thousands of miles visiting her student teachers across the United States.

In 1978, Priscilla earned a doctor of education degree from the University of Northern Colorado, becoming the third female faculty member to do so in the history of Concordia in Seward. Her doctoral research fit directly with her role of reading methods specialist as she studied the comparative readability of six Bible translations as seen through the eyes of 300 eighth grade students.

Dr. Priscilla Lawin was named professor of education at Concordia in Seward in 1985. She then became Director of Elementary Education and Student Teaching in 1987, and she would serve many years in this role. She was honored to extend Concordia's student teacher program to include schools in Hong Kong and Australia.

Beyond Seward, Priscilla strove to enhance the partnership between Concordia in Seward and Concordia in Selma, Alabama, organizing several student exchanges. She also served at Concordia College in Selma, both during a sabbatical leave and later after retirement.

Priscilla was a member of St. John Lutheran Church in Seward, participating actively in Bible studies and in a strong Christ Care group. She was a voracious reader, loved to travel and took an active interest in public affairs. She was a long-time member and past president of the League of Women Voters in Seward. She was also a member of numerous professional organizations.

Her love of family was evident to all who knew her, finding great joy in visits and attending family reunions. Priscilla touched many lives personally and professionally, and she saw herself first as a "servant of God."

Priscilla was preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by a sister, Celeste (Jeff) Craemer of San Rafael, California; a brother, Paul (Sandy) Lawin of Waverly Iowa; as well as by her nieces and nephew, Rebecca Lawin McCarley of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Ami Lawin of Long Lake, Minnesota, and Peter (Johanna Lee) Lawin of Waconia, Minnesota; and four great-nephews, Patrick, Justin and Lucas McCarley and Teddy Lawin.

Priscilla was buried March 6 near her parents and many relatives at Riverview Cemetery in St. Joseph, Michigan. Memorial contributions are suggested to Concordia University, St. John Lutheran Church in Seward or to the charity of the donor's choice.



Antoinette "Toni Sue" S. Bohac

Sept. 9, 1949 – March 3, 2021

Antoinette "Toni Sue" Susan (Valenti) Bohac was born Sept. 9, 1949, in Fort Smith, Arkansas, to Anthony and Mary Kathryn (Rausch) Valenti and passed away March 3, 2021, in Lincoln, at the age of 71 years, 5 months and 22 days. Toni's folks were split up and she lived between Omaha and Arkansas until the age of 5. Toni attended grade school in Omaha from K-sixth grade, Garland school from seventh-ninth grade and Seward school from 10th-12th grade.

One summer while putting up hay, she went to unload with a farmer (Leo Fiedler) from Garland. His wife, Antonette, had heart issues and he asked if she wanted to stay the summer. Toni stayed and when the summer was up, they asked if she wanted to stay forever. She chose to stay forever and they treated her so well. She was so grateful for that opportunity.

In 1965, Toni met Richard (the love of her life) and they dated for two years. Toni had to wait until she was 18 to get married and on Sept. 23, 1967, they were married at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Seward and to this union four children were born. They lived in Omaha for four years and then moved to Garland where they spent the rest of their lives together.

Toni was a stay-at-home mom for 36 years. She worked at Walker Manufacturing for six months. Toni ran an in-home daycare for 30 years. She was well known for her love of baking and enjoyed making all things such as wedding cakes, graduation cakes, kolaches, rolls, pies and many more items too numerous to name. Her specialties also included fried chicken, pan pies and noodles. She always made sure everyone had enough to eat and nobody left hungry.

Toni had a heart of gold. She enjoyed crocheting many afghans, scarves and stocking caps. Toni battled many hardships through the years including 13 years of dialysis, heart issues, knees, her hip and her hands. Even though she was in so much pain, she always had a smile on her face. Toni enjoyed shopping, family vacations, baking, spending time with family and friends, eating ice, an occasional margarita, playing games with grandkids and reading cookbooks.

Toni was preceded in death by two infant children; daughter, Becky; mother and father; grandparents; sisters, Christine Dunn, Rosie, Jean Kovar; brother, Sebastian; mother and father-in-law; nephew, Brad Kovar; and sisters-in-law, Maggie Valenti and Kathy Fiedler.

Survivors cherishing her memory include her husband, Richard; children, Tammy (Alan) Tejral, Julie Klimm and ex-husband, Trevor, and Joe Bohac and partner, Chris Robinett; two brothers, Anthony Valenti and Wayne Fiedler; two sisters, Lisa Heit and Jolene Vavra; six grandchildren, Kristine Tejral, Kody Tejral, Kourtney Tejral, Dace Klimm, Sage Klimm and Dane Klimm; nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial was March 8 at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church with interment at Seward Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to the Bohac family for future designations. Condolences may be left for the family at www.zabkafuneralhome.com.



Marriage licenses

Information taken from records filed with the Seward County clerk.

February

Michelle Lewien, Seward, and Jeremy Borgman, Seward
Aubrey Duer, Staplehurst, and Andrew Bader, Seward
Heidi Johnson, Staplehurst, and Jeffrey Fleischman, Staplehurst
Rebecca Hormann, New Hope, Minnesota, and Matthew Haefner, New Hope, Minnesota
Megan Rauch, Seward, and Matthew Samek, Seward
Savannah Jarzynka, Seward, and Jordan Koester, Waukesha, Wisconsin
Anne Gilligan, Seward, and Brian Bush, Seward

Real estate

Information taken from records filed with the Seward County clerk.

Feb. 25 – March 3

Dustin Dobesh to Damon Dobesh, a tract of land in the W1/2 NW1/4 5-12-3. DS \$6.75
Timothy J. DeWaard to Jan M. DeWaard, Lot 14, Centennial Heights Addition to Utica. DS exempt
Building Seward, LLC, to Underwood Construction Company, LLC, Lot 1, Block 2, Fairway Woods Addition to Seward. DS \$135
Charlene A. Stutzman and James G. Stutzman to Terry L. Rediger and Margaret M. Rediger, east 67 feet of Lot 12 and the east 67 feet of the south 12½ feet of Lot 11, Block 1, Johnson's Second Addition to Milford. DS \$236.25
AJS Land Co., LLC, to Rance Schweitzer, part of the NW1/4 SW1/4 24-9-3. DS \$393.75
Lucas J. Borgman and Melissa S. Borgman to P-Dale Pub, LLC, north 100 feet of

Lot 8 and the south ½ of vacated adjoining Walnut Street, Block 6, Best's Addition to Pleasant Dale. DS \$416.25

Sandra L. Schweitzer to Bradley D. Schweitzer, Lots 7-8, Block F, Davison and Culver's Addition to Milford. DS exempt

Scott Legacy Farms, LLC, to Tressa K. Scott, part of the SE1/4 29-9-1. DS \$675

Wayne Earney and Karen Earney to Jeane M. Loos, Lot 11, CNG First Addition to Seward. DS \$470.25

Royce Schlueter to Royce Schlueter and Lindsay Ueckert, Lots 11-12 and the east 20 feet of Lot 10, Block 10, Wright's First Addition to Utica. DS exempt

James R. Jensen and Jayne Mrasek-Jensen to Aaron J. Jensen, E1/2 NE1/4 20-10-2. DS \$801

RYASTE Properties, LLC, to Matthew J. Skarka and Amanda M. Skarka, Lot 1, Jarecki Addition, a part of the S1/2 SE1/4 34-11-3. DS \$180

Police

Information provided by the Seward Police Department.

Feb. 28

12:12 a.m.—A caller in the area of Highway 34 and 238 Road reported a possible drunk driver swerving on the road and traveling slowly headed westbound. Officers located the vehicle but did not observe any infractions.

6 a.m.—A caller in the 800 block of North Columbia Avenue reported a person was stealing traffic cones in that area and was currently sitting in their pickup. The suspect's roommate came to pick them up.

March 1

11:07 p.m.—A caller in the 1100 block of Elm Street reported a pickup had been stolen.

March 3

12:23 p.m.—A caller in the 2100 block of Parkview Drive reported that someone had egged their house.

6:51 p.m.—A caller in the area of Grand Avenue and East Bradford reported they had found a 4-year-old girl who was lost. The child was returned to the mother.

Summary of other calls:

911 misdial 1
Civil/child custody 1
Disturbance 4
Extra patrol 1
Field contact 4
Miscellaneous 4
Motorist assist 2
Ordinance violation 1
Parking violation 4
Reckless driving 2
Security alarm 2
Suspicious person/activity 3
Theft 1
Traffic stops 17
Welfare check 2

O'Connor to celebrate 90

Nellie O'Connor of Lincoln, formerly of Goehner, will celebrate her 90th birthday this month. She was born March 28, 1931, in Gillette, Wyoming. She has four children including Frank O'Connor (Linda) of Omaha, Joan O'Connor of Omaha, Gisele Oseka (David) of Lincoln and Mary O'Connor (Dave) of Lincoln. She also has nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. To celebrate, her family is requesting a card shower. Cards may be sent to 5700 Fremont St. #31, Lincoln, NE 68507.

Jeary to turn 90

Virginia Jeary of Seward will turn 90 this month. She was born March 22, 1931. She graduated from Seward High School in 1948 and taught for more than 30 years in Norfolk. To celebrate, her family is requesting a card shower. Cards may be sent to her at Kwinship Pointe, Room 217, 500 Heartland Park Drive, Seward, NE 68434.



Virginia Jeary

Pastor's column Will you be a user or a contributor?

by Pastor Brant Taylor
Hillcrest Evangelical Free Church

The human species tends to base our lives on what we believe to be true.

If we are people who believe in the Bible, we ought to find ourselves becoming more and more like Jesus. We should be becoming contributors rather than users.

Compare the two camps of thought. Those who constantly or frequently choose to feed the "user" mentality ultimately live miserable lives. They do not build anything of lasting value. They do not leave others better off after having been in a relationship with them.

They will rarely, if ever, step in to rescue another person who is being teased, manipulated or bullied. They see others as a resource to get what they want, to get to their goal.

Those who come from a "contributor" frame of mind choose to help others be built up, to invest and assist in others' growth. When difficulty comes their way, it only reveals a deeper character or inner beauty. They appreciate and value relationships with others. They value and appreciate beauty seen in nature, in culture in the arts. "What could I do to enhance this?" is at the forefront of their thinking.

When it comes to facing difficult issues, users quickly fade and slink away; contributors take on challenges willingly. Users tolerate people; contributors shape and invest in others. Users grow needier; contributors become more generous. Users fill their homes with junk; contributors fill their lives with memories and relational connections. Historically, consid-

People develop into users or contributors through the choices made every day.

er the life of a man who existed and claimed to be both human and God. This man we know as Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus was a contributor rather than a user. He sought out the very best for those around Him. He gave of Himself to improve the lives of those around Him. Consider Jesus' encounter with a Samaritan woman in John 4.

In a culture where women could not own property or testify in court, a woman's opinion or her presence at an event was not even worth mentioning. Jesus broke down the cultural barriers when He took a detour through Samaria.

There, He had an encounter with an immoral woman (John 4:4-26). The fact that she was a Samaritan was enough to bar her from any conversation with a self-respecting Jew, but, to make matters worse in the disciples' eyes, she was a woman (verse 27).

As they watched, Jesus transformed that woman and through her, impacted an entire city with His message of hope and redemption (verses 39-41).

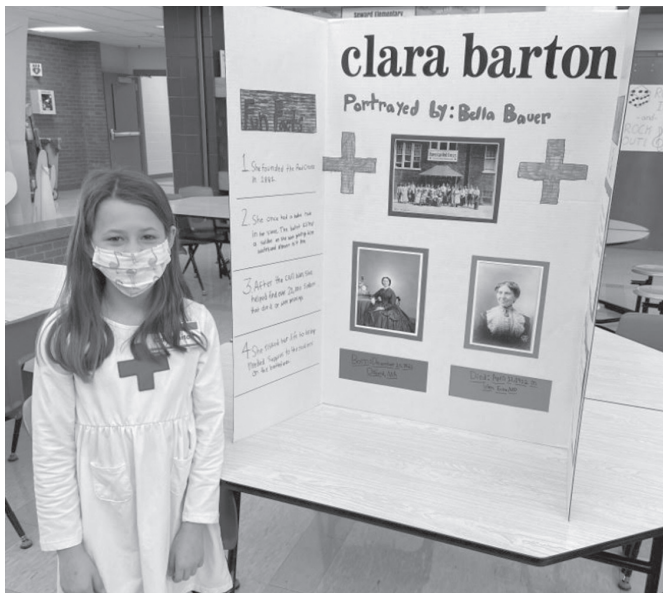
People develop into users or contributors through the choices made every day. Perhaps you, as you read this article, would take a moment to consider your life, your choices. What is your point of view? Will you choose to use or contribute?

I encourage you to choose to be a contributor.

History comes to life at Seward Elementary

Seward Elementary third graders recently dressed as cowboys, astronauts, doctors, athletes and everything in between to bring the living wax museum to the school.

The students were challenged to pick and research a historical figure. They were then to create a poster with facts about his or her celebrity and dress up as them. The students who participated gave short speeches and presentations to those who stopped by on Feb. 25.



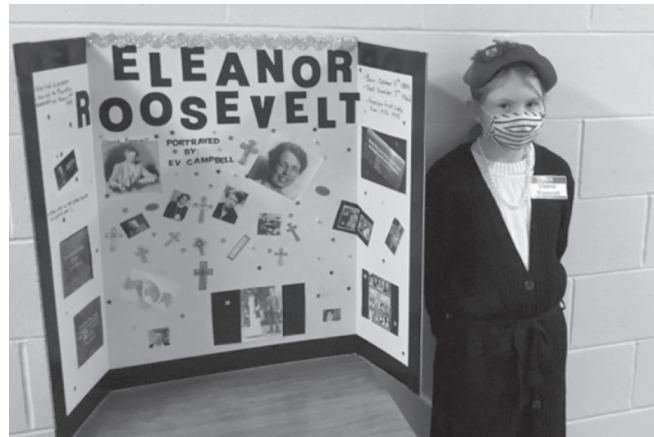
COURTESY PHOTO

Third grader Bella Bauer selected Clara Barton for her living wax museum project.



COURTESY PHOTO

John Glenn, the first American to orbit earth, was portrayed by Sam Peterson at the Seward Elementary School living wax museum on Feb. 25.



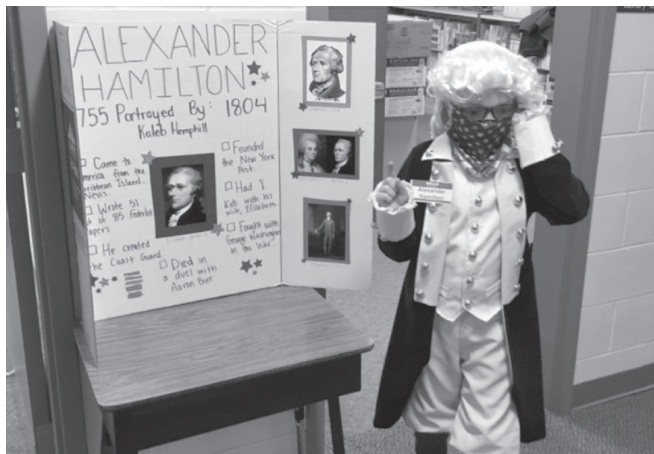
COURTESY PHOTO

Ev Campbell selected former First Lady and activist Eleanor Roosevelt for her character at the living wax museum at Seward Elementary School on Feb. 25.



COURTESY PHOTO

Stella Beasley donned a cowboy hat and western wear to portray famed sharpshooter Annie Oakley.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kaleb Hemphill looked the part as historic political figure Alexander Hamilton at the Seward Elementary School wax museum Feb. 25.

I want to thank everyone who sent birthday wishes to me on my 90th birthday, including the 90 roses from family, 120 cards from friends and greeting hugs. You made my day very, very special.

Thanks to the Independent for the printed invitation.

— Glennie Duensing

Bright Beginnings Child Development Center in Seward is searching for a full-time Pre-K teacher with a big heart, is hard-working, reliable and has a desire to help children learn in a faith-based environment. Our ideal candidate will have experience in early childhood education, pursuing a degree in education, or have relatable work/life experiences.

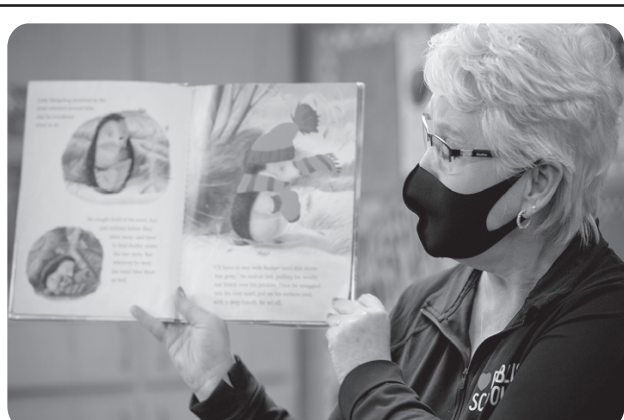
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IRS provides tax time guide

The Internal Revenue Service reminds taxpayers that its website, IRS.gov, continues to be the first and best place for people seeking information and assistance on their federal taxes. It is available 24 hours a day from the comfort of home, on a desktop, or from just about anywhere with a mobile device.

The array of online tools and resources available at IRS.gov range from tax preparation and refund tracking to research tools like the Interactive Tax Assistant and answers for Frequently Asked Questions on many subjects.

View tax account online

Taxpayers can use their online account to securely see important information when preparing to file their tax return or following up on balances or notices. This includes:

- **Adjusted Gross Income:** This can be useful if using a different tax software or tax preparer this year.

- **Economic Impact Payment amounts:** Eligible individuals who did not receive the full amounts of both Economic Impact Payments may claim the Recovery Rebate Credit on their 2020 federal tax return. To claim the full amount, taxpayers will need to know the amounts of the Economic Impact Payments received. These amounts can be found on the Tax Records tab in online account.

- **Estimated tax payment amounts:** The total of any estimated tax payments made during the year or refunds applied as a credit can be found on the Account Balance tab in online account, and a record of each payment appears under

Payment Activity.

Additionally, taxpayers can view:

- The amount owed for any past years, updated for the current calendar day

- Payment history and any scheduled or pending payments

- Payment plan details
- Digital copies of select notices from the IRS

Get a tax

return transcript

The Get Transcript tool is free and also accessible through an online account. It allows taxpayers to view, print or download their tax transcripts after the IRS has processed the return. A tax return transcript shows most line items from an original tax return, along with any forms and schedules, but not changes made after it was filed.

Locate local free tax preparation

The IRS's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program has operated for over 50 years. It offers free basic tax return preparation to qualified individuals:

The Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) program also offers free tax help for taxpayers, particularly those age 60 and older. The VITA/TCE Site Locator can help eligible taxpayers find the nearest community-based site staffed by IRS-trained and certified volunteers. Please note that some VITA/TCE sites are not operating at full capacity this year and others are not opening. Demand is high for this service so taxpayers may experience longer wait times for appointments. Taxpayers can use the locator tool to find an available site near them. It is updated throughout the tax season, so individuals should check back if they don't see a

nearby site listed.

DIY tax preparation for free

The IRS Free File program offers 70% of all taxpayers the choice of nine brand-name tax preparation software packages to use at no cost. Those who earned less than \$72,000 in 2020 can choose which package is best for them. Some even offer free state tax return preparation.

Those who earned more than \$72,000 in 2020 and are comfortable preparing their own taxes can use Free File Fillable Forms. This electronic version of paper IRS tax forms can also be used to file tax returns online.

Free File is available only through IRS.gov. Read more about the Free File program in this week's A Closer Look.

Make a plan to pay

Taxpayers can meet their tax obligation in monthly installments by applying for a payment plan. Most can be setup on IRS.gov/paymentplan or through an online account in a matter of minutes. Setup fees may apply for some types of plans. Options include a full-pay agreement, a short-term plan of up to 120 days or a long-term monthly payment plan (installment agreement). The amount a taxpayer owes and their tax-filing compliance determines which payment plan options may be available.

Other options available may include an offer in compromise -- a way for a taxpayer to settle their tax debt for less than the full amount -- or requesting the IRS to temporarily delay collection until the taxpayer's financial situation improves.

How to avoid debt after lay off

Millions of people lost their jobs due to the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the global economy. Professionals with thriving careers suddenly found themselves out of work by early spring 2020, leaving many to speculate about their financial futures.

Staying positive in the wake of a layoff can be challenging. The financial pressures of being laid off may compel some people to take on debt as they try to pay their bills, including their mortgage, car payments and other expenses that don't disappear even if income does.

- **Create a budget right away.** Budgets can help recently laid off workers get a clear picture of their financial obligations and where they might be spending more than necessary. Prior to the outbreak, many people may have traveled extensively.

- **Find ways to save.** Cutting back on travel expenditures is just one of the many ways individuals who have been laid off can save money. Savvy consumers may pay extra toward their principle on home and auto loans each month, and that luxury, which can move up loan maturity dates, can be scaled back if not eliminated until you get back on your feet. For some individuals, such an effort can save hundreds of dollars per month. Individuals also

can dim the lights more often to reduce their energy bills, a sacrifice that should be easy to live with as summer approaches and daylight hours increase.

- **File for unemployment benefits.** By the end of April, the U.S. Department of Labor was reporting that first-time claims for unemployment benefits had exceeded 30 million in the previous six weeks. Laid off workers who intend to file claims should do so immediately, as many unemployment agencies are facing unprecedented backlogs that can delay administration of funds for an extended period of time. When filing, make sure taxes are withheld on the money you will receive, as that can ensure your tax bill is not especially high when you file your tax return next year.

- **Maintain health insurance.** Medical debt can be devastating, so it's vital that laid off workers stay insured in the wake of a layoff. The Kaiser Family Foundation notes that, in 2016, 52 percent of debt collection actions contained medical debts. Check your severance package to determine if and for how long your medical benefits will continue after being laid off. If that is not an option, prioritize getting new coverage via COBRA or the Affordable Care Act.



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Left to right: Joel Endorf, Dawn Lliteras, Katie Stolze, Marla Belitz Johnson, Shannon Meyer

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Jenny's REESources

Nitrogen rate, timing study opportunities offered to farmers

by Jenny Rees
Seward/York counties
Extension educator

Unless one has a field that tends to get hit with lower yields compared to county average every year, I'm unsure that ARC-IC is a fit for many farmers in this part of the state.



Jenny Rees
Extension educator

For the 2021 decision, one would need to expect 2021 yield to be significantly less than county average yields. So if your field(s) are typically near or above county average yields, it's perhaps not the wisest decision.

Lawn care: The beautiful weather is a great opportunity to rake lawns, remove leaves from lawns and dormant overseed grass in thin spots. Dormant seeding provides an opportunity for seed to grow when soil temperatures warm and spring rains come.

Prepare areas to overseed by hand raking small areas to remove dead growth and loosen the soil surface. Large areas can be heavily aerated. It's best to only power rake if there's a thatch layer of 1/2" or more present. Overseed Kentucky bluegrass at 1-2 lbs/1,000 square feet and tall fescue at four-six lbs/1,000 square feet. Also, it's too early to apply fertilizer and herbicides to lawns.

Solar electric questions: I will share more regarding a free webinar series next week to be held from March 30-April 8. If you have specific solar-related questions right now, direct them to John Hay, Nebraska Extension Educator at (402) 472-0408 or jhay2@unl.edu.

Nitrogen rate and timing studies: An article written by Dr. Charlie Wortmann and colleagues said "Partial Factor Productivity" is commonly expressed as yield per unit input, e.g. bushels of corn per pound of fertilizer N applied (bu/lb N). PFP can be adapted to units of nutrient removed in grain harvest to units of nutrient applied, such as corn N harvested relative to fertilizer N applied (PFPN, lb/lb).

Advances in corn genetics and changes in farmers' management practices have resulted in more pounds of grain produced for every pound of nitrogen applied.

Dr. Richard Ferguson said, "The average PFP of fertilizer N for corn in Nebraska was estimated to average 1.16 bu/lb N in 2012 compared to 0.57 bu/lb N in 1965. This represents a doubling in PFP for fertilizer N applied to corn. The trend of increase was

linear from 1965 to 2012. Assuming a grain N concentration of 1.2% at 84.5% dry wt. or 0.67 lb N/bu, the PFPN converts to 0.79 lb of grain N per lb of fertilizer N applied in 2012 compared with 0.38 lb/lb in 1965."

That's quite an increase in nitrogen use efficiency.

Another way farmers have been looking to increase nitrogen use efficiency is to compare nitrogen rates and timing of the fertilizer applications. We've had some on-farm research studies recently look at side-dress applications using either the UNL equation/Maize N model or industry models such as Climate Field View and Granular.

In all these studies, the recommended rate was compared to rates that were at least 30 or 50 pounds over and under the recommended rate. In 2020, there were two nitrogen rate and timing studies in the area partially sponsored by the UBB-NRD. A York County study found no yield differences between applications of spring anhydrous of 135, 185, and 235 lbs/ac.

The same farmer also did a nitrogen rate X timing study in Hamilton County. He compared fall vs. spring vs. split application rates of anhydrous + UAN of 205 vs. 255 lb/ac for each timing. There were no yield differences with any of the timings and rates.

In none of the studies did the addition of 30-50 lbs N/ac above the recommended rate increase the yield statistically. A few of these studies also compared side-dress applications vs. pre-plant alone. One situation resulted in a statistically lower yield with pre-plant alone while the others resulted in no yield differences. I've compiled these results in a table at <http://jenreesources.com>.

These nitrogen rate and timing studies could provide farmers a way to assess for their own operations. I've mentioned the precision nutrient management studies (<https://go.unl.edu/4rvw>) for several months. If you weren't sure if it could apply to your situation, I was told that those don't have to be precision nutrient applied.

So, if you're interested, please let me know and we can work out the details. There is a \$1,300 stipend for that specific study. There's also up to \$300 reimbursement from UBB-NRD for water quality related studies. I'm currently working through on-farm research protocols for 2021.

If you have a production and/or product-related question you want to test on your own farm, contact me or your local Extension educator and we'd be happy to help you set up a study.



COURTESY PHOTO

Members of the Social Problems class at Concordia University collected needed items for People City Mission and Seward Foster Friends.

Concordia students gather donations

The Social Problems Class at Concordia University collected new and used socks, winter clothing, winter gloves, hygiene items, cleaning items, granola bars, water, that were especially needed by People City Mission and Seward Foster Friends.

Donations came from students, staff and faculty on campus, at St. John church and school, Faith Lutheran Church and from Seward Memorial Library so

more in the community could participate.

The students sorted all they had collected and took three very full car loads to the Help Center in Lincoln as well as three large bags for Seward Foster Friends.

This was part of a service learning project for the class. People were very generous and many purchased and donated new items, as well as used ones. Seward Foster Friends serves

many families in need as well as foster families. Seward Foster Friends also helps out other agencies like Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and The Indian Center in Lincoln. People City Mission serves 30,000 people each year with different programs to help people get on their feet as well as directly with meals, clothing and shelter.

Board talks painting, salary and funding

Main dome, corners, clock to be repainted

by Hope Moural
hope@sewardindependent.com

The Seward County Board of Commissioners approved a gold paint color for the exterior courthouse dome, corner domes and repainting of the clock tower during its Feb. 23 meeting.

The project will be completed by Lindner Painting Inc. of Lincoln and the bid was awarded at \$98,390. A timeline for the project could not be obtained by time of publication.

In an unrelated matter, the board discussed setting a salary for the new human resources director Carina Sanchez and what grade step she stands on after five years as a county employee. No action was taken.

Seward County Planning and Zoning Administrator Becky Paulsen was present for the approval of a conditional use permit for a Viera telecommunications tower near Goehner. Site acquisition specialist Chris Riha was also present.

Next, Paulsen presented a resolution to subdivide just over 14 acres of farmland into two parcels by a Seward County resident and another to separate 17 acres into three lots,

both of which were approved.

The board then heard from Morgan Campbell of District 5 Probation on how funding and a claims process should work for drug court. Deputy Brandy Johnson said she called other counties to see what they did and said an entirely separate fund was best when the current fiscal year ends.

She also said she spoke with Seward County Attorney Wendy Elston about claims. Elston said her office would handle them.

Seward County Bridges director Megan Kahler presented to the board a four-year comprehensive plan for Seward County Juvenile Services. The plan is required for submission by the Nebraska Crime Commission in order to receive grants.

The plan will begin at the start of this fiscal year, July 1, and go through June 30, 2025.

In another matter, the board heard from Seward County Jail director Maria Hatfield, who presented two separate contracts regarding the housing of inmates for both Adams and Fillmore counties in the detention center.

Hatfield said this has taken place for few months and documentation is required in the case of an audit. Both contracts, one for each county, were approved.

Katrina Ramer of the Seward County Attor-

ney's office talked to the commissioners about an interlocal agreement with Butler County to continue their truancy services. After determining there is no cost to Seward County taxpayers, the agreement

was approved.

The next Seward County Board of Commissioners meeting will be March 16 at 9:30 a.m. on the third floor of the courthouse. The meetings are open to the public.

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Monarda brings charm, interest to garden

by Sarah Browning
Lancaster County Extension educator

Monarda is a genus that has a long history of being used as a medicinal herb. As the common name Bee Balm implies, it has also been used to soothe bee stings.

But did you know the Oswego Indian tribe used this plant to make an herbal tea and they taught the early American settlers how to do so as well? This just happened to come in very handy following the Boston Tea Party.

As the settlers revolted against the British tax on tea, they drank tea made from Monarda instead, thus thumbing their noses at the British and their taxes.

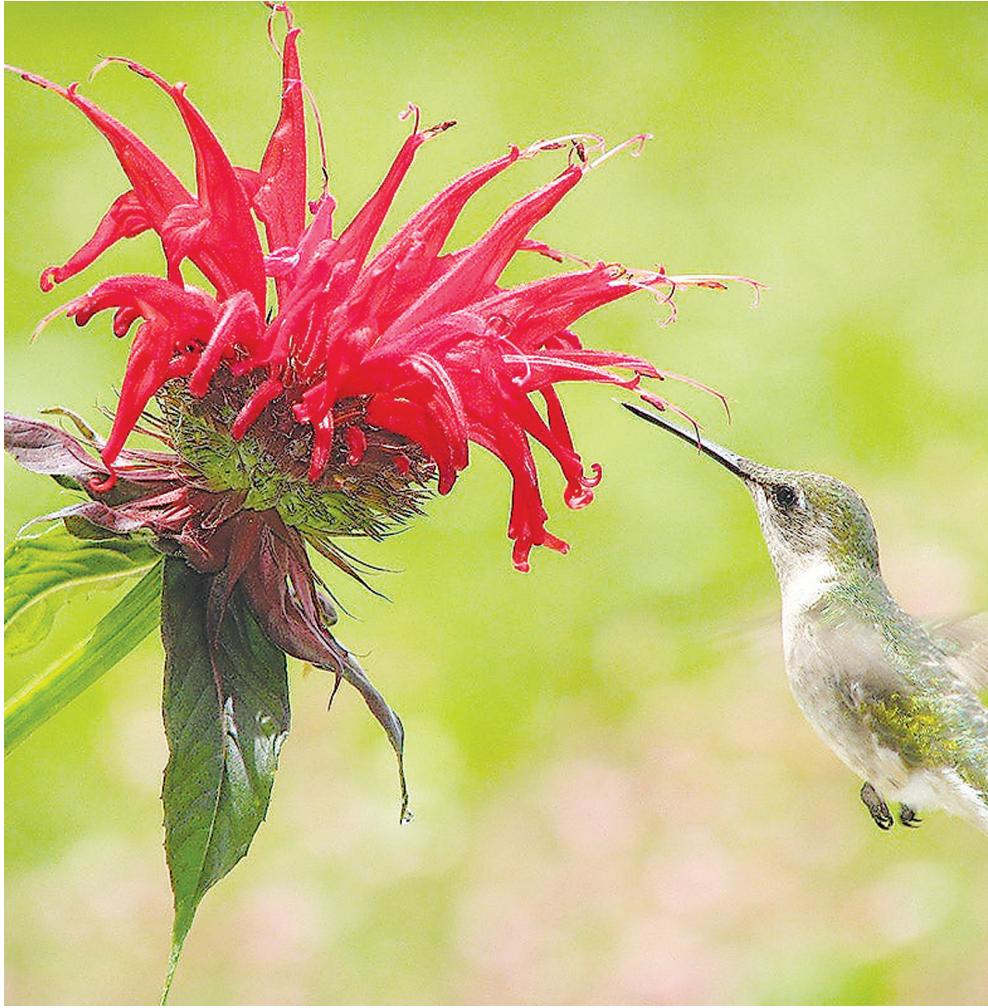
Monarda is a member of the mint family and consists of multiple species, most of which are hardy perennials and all of which are native to certain regions of North America. Summer-time flowering on all these species is quite attractive to humans and pollinators.

Monarda species
Monarda punctata, aka Horsemint or Dotted Mint, is somewhat of an unruly native prairie plant characterized by tall unbranched stems topped with rounded clusters of pink or lavender tubular flowers. The stacked combination of speckled flowers and colorful bracts make this distinctive and unusual.

Monarda fistulosa, or wild Bergamot, is one of the species commonly used for medicinal purposes. Being highly aromatic with showy lavender-pink flowers, it is also used as a honey plant.

Monarda didyma, Scarlet Bee Balm, has long been cherished for not only its use for tea but also its ornamental value. The bright scarlet/red flowers of M. didyma are still a part of many ongoing breeding programs with Monarda.

It has been a long road from these native species of Monarda to the prized ornamental cultivars available today. Some of the first hybrids of M. didyma x M. fistulosa produced vibrant flower colors with a more well-behaved plant, but they contin-



COURTESY PHOTO

Monarda brings a lot of charm and interest to the garden. Mass plantings in naturalized areas are a showstopper and create a high-traffic area for butterflies, hummingbirds and bees.

ued to be plagued by their native attributes of being highly susceptible to mildew, somewhat tall and leggy and had a tendency to spread by rhizomes.

New varieties

Modern breeding has introduced many new cultivars that are much more suitable in the ornamental landscape. Along with many stand-alone varieties with notable attributes of their own:

- ‘Marshall’s Delight’ – Received Award of Merit from Royal Horticultural Society
- ‘Gardenview Scarlet’ – Selected by the Chicago Botanic Garden as an outstanding perennial for the Midwest.
- ‘Petite Delight’ – The first of its kind dwarf introduction of monarda at just 12-15 in. tall.

There are several newer Monarda with formidable attributes:

- Monarda didyma ‘Grand™’ is from the Morden Breeding Program in Manitoba and an exceptionally hardy Monarda. Characterized by a profusion of bright flowers atop mid-sized plants, these also offer very good mildew resistance.
- The Sugar Buzz Monardas form a solid

dome of color. The 2- to 2 ½-in. flowers top off the strong stems and deep green foliage of this series. Medium in height at around 20 inches, the eight colors in this series display above-average mildew resistance and stay well contained in the garden.

• Balmy™ Monardas have relatively large flowers on a fully compact plant. Balmy comes in at just 10-12 in. with exceptional mildew resistance and deep green foliage. They are dwarf and mounded, so bring new uses to the landscape.

Home gardening tips

• While some Monarda species come from seed, did you know most newer selections are vegetatively propagated and are quite easy to care for in rich and organic, or just average soils?

• Monarda will die back to the ground in colder climates. They can then be cut back to one-two inch stems. It’s also a good idea to remove dead leaves and stems from the area, especially if mildew has been observed on the foliage.

• As Monarda emerges from the roots/rhizomes in the spring they

may be pinched to create a bushier habit if desired.

• In the full sun, they will produce a plethora of brilliant flowers beginning in mid-summer. Pair these with Achillea, Agastache, or Phlox for a smooth transition of garden color into fall.

• As flowers fade, deadheading is beneficial to encourage additional flowering.

• The plant is deer and rabbit resistant.

Monarda brings a lot of charm and interest to the garden. Mass plantings in naturalized areas are a showstopper and create a high-traffic area for butterflies, hummingbirds and bees.

Enjoy these as specimen plants paired with your favorite summer-into-fall bloomers in the middle of the garden. When they are in full flower, you can pick a few flowers and leaves to make a batch of iced Bee Balm tea and watch the garden grow. Or dry some and save it for hot Oswego tea on a cold winter’s night.

For more information on this year’s featured plants, including sources of monarda, visit the National Garden Bureau. www.ngb.org.

Ways to deal with disaster anniversaries

by Brandy VanDeWalle
Fillmore County Extension educator

Birthdays, anniversaries and holidays are days to celebrate annually with joy and happiness.

If you are like me, I’m sure there are also dates that might bring feelings of anxiety, stress and sadness.

For example, I’ll never forget where I was when Sept. 11, 2001, happened. I’ll never forget days that various people in my life were impacted by serious illnesses or passed away.

Many Nebraskans will never forget March 15, 2019, when the ‘bomb cyclone’ hit, causing massive and historic flooding in the state. This date forever changed the lives of many and will take years for many to recover.

Then to top it off last year during March of 2020, COVID-19 hit, causing schools to go virtual, business disruptions, etc. As March 15, approaches, our Nebraska Extension team put out resources which I decided to share in my column this week.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has the following tips for how to cope with these trigger events.

• Be aware that special days may be difficult. It’s common for some stress and other emotional reactions to happen around the anniversary of an event. Simply recognizing that your feelings are normal will help. Dealing with some of your losses and the new realities you’re facing after a disaster can be challenging. Try not to be too hard on yourself.

• Be gentle with yourself. Show yourself the same kindness and patience you’d give to others during this time. Allow yourself to feel angry or sad and recognize that these emotions are natural.

• Participate in activities that you enjoy. This may be different depending on the individual. Some people like to reflect in solitude while others may prefer spending time with family and friends for support. Some of these activities may include singing, prayer, meditation, attending a spiritual service, going to the movies or just getting together with loved ones to share a meal.

While it is hard to cope with these trigger dates, know that you are not alone and you are cared about.

• Talk about your losses if you need to. If you want to talk about your losses since the disaster, you can. If you want to talk about the future, you can do that, too. Be sure to share your thoughts and feelings with someone you trust. That can be a friend or family member or a health care professional.

• Draw on your faith/spirituality. For many, faith and other spiritual beliefs are a source of strength and comfort every day, and most especially during difficult times. Reach out to your faith adviser, spiritual community or anyone that you feel comfortable talking with about your beliefs to support and console you.

• Accept kindness and help from others. Support from family and friends is essential to healing. It’s often difficult for people to accept help because they don’t want to be a burden to others or don’t want to appear weak. Allow the people in your life to show their care and concern.

• Help others. For some people, volunteering is a healthy way to heal and they get a great deal of satisfaction from helping others. Some activities can be as simple as donating food, clothing and other items.

While it is hard to cope with these trigger dates, know that you are not alone and you are cared about, especially by Nebraska Extension. Nebraska Extension, along with numerous other partners has recently created the “Nebraska Needs You” campaign and is working to support others in times of difficulty.

We have the Rural Family Stress & Wellness Team that I am a part of which participates in activities supporting the wellness of rural Nebraska communities by working with community partners and the University of Nebraska. Resources can be found at ruralwellness.unl.edu.

Pond owners should be wary of winterkill

Private pond owners should be wary of fish possibly succumbing to winterkill.

Excessive snow, especially in southeastern Nebraska, and thick ice from recent frigid weather have created conditions for potential winterkill, according to Jeff Blaser, private waters specialist with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

Winterkills typically occur in small, shallow ponds with abundant

aquatic vegetation. Snow and ice covering a pond prevent the water from exchanging oxygen with the air.

Excessive snow and thick ice allow little sunlight penetration, so plants are unable to produce enough oxygen. If excessive snow cover and thick ice persists, the plants die and subsequent decomposition, along with respiration by various aquatic organisms, can deplete the oxygen, resulting in

a fish kill.

Blaser recommends pond owners take stock of their waters at ice-out.

“Depending on the size of the pond, the presence of 40 or 50 dead fish would not indicate a large winterkill,” he said. “Thousands of dead fish of various species and sizes would be evidence of a major die-off event.”

Blaser suggests owners check for fish, visually and angling,

following ice-out to help determine the status of the fish populations. The findings from these actions could indicate a pond is a candidate for restocking.

Pond owners can contact Blaser at 402-499-4041 for management suggestions if they had a major fish kill.

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Centennial's Jaci Opfer fights through the Crofton defense to pass the ball to a teammate March 3.

STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Milford ready to make mark at state

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

While Milford won its district final game 75-46 over Mitchell March 1, Coach Tony Muller didn't relax.

"I knew their threes could keep them in the game," he said. "No lead is safe."

Milford jumped out to a 10-2 lead and was up 18-12 after the first quarter. Muller said the Eagles were able to hold Mitchell to one shot and then run themselves.

Jaxon Weyand and Seth Stutzman handled the bulk of the scoring in the first period with 10 and six points, respectively.

Mitchell fought back with four three-pointers in the second quarter, but the Eagles led 38-28 going into halftime.

The Eagles extended the lead to 60-42 by the end of the third quarter.

Muller said he thought Milford's strength would be its inside game. Instead it was the transition offense.

"We ran the floor better than I thought," he said. "I thought we could run, but we scored more than I thought in transition."

The Eagles didn't need to rely on the outside game, attempting just six three-pointers. Mitchell made nine.

"It was a very good game for us," Muller said.

Weyand finished the game with 35 points, and Stutzman added 22 points and 10 rebounds. Micah Hartwig recorded eight assists and four steals.

The win put the Eagles in the state tournament for the first time since 2019. Milford (26-0) will play Omaha Concordia (21-4).

Muller said Class C1



Milford's Micah Hartwig shoots over the Mitchell defense March 1.

PHOTO COURTESY BRANDON MOWINKEL

Tournament ends in opener for Broncos

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

Centennial ended a two-decade absence from the girls' state basketball tournament March 3, but the Broncos' stay wasn't as long as they wanted.

Centennial (23-3) was matched against Crofton in the first round, and the defending state champs downed the Broncos 62-37.

"They are the best in the class," Coach Jake Polk said. "It was a tough draw. We were not able to keep the game close."

Crofton went on to win Class C2.

The Warriors dominated the Broncos in rebounds, Polk said, and that led to too many easy shots.

The Broncos battled through the whole game, but when senior guard Kate Hirschfeld picked up her fourth foul in the third quarter, Polk said that deflated the team. Hirschfeld was in and out for the rest of the game.

"We needed to make sure she was able to finish the game," Polk said.

The Broncos cut the Warrior lead to 12 but couldn't get any closer.

Hirschfeld led the team with 13 points. Jaci Opfer came off the bench to score eight points and notch three assists and three steals.

Polk said this year's team and the seniors leave a great legacy for the future. The team set the school record for most wins (23), most wins in a row (16), three-pointers made in a game with 10 (tie), won the Southern Nebraska Conference tournament and qualified for state for the first time since 1999.

In addition, Hirschfeld engraved her name in eight statistical categories - career free throw attempts with 489; career free throw makes with 254; season free throw attempts with 147; steals in a game with nine (tie); steals in

a season with 92; steals in a career with 241; No. 3 in career points with 1,036 and No. 9 in career rebounds with 471.

Daylee Dey put her name in the record book by making 17 consecutive free throws to tie the school record.

Polk said the seniors will be tough to replace. This year's team included nine - Maddie Avery, Dey, Kierra Green, Hirschfeld, Asia Nisly, Opfer, Kiley Rathjen, Jaycee Stuhr and Kailey Ziegler.

"There will be holes in the team we'll look to fill," Polk said. "I'm excited to start to think about rebuilding."

He thanked the seniors for their achieve-

ments and challenged the returning players to figure out how to make them proud and build on what they did.

"It was a memorable year," he said. "I'm proud to coach this team. I'm excited about the future and building off the success."

"Thanks to the seniors for their hard work. I wish them nothing but the best."

Crofton 62, Centennial 37	
CTL	7 7 10 13 37
CRO	16 14 17 15 62
CTL—Kate Hirschfeld 5-9 3-5 13, Kierra Green 3-6 0-1-7, Daylee Dey 0-3 0-0-0, Jaci Opfer 3-5 1-2-8, Halle Kinnett 0-0-0-2-0, Kiley Rathjen 0-0-2-0, Maddie Avery 0-1 0-0-0, Asia Nisly 1-4 0-0-3, Jaycee Stuhr 2-7 0-0-4, Kailey Ziegler 1-1 0-1-2. Totals 15-39 4-13 37.	
Three-point goals—CTL 3-15 (Hirschfeld 0-1, Green 1-4, Dey 0-2, Opfer 1-1, Avery 0-1, Nisly 1-3, Stuhr 0-3). Rebounds—CTL 20 (Nisly 5). Assists—CTL 7 (Opfer 3). Steals—CTL 8 (Opfer 3). Blocked shots—CTL 2 (Opfer, Nisly 1). Turnovers—CTL 24. Fouls—CTL 16.	

Two win titles for Concordia track team

Josie Puelz had to wait around all day before the evening pole vault competition March 3, but the end result was well worth the anxious moments at the NAIA Indoor Track and Field National Championships.

"You build up so much anxiety and stress coming into this moment, just being in the competition was awesome. I was so glad that somebody was right there to push me to better heights," she said. "It's like you see the whole season come together coming down from the bar - and thank God it stays."

It took Puelz equaling her personal best and school record (13-4.5) to finally hold off a big push from Hastings' Abby Collingham. Meanwhile, Mapson vaulted 12-5, placed fourth and took home her third career All-America award.

On March 6, Zach Bennetts cleared a personal best of 15-11 while placing fifth in the pole vault. Concordia led the nation with four qualifiers in the pole vault, which saw Chase Berry share sixth (15-5). Berry is now a two-time pole vault All-American.

Junior Rachel Battershell achieved another mountaintop moment while helping lead Concordia University women's track & field to a national team trophy finish for the second straight year. Individual na-

tional titles from Battershell and Josie Puelz (pole vault) helped lead the Bulldogs to a final team finish of third place (49 points), marking the best ever indoor national finish for the women's track program.

"Our ladies absolutely rocked it," Beisel said. "We all know they have that capability and it still has to happen on the day it counts the most. They did that for conference and then they came back and did it over two days at nationals with a lot of crazy with the COVID-19 testing and everything else. It was a nationals meet unlike any other. In event after event we got All-Americans and All-Americans ... I'm very thankful to God."

After running the fifth-fastest race in the prelims of the 400 meters, Battershell rose to the occasion, rattled off a time of 56.03 in the finals and held off Dordt's Emma Bakker (56.3). A year earlier, Battershell celebrated a championship in Brookings, South Dakota, when she clocked a school record 400 time of 54.77.

"Throughout the whole year, from last year to this year, it's been on my mind a lot," Battershell said of attempting to repeat in the 400. "It's been hard for me to focus on just running my race instead of letting it get in my head what people expect and

what I expect. Once I passed the finish line all I could think about was I'm so thankful God brought me into this moment."

Battershell also did the honors of finishing off the meet for the women by sprinting around the track as the anchor of the 4x400 meter relay. Battershell was joined in the finals by Sarah Lewis, Keri Bauer and Sydni Schernikau. They completed the race in 3:53.74 for a fifth-place claim.

Just prior to the 4x4, Concordia's distance medley relay checked in at 12:28.99 and placed fourth. The DMR consisted of Rylee Haecker, Kennedy Mogul, Grace Reiman and Kylahn Heritage. Those two relays accounted for nine team points.

In the weight throw, senior Sarah Ragland saved her best for last - a PR of 57-9 on her final throw that propelled her from ninth place to third. That effort allowed Ragland to claim the first All-America award of her career. She was rivaled closely by Morgan De Jong, the GPAC weight throw champion. De Jong reeled in her second career All-America honor by throwing 56-8. Freshman Olivia Buschow also competed and turned in a mark of 51-10.5 (14th).

A Concordia basketball player at Concordia, Elle Luehr had limited college throwing ex-

perience entering this indoor season. Her development has been rapid under the tutelage of throws coach Ed McLaughlin. Luehr placed fifth with a toss of 44-9.75 in her first experience at a national meet. Teammate Abby Gerber turned in a new personal best 42-9 while just missing out on the finals.

The freshman Haecker advanced to the finals of the 1,000 meters and ended up placing eighth (3:03.14). Haecker joined Battershell as one of two Bulldogs to have earned a 2021 All-America award in both an individual event and a relay.

Freshman Amy Richert was right on the cusp of All-America honors in both the pentathlon and high jump while placing ninth in both events. The native of Gresham cleared the opening height of 5-1.5 in the high jump. The next height (5-3.5) wound up being the cutoff for All-America honors.

In the long jump, sophomore Katie Severt (17-2.25) and junior Jamey Broman (16-4.25) placed 12th and 16th, respectively.

The 2019 national runner up in the heptathlon, junior Cody Williams rose to second place in the 2021 overall heptathlon standings at the conclusion of the pole vault (sixth event). Williams then finished in **(continued on 2B)**

Milford 75, Mitchell 46					
MIL	18	20	22	15	75
MIT	12	16	14	4	46
MIT—Isaac Yeackley 2-6 0-2 4, Micah Hartwig 3-5 0-0 6, Camden Springer 1-1 0-0 2, Maddox Baack 0-1 0-0 0, Jaxon Weyand 14-19 5-6 35, Kaleb Miller 1-4 2-2 4, Seth Stutzman 10-15 2-3 22, Cabe Schluckebier 1-1 0-0 2. Totals 32-52 9-13 75.					
MIT—Totals 15-45 7-12 46.					
Three-point goals—MIL 2-6 (Hartwig 0-1, Baack 0-1, Weyand 2-2, Miller 0-1, Stutzman 0-1), MIT 9-20. Rebounds—MIL 32 (Stutzman 10), MIT 19. Assists—MIL 18 (Hartwig 8). Steals—MIL 9 (Hartwig 4). Blocked shots—MIL 3 (three with 1). Turnovers—MIL 9, MIT 14. Fouls—MIL 12, MIT 10.					

Concordia University

(continued from 1B) third place with a total of 5,056 points. In Friday's events, Williams won the 60 hurdles (8.33), placed third in the pole vault (14-11.25) and 11th in the 1,000 meters (2:54.81). Williams was also the GPAC heptathlon champion.

After four long days of action, the 2021 NAIA Indoor Track & Field National Championships have come to a conclusion. When the dust settled, Head Coach Matt Beisel's squads recorded team NAIA national finishes of third (49 points) on the women's side and 12th (18.5 points) on the men's side. The women were rewarded with a team trophy March 5. The men moved up from their 17th place finish a year ago.

"After coming off an exciting women's meet, we wanted to do well on the men's side too," Beisel said. "Looking back at conference, obviously we're not quite where the women are, but we are continuing to improve. I believed we could get 12th or better if we competed well, so I was happy with that. It wasn't given to us. Bit by bit, we chipped away at it. Our guys' 4x4 made the final and ran a season best time post-injury to Xavier (Ross) and Colton (Meyer). They competed really well and ran great."

In the GPAC dominated weight throw competition March 6, sophomore Chris Wren (Fair Oaks, Calif.) turned in a personal best with his third throw of the day, which landed at 62-5.75. That mark yielded a fifth-place finish for Wren, who earned his first All-America award in his first career national meet.

Two days after running a time of 3:23.72 in the prelims (first in the heat), the 4x4 group returned to the track in Yankton. Once again, the quartet consisted of Cade Kleckner, Jacob Jennings, Henry Reimer and Colton Meyer (in that order). They shaved the finals time down to 3:22.91 and placed eighth, good for one team point.

Just prior to the 4x4, the Bulldogs competed in the distance medley relay. The foursome of Calvin Rohde, Maccoy Menke, Christian Van Cleave and Camden Sesna clocked in at 10:26.51 and placed ninth out of 10 in the finals. Meet officials granted 10 relays entry into the finals due to a timing mishap that occurred in the prelims. Concordia did not record an official time in the prelims, although Beisel's calculations showed a faster time in the finals.

A clearance of the very first bar of the competition did the trick for sophomore Wyatt Loga of Malcolm in the high jump. He earned eighth place and an All-America award (first of career) by leaping over 6-5.25. Beisel noted that Loga nearly cleared the bar on the next height. Loga's indoor season also included a third-place high jump claim at the GPAC Championships.

Women's basketball

The brackets are now set as Concordia University women's basketball prepares for the 20th national tournament appearance in program history.

Head Coach Drew Olson will take his team to Park City, Kansas, for the opening round.

As the No. 1 seed in Park City Bracket B, the Bulldogs will have a bye before playing the winner between No. 2 seed Loyola University New Orleans and No. 3 seed Langston University (Okla.).

Loyola and Langston will go head-to-head on March 12. Concordia is set to open up its national tournament on March 13 at a time to be announced. All games in the Park City Bracket will take place at Hartman Arena.

The Bulldogs (20-8) earned an automatic bid to the national tournament as the GPAC post-season runner up. The field is made up of 48 teams (37 automatic and 11 at-large qualifiers).

The at-large bids were determined by the Women's Basketball National Selection Committee. This committee consists of one representative from each geographical area and six at-large members. The 16 teams to emerge from the opening round will advance to play at the final site – the Tyson Events Center in Sioux City, Iowa, March 18-23.

This marks the first year under the new national tournament format. The NAIA shifted from two divisions to one beginning with the 2020-21 season. In the future, the tournament will feature 64 teams, meaning there will be no byes in the opening round. Despite the change in format, the Tyson Events Center remains the final destination for each of the qualifiers.

Concordia is the No. 16 overall seed in the tournament while Loyola is 19th and Langston is 39th.

More details regarding specific game times, fan attendance policies and live streaming will be disseminated when available. The women's basketball page of the NAIA website serves as an additional resource.

GPAC final

March 2's GPAC women's basketball tournament title clash had all the drama anyone could have asked for in a pulse-pounding battle that took every bit of 40 minutes to decide. Ultimately, Sophia Peppers' layup with 0.8 seconds left lifted seventh-ranked Morningside to a 67-65 victory over Concordia.

Head Coach Drew Olson has led the program to six of its seven all-time GPAC tournament championships. The result stings, but the Bulldogs (20-8) likely gained even more confidence from what unfolded.

The backcourt of Taylor Cockerill and Taysha Rushton showcased big-time shot making while torching the nets at Allee Gym. Rushton finished with 24 points while knocking down 6-of-10 attempts from 3-point range. Meanwhile, Cockerill added 21 points while drilling 4-of-5 shots from long range. Rushton scored 19 of her points in the first half before Cockerill rained in 19 in the second half.

Without Rushton's second quarter, Concordia would have been dead in the water. The Lubbock, Texas, native dropped home five treys in the quarter, including four in the last four minutes of the half. That 36-15 deficit turned into a more manageable disadvantage of 38-31 by halftime. Cockerill carried the torch from there and gave the Bulldogs

their first second-half lead (53-52) via a three-point play early in the fourth quarter.

"Taysha and TC are really special," Olson said. "What Taysha showed tonight was incredible. She willed our team back when we were down. Both her and TC continued to find ways to keep us in the game. Collectively, other people really contributed to it too with their defensive toughness and a couple of good plays offensively. Taysha and TC were awesome."

Neither team led by more than three points in an intense fourth quarter. Down the stretch, Taylor Rodenburgh hit two massive jumpers to turn a three-point Mustang deficit into a two-point lead (65-63) in the final seconds. Cockerill responded with a driving layup to even things up once again. Unfortunately for the Bulldogs, they fell victim to a last-second game winner for the second straight meeting with Morningside (26-2).

Peppers led her side with 16 points while McKenna Sims added 15. The Bulldogs limited mega star Sierra Mitchell to five points on 2-for-14 shooting from the floor.

Some of that defensive success could be attributed to Rushton, who is more than just a sharpshooter. Rushton and company did an admirable job of holding Morningside to 41.8% shooting after a hot early start. A rarity this season, the Bulldogs finished in the red in turnover margin (-2) and also got outrebounded, 38-32.

Cockerill added six rebounds, three assists and three steals to her line. Mackenzie Koepke pulled down 10 rebounds and blocked a pair of shots. In addition, Rylee Pauli chipped in with six points, four assists and four rebounds and Bailey Conrad notched six rebounds and three assists.

Wrestling

Concordia University Junior Mario Ybarra already had secured an All-America finish thanks to the work he put it on Friday at the 2021 NAIA Wrestling National Championships March 5-6.

On the second day of the national tournament, Ybarra wrapped up the season with a victory in his final match while locking up seventh place at 133 pounds. The Bulldog wrestling program qualified three competitors for the national event staged inside Hartman Arena in Park City, Kansas.

Levi Calhoun has coached four All-Americans during his three years as head coach of the program. As the latest All-American, Ybarra generated the entirety of the Bulldogs' 6.5 team points (team place finish of 35th).

"I'm extremely proud of what Mario was able to accomplish. Coming back from the injury he had and becoming an All-American is absolutely incredible," Calhoun said. "He has worked hard since the day he arrived at Concordia and his success is not a surprise to anyone who knows him. I'm excited for his future as a Bulldog."

Seeded sixth in the NAIA at 133, Ybarra (14-2) made it a mission to reach the podium after suffering a loss in the blood round in 2020.

Ybarra had literally been bloodied back in January with an injury that caused him to miss the GPAC tournament. While donning extra protective head gear, he opened the day with a 7-2 decision over 11th-seeded CJ Shadinger of Reinhardt University (Ga.). A 2-1 tiebreaker loss at the hands of Indiana Tech's No. 3 Conner Grimson in the quarterfinals put Ybarra's season on the line.

In the consolation bracket, Ybarra edged Reinhardt's Michael Land, 3-2, to set off a mini celebration.

Ybarra entered day two with a shot at placing as high as third in the bracket. However, he was dealt a 5-2 loss by Alex Pena of Wayland Baptist University (Texas) on Saturday morning.

In the seventh-place match, the sixth-seeded Ybarra (15-3) drew fourth-seeded Nick Kunz of Montana State University-Northern. Kunz won the 2020 national title at 125 pounds. Ybarra earned a signature win by defeating Kunz in sudden victory, 3-1.

The tournament run for Ybarra also featured a triumph over 11th-seeded CJ Shadinger of Reinhardt University (Ga.).

The 2020 125-pound GPAC champion had not wrestled since December before jumping into the national tournament. Ybarra wore specialized head gear to protect a surgically repaired broken nose.

A two-time national qualifier and a 2020 GPAC champion, Crawford drew a significant challenge out of the gates in facing third-ranked Elias Vaoifi of Missouri Valley College. Crowsford (Virginia Beach, Va.) fell by major decision. He was then eliminated in another major decision that followed in the consolation bracket.

Telles (33-13) also faced a top five foe to begin the tournament in the heavyweight bracket. The native of Albuquerque, New Mexico, dropped a 7-4 decision to No. 5 Maleek Caton of Williams Baptist University. The 12th seed Telles was then bounced from the tournament, 4-2, by Midway College (Ky.)'s Byron Pierce. Telles looks to have a bright future after having won a GPAC title and led the team in wins and pins in 2020-21.

Ybarra's 2021 All-America award extended the program's streak of consecutive years with at least one All-American to eight. Ybarra becomes the 12th Bulldog to reach the podium. The program history dates from 1962-78 and from 2009-present.

Honors

Women's basketball
After putting on a show in the 2021 GPAC tournament championship game, junior Taylor Cockerill and freshman Taysha Rushton have pulled in first team All-GPAC honors, as announced by the league March 3.

Juniors Mackenzie Koepke and Rylee Pauli were both recognized as honorable mention all-conference choices.

Cockerill is now a two-time first team all-conference honoree. The Waverly High School product also picked up first team accolades in 2018-19 for the national championship team.

While returning from an injury that sidelined her in 2019-20, Cockerill has started all 28 games and leads the team in points (14.5), rebounds (6.2) and assists (3.04) per game. She is shooting 41.7% from the floor, 38% from 3-point range and 78.7% from the foul line.

Rushton emerged as a strong candidate for the GPAC Freshman of the Year award (which wound up going to Dakota Wesleyan's Haidyn Pitsch). The native of Lubbock, Texas, immediately stepped into a starting role and has averaged 14.3 points, 2.6 assists, 2.5 rebounds and 1.5 steals per game.

Rushton is shooting 36.6% from the field, 35.3% from 3-point range and 81.9% from the free throw line. She ranks fourth among all GPAC players with 66 made 3-point field goals (2.36 per game). Her scoring average is the second highest for a freshman during Drew Olson's tenure.

Koepke has garnered some form of all-conference recognition in each of her three collegiate seasons. She collected honorable mention (2018-19) and second team All-GPAC (2019-20) accolades the previous two seasons. The Lincoln Lutheran High School alum is averaging 7.3 points, 5.6 rebounds, 1.8 steals and 1.0 block per game. She is shooting 29.9% from 3-point range. Koepke has totaled 736 points, 375 rebounds, 176 3-point field goals and 173 steals over 99 career collegiate games.

Pauli is a first time All-GPAC honoree in what is her first season as a starter. The Omaha native is averaging 6.9 points, 5.0 rebounds and 1.5 steals per game while shooting 52.9% from the floor. Pauli posted a career high 20 points in the win at Doane. Her GPAC tournament included a 16-point, seven-rebound outing versus Dakota Wesleyan. Pauli has started 26 of 28 games.

Men's basketball

Strong seasons from a trio of Concordia University men's basketball standouts have resulted in all-conference honors. As announced by the league March 3, juniors Justin Wiersema (first team), Carter Kent (second team) and Gage Smith (second team) each landed on the 2020-21 All-GPAC squads. All three Bulldogs averaged 13.9 points or more while starting for Head Coach Ben Limback's program.

Wiersema took a large step forward in 2020-21 while becoming one of the top players in the conference. The native of Loveland, Colorado, averaged career highs of 16.4 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists and 1.58 steals per game this season while shooting 55.6% from the floor and 41% from 3-point range.

Among GPAC players, Wiersema ranked fifth in field goal percentage, sixth in scoring, sixth in steals per game, 10th in 3-point field goal percentage and 11th in assists per game. Wiersema moved up to the first team after earning honorable mention All-GPAC accolades in 2019-20. He scored at least 10 points in all 26 games. Wiersema will enter next season having totaled 896 points.

Smith made a quantum leap from his sophomore to junior seasons. The native of Elizabeth, Colorado, went from averages of 4.7 points and 4.5 rebounds per game in 2019-20 to 13.9 points and 9.2 rebounds this winter. As part of the breakout campaign, Smith shot 52.6% from the floor, 35.7% from 3-point range and 82.1% from the foul line.

In career best single-game outings, Smith posted 32 points in a win over Dakota Wesleyan and 19 rebounds in a victory over Manhattan Christian College (Kan.). He ranked third among GPAC players in both rebounding and double-doubles (10).

Kent has earned some form of all-conference recognition in each of his three seasons having also been named honorable mention in 2018-19 and to the second team in 2019-20. As a junior, the Crete native averaged 15.2 points, 3.9 rebounds, 2.8 assists and 1.1 steals per game while shooting 40.4% from the floor, 34.6% from beyond the arc and 75.0% from the foul line.

Kent racked up a career high 29 points in a win over Mount Marty. Back on Jan. 9, Kent became the 32nd player in program history to reach 1,000 career points (currently at 1,145).

Baseball

One rough inning doomed the Bulldogs in game 1 of March 6's neutral site doubleheader with Grand View University (Iowa). After a 7-5 defeat, Concordia slugged its way to a 13-2 rout of the Vikings in game 2. The Bulldogs powdered five home runs in the capper.

A home run derby unfolded March 7 as Concordia left the yard 10 times in a dominant doubleheader sweep of Grand View University.

The Bulldogs won by scores of 10-0 and 18-5 while completing a four-game series that took place at Wilber Bestwick Park in Sabetha, Kansas. Concordia's powerful lineup also muscled up for five home runs on Saturday.

Head Coach Ryan Dupic's squad took three of four from the Vikings and owns a record of 8-2 after two weeks of action.

Softball

The Bulldogs opened up the Friends University Invitational in Wichita, Kansas, by defeating Tabor College (Kan.), 5-2, before pummeling University of Saint Mary (Kan.), 9-0, in a run-rule shortened contest. Camry Moore, Regan Karel and Kylee Nixon each homered once apiece on the day.

In March 7's action, the Bulldogs totaled a combined 22 runs on 21 hits and nine walks while parading around the bases. Concordia earned run-rule shortened wins over event host Friends, 10-2, and Dakota State University (S.D.), 12-3.

Head Coach Shawn Semler's squad went 5-1 at the Friends Invite and has jumped out to a 9-1 record on the season.

Women's soccer

Concordia dropped a 1-0 double overtime decision at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas, March 6.

The Bulldogs are 9-4-1 overall with the post-season looming at the beginning of April.

Junior high teams represent area schools



COURTESY PHOTO

The Milford Junior High boys' basketball team for 2020-21 includes, from left: (first row) Sean Stanton, Isaac Roth, Justin Novak, Brett Bousquet, Quinn Zegers, Connor Adams, Jack Stahl, Westin DeLong, Caleb Kempf, Caden Rainforth, Brecken Yoder and Landen Bridgford; (second row) Scholar Crumrine, Cole Stutzman, Cash Brom, James Keilig, Conner Chapman, Cash Martin, Jim Burkey, Landon Roth, Zeb Reil and Braden Soester; and (third row) Coach Tim Fichtner, Kellan Kubicek, Jay Wissenburg, Colby Rautenburg, Noah Schilz, Gavin Piening, Owen Anderson, Tyce Lopez, Garrett Freeman, Gage Dunlap, Garrett Schoen, Adan Rakow, Student Manager Jaidyn Bell and Coach Liz Crabtree. Not pictured are Rylan Hollist and Student Manager Raeliegh Kremer.



COURTESY PHOTO

The 2020-21 Centennial junior high boys' basketball team includes, from left: (first row) Garrett Brandenburgh, Trenton Waegli, Kyle Keith and Cooper Stelling; (second row) Wyatt Boyer, Brody Booth, Ryan Richters, Grant Cast, Orion Stuhr and Devin Slawnyk; and (third row) Sam Ehlers, Jordan Wagner, Parker Dishman, Matthew Hoops, Camden Winkleman and Joey Dunbar.

*Spring sports
are right
around the
corner.*

PUBLIC NOTICES

PROPERTY SALES

Bonial & Associates, P.C.
12400 Olive Blvd., Suite 555
St. Louis, MO 63141

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

The following described property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder on 04/23/2021, at 1:00 p.m. at the North doors of the Seward County Courthouse, 261 South 8th Street, Seward, NE 68434:

BEGINNING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW1/4) OF SECTION 5, TOWNSHIP 9 NORTH, RANGE 3, EAST OF THE 6TH P.M., SEWARD COUNTY, NEBRASKA; THENCE 128.0 FEET IN A WESTERLY DIRECTION ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID SECTION TO A POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING WEST ALONG THE LAST DESCRIBED LINE, A DISTANCE OF 722.3 FEET; THENCE NORTH AND PARALLEL TO THE EAST LINE OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW1/4), A DISTANCE OF 385.0 FEET, THENCE EAST AND PARALLEL TO THE SOUTH SECTION LINE, A DISTANCE OF 722.3 FEET; THENCE SOUTH PARALLEL TO THE EAST LINE OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER (SW1/4), A DISTANCE OF 385.0 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, EXCLUDING THE SOUTH 60 FEET THEREOF.

All 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, and (4) unpaid water bills, (5) prior mortgages and trust deed of record and (6) ground leases of record. The purchaser is responsible for all fees or taxes. This sale is made without any warranties as to title or condition of the property.

By: Kerry Feld, Trustee
NSBA# 24614
Bonial & Associates, P.C.
12400 Olive Blvd., Suite 555
St. Louis, MO 63141
Phone: (314) 991-0255
Fax: (314) 991-6755

First Publication 03/10/2021, final 04/07/2021

Published in the Seward County Independent
BPC Filename: REACRNR
THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN FROM YOU WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

SCI — March 10, 17, 24, 31, April 07, 2021
ZNEZ

GENERAL NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY
Lincoln, Nebraska

Pursuant to NDEE Title 118 - Ground Water Quality Standards and Use Classification, public notification and opportunity for comment is hereby given of the following:

1. On or about July 29, 2020, a petroleum release was identified originating from a storage tank system located at 210 Elm Street, Bee. An approximate legal location is NE1/4, NE1/4, Section 14, Township 12N, Range 03E, Seward County.

2. Follow-up investigation identified the effects of the release and led to the remedial actions proposed by NDEE. The investigation resulted in a determination that this ground water contamination event is defined as remedial action class one.

3. The source of the release has been removed. A Risk-Based Corrective Action (RBCA) Tier 1 assessment was conducted. The assessment indicated the presence of dissolved petroleum compounds in ground water. The contaminant concentrations found were below the numerical levels used by the RBCA process to establish a need for further investigation or remediation. Based on the current site conditions and property use, the NDEE has determined that no further remedial action is necessary due to the lack of threat to human health or safety.

Information regarding this release is contained in the file: NDEE ID 114951, LST 092120-TH-0840. Any person may receive further information or submit comments on the proposed action, and request or petition NDEE for a hearing, in writing, stating the nature of the issues to be raised in the hearing, on or before April 12, 2021. A final decision by the Director will be made in a manner provided by Title 115, NAC Ch. 5. Direct written correspondence to: Director, NDEE, P.O. Box 98922, Lincoln, NE 68509-8922. You may also call Nancy Mann at (402) 471-2186 with comments or if alternate formats of materials are needed. TDD users call 711 and ask the relay operator to call (402) 471-2186.
SCI — March 10, 2021
ZNEZ

ESTATES

NOTICE
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF SEWARD COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Estate of RACHEL E. ALLEN, Deceased
Estate No. PR21-16

Notice is hereby given that on March 1, 2021, in the County Court of Seward County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Appointment of Personal Representative in Intestacy and that Jenica E. Hulbert, whose address is c/o Frey & Hand, 650 J Street, Suite 401, Lincoln, NE 68508, 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 May 10, 2021, or be forever barred.

/s/Sheila R. Beins
Clerk of the County Court
Seward County Court
PO Box 37
Seward, NE 68434

John O. Frey (#15663)
FREY & HAND, P.C., L.L.O.
650 J Street, Suite 401
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
(402) 475-6996
SCI — March 10, 17, 24, 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. BOSHART, 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

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
ZNEZ

ORDINANCES

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 2021-6
IN PAMPHLET FORM

Public Notice is hereby given that at a meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Seward, Nebraska, held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 2, 2021, there was passed and adopted Ordinance No. 2021-6 entitled:

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-6 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SEWER REVENUE REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2021, OF THE CITY OF SEWARD, NEBRASKA, IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED THREE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$3,200,000), FOR THE PURPOSE OF (A) REFUNDING ALL OR A PORTION OF \$50,000 OF OUTSTANDING SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2013 AND \$2,925,000 OF OUTSTANDING SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM REVENUE AND REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2016 AND (B) PAYING COSTS OF ISSUANCE OF SAID BONDS; PRESCRIBING THE FORM OF SAID BONDS; ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE REGISTERED OWNERS OF SAID BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE SALE OF SAID BONDS AND DESIGNATION OF CERTAIN TERMS; PROVIDING FOR THE REDEMPTION OF BONDS AND INDEBTEDNESS BEING REFUNDED; PROVIDING FOR THE APPLICATION OF THE PROCEEDS OF SAID BONDS; AUTHORIZING THE DELIVERY OF SAID BONDS TO THE PURCHASER AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THE ORDINANCE IN PAMPHLET FORM.

Said Ordinance was published in pamphlet form on March 3, 2021. Copies of said Ordinance as published in pamphlet form are available for inspection and distribution at the Office of the City Clerk, in the City of Seward, Nebraska.
/s/Bonnie Otte
Assistant Administrator/
Clerk-Treasurer/
Budget &
Human Resource Director
SCI — March 10, 2021
ZNEZ

NAME CHANGE

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SEWARD COUNTY, NEBRASKA

Case Number CI21-43
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

HEARINGS

NOTICE

A total of 113 cases will be heard by the Board in March 2021. The following case(s) sentenced in Seward County will be seen by the Board of Parole.

March 24, 2021 – 8:30 a.m.
Community Correctional Center - Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska
Johnson, Alphonso, 211298
Criminal Impersonation
Manu/Dist/Del/Disp or Poss W/I
Due to COVID-19, NDCS has temporarily suspended visitation at its facilities.
<https://corrections.nebraska.gov/facilities/visiting-hours>

Consequently, the process for public participation in parole hearings has been modified.
<https://parole.nebraska.gov/public-hearings>
You are welcome to direct any statement to the Board concerning the merits of this offender by submitting your comments via the Board website at:
<http://www.parole.nebraska.gov/contact>

ROSALYN COTTON, CHAIR
NEBRASKA BOARD OF PAROLE
SCI — March 10, 2021
ZNEZ

HELP WANTED

Saline County is accepting applications for a Mechanic in the Crete Shop. Application forms may be obtained from the office of the Highway Supt., Courthouse, 204 South High, Wilber, Ne. 68465. Applications must be returned no later than 5:00 p.m., Monday March 22nd, 2021. For more information call Bruce Filipi at 402-821-2737.

PART TIME HELP WANTED
2 Hours per day, 6 days a week, Federal Building. Background check and drug testing required. Pam's Cleaning, 402-223-8869

HOME CARE SERVICES Looking for care giver near Milford. Services needed: grocery shopping, meal preparation, transportation, house cleaning, medication, showering, dressing assistance. Call Craig (913)231-5880

HELP WANTED

Part-time Cashiers

15 to 20 hours per week
• Must be at least 21 years old
• Varied hours including some weekends

Apply today at
Gas N Snaks
541 Jackson Ave. • Seward, NE

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



FULL-TIME/PART-TIME DAY-SHIFT POSITIONS

— 5 a.m. – 2 p.m. —

Looking for reliable individuals to give friendly service to all customers.

- \$9-\$13/hr. pay + benefits
- Fun work environment
- Opportunities for advancement

APPLY ONLINE OR IN PERSON
442 N. 6th St. • Seward
www.amigoskings.com/careers
E.O.E.

LANDSCAPERS WANTED—WILL TRAIN!

**Love working outdoors?
Take great pride in a job well done? Come join our team!**
Rumery Lawn & Landscape in Seward, NE, is looking for full-time, year-round landscapers!
We are looking for candidates that can work in many areas of our business—irrigation, landscaping, hardscapes, seeding, sod, mowing and snow removal.
Experience is welcome but not necessary.
We will train the right, hard-working individual. A valid driver's license is necessary.
Please contact us if you are interested in applying or would like more information:
402-643-4604 or rumerylawnandlandscape@gmail.com

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.

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 • melderidge@ebutler.esu7.org • EOE

DAVID CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS District Bookkeeper

- Start March 2021 or Summer of 2021
- Approximate daily hours 7:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
- 12-month work agreement
- \$15.00 an hour starting wage
- Family health (\$1,050 deductible) and single dental insurance
- 10 sick Days, 10 vacation days, 10 paid holidays
- Criminal and HHS background checks required
- Experience in finance or accounting preferred
- Work with federal programs and grant reimbursement
- Create quarterly district newsletter
- Maintain district calendar
- Review facility use requests
- Assist with option enrollment program
- Reports directly to the business manager and superintendent

Applications can be picked up at the district office in the preschool annex building or printed from the school website: davidcitypublicschools.org. Call 402-367-4590 and ask for Dr. Chad Denker, Supt, for more information. Positions are subject to veterans' preference and are open until filled.

David City Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

DAVID CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS High School Administrative Assistant

- Start March 2021 or Summer of 2021
- Approximate daily hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- 10-month work agreement (typically August 1 - May 31)
- \$14.00 an hour starting wage
- Single health (\$1,050 deductible) and single dental insurance
- 10 PTO days, 9 paid holidays
- Criminal and HHS background checks required
- Oversee all aspects of activity concessions
- Work with student information system
- Help principal, assistant principal, activities director, and guidance counselor
- Maintain district calendar
- Cross-train with high school registrar
- Assist with mandatory state reports
- Report directly to the high school principal

Applications can be picked up at the district office in the preschool annex building or printed from the school website: davidcitypublicschools.org. Call 402-367-4590 and ask for Dr. Chad Denker, Supt, for more information. Positions are subject to veterans' preference and are open until filled.

David City Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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/LPN licensure required and ACLS required for RNs only. —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:



**Memorial
Health Care Systems**

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



WAREHOUSE SHIPPING & RECEIVING ASSOCIATE

Hefty Seed Co. in Seward, NE, is now taking applications for the position of Warehouse Shipping & Receiving Associate. This associate performs a variety of warehouse-based duties including but not limited to: inventory management, shipping and receiving bulk and packaged product, preparing orders, and routine cleaning and maintenance. Person must be able to lift 50 lbs and operate a forklift. Proficiency in Microsoft Office is a huge benefit. The ideal candidate will possess or be willing to obtain a Class A CDL. Experience in agriculture is preferred, but not required. Willing to train the right individual. Drug testing required.



Please apply in person at:
Hefty Seed Company
2045 280th | Seward, NE 68434 | 402-646-2040

CUSTODIAN NEEDED

The School District of Seward is accepting applications for a full-time evening custodian. Benefits include single BCBS health insurance, Disability and Life Insurance, paid vacation, holidays, sick leave and retirement.

Applications are available at the District Office, 410 South Street, Seward, NE or on our website at www.sewardpublicschools.org under employment opportunities. 402-643-2941.

The position is subject to a veterans' preference.

The Village of Utica is accepting applications for pool lifeguards and a ballfield maintenance person for the 2021 season.

Applications are available at the Clerk's Office, 466 1st Street or phone 402-534-4237 to have one mailed or emailed to you. Lifeguards must submit copies of all certifications with their applications.

Please respond by March 31, 2021, if possible.
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.

NOW HIRING!

OPERATIONS IN
Bradshaw | Hampton
Henderson | Humphrey | Monroe
Rising City | Shelby | Utica | Ulysses

FULL TIME

COMPREHENSIVE BENEFIT PACKAGE WITH A PENSION

COMPETITIVE WAGES

CONTACT CVACAREERS.COM FOR QUESTIONS/INQUIRIES

PT ATTENDANT position at SEWARD CAR WASH

Great for retired person/college student.
Must be 18+ years old.
Flexible up to 20 hrs per week.
Call Fred at 402-641-4089.



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

Evening & Weekend Cook

Full-time or Part-time
Stop in for application



NOW HIRING CDL Ready Mixed Drivers

Crete • Palmyra • Beatrice
Other locations throughout Nebraska

Earn \$50k-\$60k in first year

Medical & Retirement Benefits

Immediate Paid Time Off

NEBCOinc.com/careers

402-826-2779

A NEBCO COMPANY

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

City of Seward – Full-Time Position • Full Benefits

CITY CLERK/ HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR

*** \$5,083-\$7,056/mo ***

Performs managerial work in municipal government; supervises and manages operations and personnel in the City Clerk Office; prepares and maintains official municipal records; conducts or reviews wage and benefit survey work and calculations; responsible for the administration of the City's personnel system; assists City Administrator with employee performance evaluations; performs the duties of Civil Service Secretary/Chief Examiner and Secretary to the Community Redevelopment Authority. Evening meetings required.

Job description and application:
www.CityofSewardNE.gov
Seward City Hall, 537 Main St.; PO Box 38;
Seward, NE 68434 • 402-643-2928

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.