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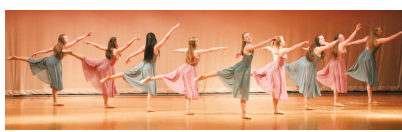
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SEWARD • COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Wednesday
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Seward, Nebraska
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SHELLY'S HOSTS DANCE RECITAL
3A



SEWARD TROOPER ROLLS IN STYLE
10A



COURTESY PHOTO

Seward High School's Emma Kuss was recently named State FFA Secretary.

Seward student named FFA secretary

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

Seward FFA member Emma Kuss recently received the chance to represent Seward and FFA on a statewide scale.

Kuss on April 9 during the Nebraska State FFA Convention was selected to serve as Secretary for the State FFA Officers committee. She was one of seven students in the state to be named an officer.

To achieve the position required three days of preliminary interviews and a day-long series of interviews in the final round. When the time came for the announcement, Kuss admitted she had trouble controlling her nerves.

"I was just shaking watching the video because I didn't know what was going to happen," she said, with a laugh. "When I found

out, I think my eyes almost popped out of my head I was so excited."

As an officer, Kuss will develop and lead programs to promote FFA and the ag industry throughout the state and attempt to connect more students to FFA. She said she begins training for the position this week.

Kuss said she's thrilled at the opportunity to represent Seward and plans to use this position as a way to give back for all the support she's received during her time as a student at school and in FFA.

"Seward has had a lot of people supporting me and telling me that I have developed as a leader," she said. "I know that what I've learned here in Seward, I will use to help me in this position and I hope to be a great example."

Seward native nominated for Lincoln fire chief

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

A Seward native has been nominated to be the new fire chief for the City of Lincoln.

On March 29, Lincoln Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird nominated Acting Fire Chief David Engler to be the permanent chief for Lincoln Fire and Rescue. Engler became the acting fire chief in December 202 after the retirement of former Chief Michael Despain.

"Dave has demonstrated great leadership as the acting chief during the past four

months," Gaylor Baird said in a statement. "I appreciate his creative problem-solving ability and his willingness to tackle issues of long-term planning that will benefit the fire service and our community at large during his tenure."

The nomination was to be introduced at the April 12 Lincoln City Council meeting, with a public hearing and voted on April 19. If approved, Engler will begin duties as fire chief on April 29.

Engler has been with Lincoln Fire and Rescue since 1996.

Engler also holds a bachelor's degree from Doane University and an associate of applied science from Southeast Community College.



Dave Engler

Districts urge caution around buses

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

In a year spotted with close calls, local educators and law enforcement officials are asking motorists to exercise the utmost caution around school buses.

The Seward County Sheriff's Office in a Facebook post on April 1 explained that instances of school bus violations have significantly increased recently. These incidents include motorists ignoring stop arms and flashing lights on buses that require vehicles to stop in order to allow children to safely enter and exit buses.

Milford Public Schools Superintendent Kevin Wingard said the reports of these incidents increasing throughout the county are disheartening, considering the potential implications of the violations.

"It's just scary to think about," he said. "I can't imagine one of our kids getting hit."

The law states that both lanes of traffic must stop when the school bus's caution lights are flashing and the bus is stopped. If the school bus is still moving with flashing yellow lights, drivers should slow down in anticipation of coming to a stop. If a bus's stop arm is out, both lanes of traffic must stop until the arm is retracted.

The sheriff's office advises that a violation of any of these measures can lead to a \$500 ticket in addition to other fines and fees.

Seward Superintendent Dr. Josh Fields said he appreciates the sheriff office's attention to the matter and that any form of awareness is important.

"We just need to have continued awareness and education of knowing that you have to stop when the arm is out and the flashing lights are on," Fields said.

Fields said that rates of bus violations have increased lately, which is typical for spring. He



COURTESY PHOTO

Local law enforcement and school districts are urging the public to obey flashing lights and stop arms on school buses.

said district drivers report violations at least every two weeks, if not more.

"We have violations probably once every two weeks," he said. "We may have a stretch where we go three to four weeks without a violation, but then we could have two or three in a week."

Fortunately, Fields said no injuries have occurred as a result of these violations and in most cases, a driver is ticketed for the violation. He said a major

factor in the district's ability to catch violators is the recent introduction of license plate cameras on the sides of all district buses.

"With the new technology that's available, that's helped with getting charges brought and that's a positive piece that we have seen" Fields said. "We get a perfect picture of the vehicle and license plates and those are very helpful in trying to ticket people."

Wingard said that
(continued on 2A)



GREG FORBES/SCI

The new sanctuary at St. Vincent de Paul in Seward was unveiled to the congregation on Easter weekend.

New St. Vincent sanctuary built on belief

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

The completion of the new sanctuary at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Seward shows the strength of a community inspired by a common goal.

On Easter weekend earlier this month, parishioners gathered for mass for the first time with the sanctuary serving as the backdrop to the altar. The stone structure built with nods to European and Roman architecture provided a refreshed setting that coincided

with one of the first masses with a complete congregation since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It was amazing seeing their reaction," Monsignor Robert Tucker said. "Some of these people have been waiting for this for so long."

Tucker said the design was vetted and ultimately approved by congregation members and is meant to pay homage to significant Catholic landmarks and monuments.

"It reminds me of going to the Holy Land

and looking at the structures there," he said.

Tucker said the path for the new sanctuary began in 2019 with a fundraiser through the annual auction and dinner. The effort raised \$40,000 and while the financial goal for the new sanctuary was still well beyond that mark, Tucker said it showed that this was a project that would receive support.

"That wasn't enough to cover, but it showed there was interest," he said.

Efforts ramped up

in 2020 but were threatened by the pandemic because of the inability to have large in-person events and activities.

However, the cause still generated overwhelming support to the tune of \$65,000 through its annual fundraiser in August and an additional \$100,000 private donation from a parishioner.

Tucker said the support for the project financially and the support shown in other ways towards the parish throughout a difficult year showed

(continued on 2A)

Edward Jones

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Buses

(continued from 1A)

Milford buses have the side cameras as well, but have also added extensions onto buses' stop arms.

"We're covering at least half of the next lane and that's helped make a big difference too," Wingard said.

Along with technology improvements and a focused effort from law enforcement, Wingard said another safety measure is simply education on bus safety.

"Our bus drivers are non-stop with that," Wingard said. "Watch what the bus drivers are doing. They're constantly talking to kids. You can hear them yell that they're clear and you'll see drivers put their arms out to stop them from getting off the bus. Our bus drivers do a lot of teaching."

Centennial High School Principal Colin Barga said that the Centennial district aims to educate its student drivers on safety as well. At the beginning of the year, Barga said students are reminded of safe driving tips, particularly around school buses.

"At the beginning of the year, we talk about car safety, parking lot safety and the school zone out in front of school," he said. "It's a good discussion."

Barga added that these little lessons can prevent a massive tragedy.

"We don't want anyone to have to live with that," he said. "Young drivers are probably more impulsive about things and I think it's important to educate, remind and reteach different things. These kids are entrusted to us and we're expected to keep them safe, and part of that school day is when we're transporting them."

Fields said that at Seward, a letter is sent out in the fall with a section dedicated to bus safety. He said they also work with local media to ensure students and parents are aware of safety protocols and that motorists realize the danger associated with school bus violations.

"Those are some things that are helpful," he said. "Education is an important part of understanding the law."

Church

(continued from 1A)

the collective heart of the parishioners. "It's amazing given everything that was going on this last year," he said.

Construction began early this year and progressed to the point where it could be unveiled on Easter. While some finishing touches needed to be applied, Tucker said that Easter was an appropriate time to celebrate the new sanctuary.

"With the Easter message of the resurrection and new life, new beginning, it's all bundled up in all this," he said. "It gives a message of hope that we can make it through this and we're going forward."

Utica Micro-TIF tabled

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

The Utica Village Board on April 5 elected to table a measure that would allow property owners and potential buyers access to Micro-TIF funding.

Micro-TIF program is a sub category of the traditional TIF program, which promotes economic development by providing funds to develop land for a project.



Sen. Mike Groene

What Micro-TIF would do is allow developers to "spot TIF" home properties that are considered nuisance or blighted.

Micro-TIF also differs from traditional TIF, as the redevelopment plans under expedited review are exempted from several requirements of "regular TIF." As per the program, expedited review on redevelopment plans will be processed by an appropriate employee or department as determined by the Utica Village Board.

On April 5, the board spoke with District 42 Sen. Mike

Groene, who introduced the program in the legislature last year. Groene provided information regarding the program and answered questions.

Many of the questions and concerns posed by the board dealt with the logistics of the program and who would be eligible.

The board ultimately elected to table consideration of the Micro-TIF program until its May meeting, requesting more time to process the information presented.

Seward County hazardous waste cleanup scheduled for April 24

by Jenny Rees
Seward/York Extension Educator

Household hazardous waste clean-up will be held at four times and locations for residents of Seward, Polk, York and Butler counties.

These clean-ups are funded by Environmental Trust grants with Four Corners Health Dept. and various sponsoring organizations overseeing the collection at the locations.

The Seward County collection is scheduled Saturday, April 24, from 8 a.m. to noon at Seward City Wastewater Plant Parking Lot at 1040 S. Columbia.

On the specific date and time, residents of that county are welcome to bring their residential household hazardous waste in boxes.

For example, put paint in one box and other materials in a separate box. If you are not sure what something is, keep it away from other materials.

Acceptable materials (quantities of more than five gallons can-

not be accepted): Acids, antifreeze, banned materials (chlordane, DDT, etc), cyanide, fertilizers (yard chemicals), flammables, gasoline and oil (in small quantities), lead acid batteries, mercury and mercury-related materials, all paint and paint-related materials (stains, varnish, etc), poisons, pesticides, fluorescent bulbs (please do not tape together).

Non-acceptable materials: empty/dried out paint cans (these can go directly into your regular trash), tires, farm chemicals, electronics, medical sharps and recyclables.

In Seward County only: There are also additional collections at the same date/time: scrap metal and appliances (\$5 per appliance) or load of metal. Electronics recycling: \$10 – all LCD monitors; \$20 – CRT (glass tube) monitors or TVs up to 25 inch; \$30 – TVs 27 inches and up; \$40 – large wooden projection TVs.

Soil temperature information for planting and applying pre-emergence herbicides can be found at

<https://cropwatch.unl.edu/soiltemperature>.

Crabgrass prevention timing: Crabgrass germinates when soil temperatures are maintained at 55F for five to seven consecutive days. We're getting closer to this. You can watch the CropWatch soil temperature maps at the link listed above. You can also use a meat thermometer (that you dedicate to only taking soil temperature) for your own lawn situation at a 2-4-inch depth.

Typically, towards the end of April/beginning of May is a good time for the first application, but it will vary by year. When they're applied too early, they can move out of the zone where the crabgrass seed is germinating.

We would also recommend that you consider splitting your crabgrass herbicide application. Apply half of the highest labeled rate when soil temps warm and the other half six-eight weeks later.

Often, there's a flush of crabgrass later in the season and splitting the application can help

with that. It's helpful for the products to be watered in within 24 hours for best results.

Pastures and annual grass control: I have looked at several smaller pastures (often grazed by horses and hayed) that have issues with foxtail. Foxtail tends to emerge when soil temps are sustained around 60F, so using a pre-emergent herbicide can help in addition to grazing management.

There's a good article in this week's CropWatch regarding annual grass weed control for alfalfa and pastures at <https://go.unl.edu/nzmy>.

Planting considerations: In an article last year at this link <https://jenreesources.com/2020/04/12/jenrees-4-12-20/>, I shared planting considerations. I don't have anything new to add to this, so you can check that out if you're interested. Next week, I will share results of a soybean and corn germination/emergence experiment I've been working on since March 10.

Two seek RYLA program



COURTESY PHOTO

The Seward Rotary Club is sponsoring two Seward High students, Jakob Gray and Ella Gray, for the Rotary Youth Leadership Award leadership experience/program, chaired by Rotarian Lori Benton of Omaha. The student leaders were selected from their written application and interview-meeting with their designated Rotarian mentor. The virtual program is recognized internationally and involves a series of virtual leadership programs and experiences.



NOXIOUS WEEDS MUST BE CONTROLLED

You are required to control noxious weeds on your property.

The noxious weeds are: Musk Thistle, Plumeless Thistle, Canada Thistle, Leafy Spurge, Knapweed (spotted and diffuse), Purple Loosestrife, Saltcedar, Phragmites, Knotweed (Japanese and Giant), and Sericea Lespedeza. Notice is hereby given this 14th day of April 2021, pursuant to the Noxious Weed Control Act, section 2:955, subsection 1(a), to every person who owns or controls land in Seward County, Nebraska, that noxious weeds being grown, or growing on, such land shall be controlled at such frequency as to prevent establishment, provide eradication, or reduce further propagation or dissemination of such weeds. Upon failure to observe this notice, the county weed superintendent is required to:

1. Proceed pursuant to the law and issue legal notice to the landowner of property infested with noxious weeds and giving such landowner 15 days to control the noxious weed infestation. Conviction for noncompliance may result in a \$100 per day fine to the landowner, with a maximum fine of \$1,500; or
2. Should more immediate control be required, proceed pursuant to the law and have the weeds controlled by such method as he/she finds necessary, the expense of which shall constitute a lien and be entered as a tax against the land, and be collected as other real estate taxes are collected, or by other means, as provided by law.

Also, the public is notified that noxious weed seed and propagative parts may be disseminated through the movement of machinery and equipment, trucks, grain and seed, hay, straw, nursery stock, fencing materials, sod, manure, and soil as well as articles of similar nature. Methods of treatment have been prescribed by the Director of Agriculture and may be obtained from the county weed control authority.

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“Good Night and Sweet Dreams,” Shelly’s School of Dance holds recital



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE CROSTON
 ABOVE: “The Candy Man” performers are Emma Dorcey, Keagan Hackbart, Christina Klintworth, Mila Morenzoni, Hannah O’Brien, Ava Pliefke, Nora Schmieding and Heiley Volnek. The dance was part of Shelly’s School of Dance’s recital “Good Night and Sweet Dreams” April 11. LEFT: Performing to “A Sky Full of Stars” during the dance recital April 11 are Lilly Kronaizl, Juliet Moore, Kyla Novak, Brianna Potratz, Ava Policky, Lydia Rasmussen and Natalie Sams. The dance was part of Shelly’s School of Dance’s recital “Good Night and Sweet Dreams.”



ABOVE: Performing to “Rewrite the Stars” are Alegha Breiner, Olivia Delcamp, Rebecca Freeman, Julya Met-schke, Katie Rasmussen, Veronica Reimers, Piper Souchek, Joslin Stockwell, Ellie Tempel and Victoria Wang. The dance was part of Shelly’s School of Dance’s recital “Good Night and Sweet Dreams” April 11. BELOW: Dancing to “Million Dreams” April 11 are Piper Beatty, Hailie Deeble, Natalie Keller, Haley Kimbrough, Rebecca Koch, Kambryn Nelson, Sarita Richards and Miriam Voehl. The dance was part of Shelly’s School of Dance’s recital “Good Night and Sweet Dreams.”



ABOVE: Dancing to “Saturday Night” during the dance recital April 11 are Grace Brees, Aubrey Hanes, Haylen Holliday, Ashlynn Jarzynka, Carly Kolterman and Angela Wynegar.



LEFT: Performing “Stars and Moon” during the dance recital April 11 are Alieya Briggs, Carley Kimbrough, McKinly Nordmeyer, Madison Pliefke, Annabelle Stellwagen and Brooklyn White. The dance was part of Shelly’s School of Dance’s recital “Good Night and Sweet Dreams.”

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Due to current circumstances, planning to start planning again

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

A year ago today, I was prepping to spend my 30th birthday at home, alone, thanks to the pandemic.

I can't recall what my exact birthday plans were before the pandemic. I don't think they were significant, but it was one of the first in lines of many cancelled plans. Vacation? Postponed. Family wedding? Postponed. Sporting events and other activities I regularly attend each year? Postponed or cancelled.

The last year or so has made the words "due to current circumstances" the four most common words used together,



Greg Forbes
Managing Editor

it seems. (I have no proof to back that up nor the confidence to assert it's actually true.) As cases drop, vaccines take hold and the world opens back up, those messages that start with "due to current circumstances" have decreased as well. It still happens and understandably so, but today, planning something doesn't come with as large of a feeling of "well, we can plan it but it won't happen anyway."

A year later, I have actual plans with other people for my 31st birthday, a rescheduled wedding at the end of the month is a go and I'm greatly anticipating that first community festival I get to cover.

I don't normally consider myself a social and busy person outside of work, but the last year has shown me how much I'm able to do and how privileged I am to have such an active

lifestyle.

I adjusted well enough to the stay at home lifestyle and embraced it, because what else was there to do? I didn't mind the peace and quiet but it did get a little lonely, which is probably what drove me – a non-cat person – to adopt a cat in the fall.

What the last year has taught me is that I'm fortunate to have the opportunities I do through work and my personal life to be active. I will no longer take for granted a football fall Saturday or a last second trip to the lake with friends.

But while I have an increased appreciation for plans, I will not in any way miss the shoulder shrugs and certainty that things won't happen that come along with planning. Because, "due to current circumstances," I'm ready to go on another adventure.

Budget talks begin in state legislature

by Mark Kolterman
District 24 Senator

This week, the Legislature began discussions on the 2021-2022 \$9.7 billion budget.

As a new member of the Appropriations Committee, I am proud to have worked on this budget that properly funds our pressing needs, while allowing for over \$211 million available for other legislation that is pending in the Legislature.

I want to highlight some of the major items in the budget.

One of the major concerns the Legislature addressed in this budget is providing significant property tax relief. Last year, the Legislature enacted the Property Tax Incentive Program that provides refundable income tax credits for any taxpayer who pays school district taxes.

This program will provide \$313,672,849 dollars towards property tax relief each year over the next two years.

The Legislature also increased appropriations to the original Property Tax Credit Fund. This year, the Legislature is appropriating \$300 million dollars to the Property Tax Credit Fund and

in 2022, \$313 million dollars.

When these two programs are combined, over \$600 million a year is going towards direct property tax relief.

The Legislature has also provided a rate increase to our service providers. Over the next two years, we are providing a 4% increase which amounts to an increase of \$83.5 million dollars.

These funds are provided to providers serving individuals who qualify under various Department of Health and Human Services programs, community correction services, and juvenile services. By increasing these funds, these providers will be able to serve more people across the state.

The Legislature is also replenishing the cash reserve fund by providing an additional \$351 million dollars bringing the total balance to \$763 million dollars.

This "rainy day fund" helps cover the State's cash flow needs to continue State operations if there is a disruption in regular revenues.

This week, I was also appointed to the LR 29 – Eastern Service Child

Welfare Contract Special Investigative and Oversight Committee of the Legislature.

This Committee will investigate the circumstances relating to the procurement of the Saint Francis child welfare contract by the Department of Administrative Services and the Department of Health and Human Services.

The Committee will also investigate the implementation and oversight of the child welfare contract itself.

As you may remember, Saint Francis submitted an unreasonably low bid to win the award, and returned to the state less than two years later to ask for an additional \$110 million dollars, which is a more expensive contract than what competing bidders were requesting to provide these same services. At the same time, they still have not met the requirements established by the contract in the first place.

Over the last three years, I have introduced legislation to address procurement reform. If that legislation had been enacted two years ago, this entire situation would have likely been prevented.

We asked you:

Do you support the implementation of a vaccine passport for traveling?

- Yes, it should be mandated - 30
- Yes, it should be optional but encouraged - 13
- No - 164
- I don't care - 1
- Let us get back to normal life - 32

Now we want to know:

Did you get a COVID-19 vaccine?

- Yes, Moderna
- Yes, Pfizer
- Yes, Johnson and Johnson
- No, but I am planning on it
- No
- No, I don't want one

Vaccines, no problem

by Caitlyn Nelson
caitlyn@sewardindependent.com

I got my first COVID-19 vaccine, Moderna, on April 5.

As I mentally prepared myself for the vaccine, I knew this would make a great column – but at what angle?

I could go funny because me getting vaccines always ends in after-the-fact humorous situations.

I could go serious and talk about how I have a medical condition that makes it nearly impossible for me to get a vaccine without almost passing out. But in true Caitlyn fashion, I decided on both.

Here's the backstory – I have a medical condition called vasovagal syncope. Basically, it is a neurocardiogenic problem where a trigger causes my heart rate and blood pressure to drop suddenly.

When I was four-years-old I went white as a ghost and passed out at the dentist. I was rushed to the hospital to figure out what was wrong – nothing. Ever since (sadly because I never grew out it) I have had episodes where I get dizzy, pale and have panic attack-like symptoms and then about 20 minutes later I am fine.

It is very common, yet rarely talked about.

I have passed out at school, in the doctor's office and almost at work. I have comical stories about my episodes including the time I had to pull a sweatshirt over my head with no feeling in either arm – if you ever want to hear them just let me know.

As we have found out over the 20 years that I've had this, my main trigger is injections/blood draws/blood, but others include stress and heat that cause milder episodes.

Talking myself out of it, not thinking about it and preparing myself don't help – here's where Monday comes in.

I walked in and before I sat down warned them that I have vasovagal syncope so I

would prefer them not to tell me anything they are doing – thank you to the Blue Valley Community Action team for being so wonderful with that.

Two seconds and I was done and feeling fine. I walked over to the chair to wait my 15 minutes.

It wasn't until the 13th minute that I could feel my episode coming on. I started to panic with my mask on because I wasn't able to take the deep breaths needed to calm myself. So, I sat there and tried to stay calm until the final two minutes was done.

I walked out to my car and immediately took my mask off. I called my mom to keep me distracted. I was five feet from my car when I could physically feel the color drain from my face and lips.

I sat in my car with the air conditioner blowing on high right towards my face because I was sweating so much. I took deep breaths and leaned my seat back. I was almost in tears not able to feel my arm I got the vaccine in and trying to make out words the best I could to my mom who was ready to call 911 at any moment.

After about 30 minutes of having that episode I said, "Alright, I have to do this" as I remembered I had a prior commitment in Lincoln.

So, I started driving. I called a friend and they asked me, "Are you sure that's not a reaction to the vaccine?"

You know, never in that whole 45 minutes did I think about having a reaction to the vaccine.

"Nope, just a reaction to having a vaccine," I responded.

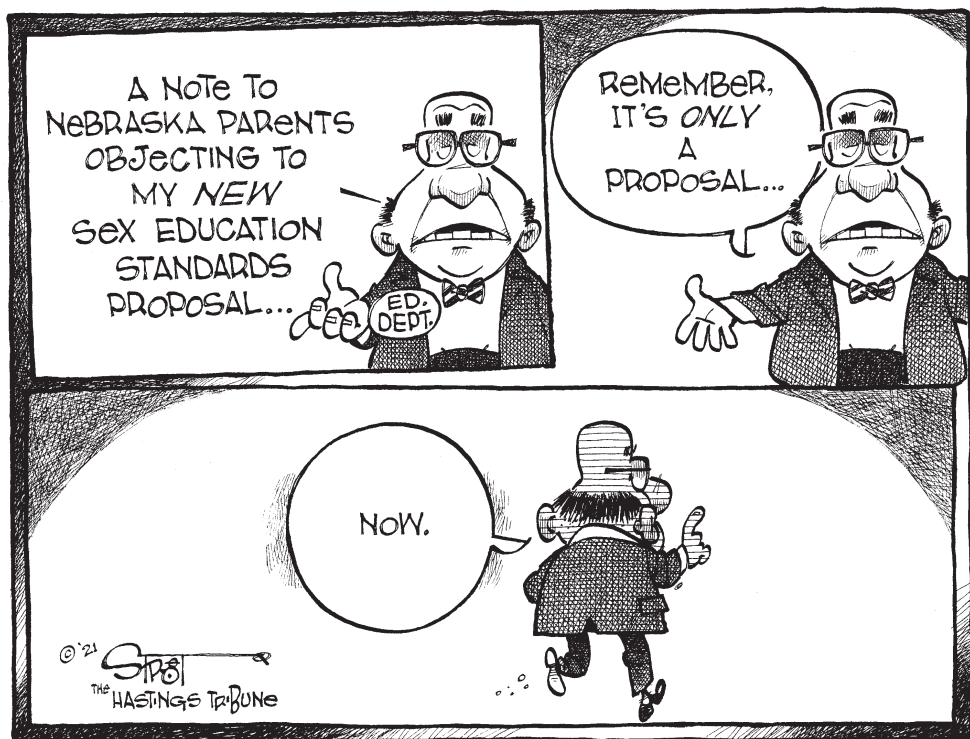
I was asked about how I felt after my vaccine later in the week by some students who were getting ready to get theirs. If I would have told them my full story they would have walked right out of that clinic and not gotten theirs.

"Little pain in the arm, tired and a headache," was my response.

I wouldn't change getting my vaccine, but I would change the fact I have to go through that all over again in a month.



Caitlyn Nelson
Reporter



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Sheriff's youth academy brings students behind the scenes

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

A new program through the Seward County Sheriff's Office will give young adults a first-hand look into the world of law enforcement.

The sheriff's office last week announced that it would offer a youth academy in the fall. Beginning on Sept. 23, juniors and seniors at Seward, Milford and Centennial high schools will have the chance to participate in the interactive program that aims to educate about law enforcement careers, functions and procedures.

Students either home schooled or attending a different school district while living in Seward County are eligible, as well.

Students in the program will be able to work with law enforcement officers and explore the various realms of law enforcement, such as crime scene and forensics, traffic patrol, K-9 operations and more.

Blake Swicord, task force coordinator with

the sheriff's office and instructor for the youth academy, said that the multi-faceted approach to the program will give students an understanding of how different processes work and what goes on behind the scenes.

"When kids see us working a crash at an intersection, they'll have an understanding what information we're getting, how the investigation works and how the court process works," he said.

Sharon Dickinson, community liaison for the sheriff's office, said the program is designed to pique interest towards law enforcement in young adults and connect them with those who serve and protect the area.

"The youth in the community are always looking for information about careers, and we also want to promote good relationships between the sheriff's office and our youth," she said. "That can be accomplished through education about what policing is and showing them opportunities in law enforcement outside

of being an officer."

Swicord said the program also aims to build a positive connection between youth and law enforcement and put names and stories to the faces they see policing the area.

"This is from a community aspect to recruit for law enforcement and show what we do in a positive light," he said. "We want to expose our juniors and seniors to every aspect of law enforcement and see if this is something they're interested in."

Classes will meet Thursdays from Sept. 23 to Nov. 4. Sessions will include classroom instruction and hands-on activities such as a tour of facilities, working with K-9 units and a ride along with a deputy. Throughout the academy, students will also design and execute a service project in the community.

The class is free to those interested but is limited to 15 students.

For more information or to sign up, contact Dickinson at (402) 643-8145 or sdickinson@co.seward.ne.us.



COURTESY PHOTO

Linda Anderson, Pleasant Dale American Legion Auxiliary Education Chairman and Rose Wiechert, treasurer, are pictured with the award for Most Outstanding Unit Education Program in the Northwestern Division.

Pleasant Dale auxiliary earns national award

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

The Pleasant Dale American Legion Auxiliary recently claimed a national award for its attention to area education.

The Auxiliary and Unit Education Chairman, Linda Anderson, were named the Northwestern Division's Most Outstanding Unit Education Program.

The award was won at the National American Legion Auxiliary Convention in 2019 but the unit officially received the award in March.

The Northwestern Division is composed of Colorado, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana and Wyoming.

The Pleasant Dale auxiliary prides itself on its work with Malcolm and Milford public schools. In the last year, the auxiliary has provided 10 library books to Malcolm's elementary library and other supplies through the Give 10 to Education project.

The group also provided freeze pops for

elementary students and has contributed scholarships to graduating seniors.

For "Read Across America," the auxiliary donated bookmarks to students as well as posters and a board game to the library.

The group is also noted for its support of the Milford Public Schools. The unit awards scholarships to students and has donated to post-prom.

Recently, unit volunteers donned their red- and white-striped hats to read the Cat in the Hat to the kindergarten class at Milford Elementary.

Additionally, the unit received recognition for its work with Malcolm schools including the donation of library books and school supplies, providing treats to staff and students and providing scholarships.

"We are very thankful that the Malcolm Public Schools and Milford Public Schools are willing to open their doors to all of our activities," Anderson said.

Program teaches suicide prevention

An upcoming online training will teach participants how to recognize and respond to potential signs of crisis and suicidal behavior.

Life can be stressful in the best of times. For Nebraskans, the last few years have been particularly challenging. The recent disasters and the pandemic have changed how we work, juggle family and finances, manage our health and the health of our loved ones.

These challenges can contribute to being overwhelmed and increase one's anxiety.

In response to addressing life's uncertainty, Nebraska Extension will offer an online "Question. Persuade. Refer." training. QPR is a suicide prevention program that teaches participants three steps to help save a life from suicide.

An individual who is trained in first aid, CPR or the Heimlich maneuver can help save lives. And people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade and refer someone to get help.

This 90-minute training will be held online, via Zoom, at 11 a.m. April 22. There is no cost to attend the training, but registration is required at <https://go.unl.edu/qpr21>. The class is limited to 30 participants.

Bill to provide financial aid to low-income students advances

by Madeleine Grant
Nebraska News Service

A bill that would provide financial aid for low-income students advanced to the next round of debate in the Nebraska Legislature on March 24.

Sen. Lynne Walz of Fremont introduced LB529, which would set the distribution of lottery dollars for education programs from 2021-2022 through 2025-2026. Every five years, the Nebraska Legislature's Education Committee reevaluates the use of lottery funds and decides which education programs will receive funding.

Since a previous version of the bill (LB920) failed to pass in 2020, there is an added sense of urgency to advance the bill before funding expires.

"Without timely action on this bill, the nearly \$11 million lottery allocation for the upcoming school year is in jeopardy, which will create a financial hardship on many Nebraska families and students," Walz said.

The largest allocation of funds, 58%, would go toward the Nebraska Opportunity Grant Fund. NOG is one of Nebraska's need-based financial aid programs for low-income students pursuing post-secondary education. During the 2019-2020 school year, nearly 13,000 students received financial aid through NOG. Student need continues to increase at a rate that outpaces funding.

"We need to make sure that individuals that do have these high school diplomas can afford higher education in any way shape or form," said Sen. Tony Vargas of Omaha, who voiced his support for the bill.

"It's programs like Nebraska Opportunity Grant [Fund] program that are trying

to bridge that divide for our lowest-income students across our state."

Another substantial portion of funds would go toward the Behavioral Training Cash Fund.

The program requires administrators, teachers, school nurses and counselors to receive annual training on managing inappropriate student behavior.

"An important part of this bill is that every school employee has to receive basic training so that they are aware of how they can appropriately and reasonably intervene to make sure students don't harm each other, themselves, or anybody else in the school," Walz said.

Sen. Dave Murman of Glenvil also introduced an amendment that would add another component to the behavioral training requirement. The amendment would authorize teachers and school personnel to use reasonable physical intervention to

manage student behavior to prevent them from inflicting harm.

"It's only a small percentage of students in schools that are bullying other students, and being disruptive and causing incidents," Murman said. "Teachers are often hesitant to intervene or take steps to react in an appropriate way, and are most times pressured to do nothing when there are serious disruptions in the classroom because schools are afraid of lawsuits."

The amendment faced opposition from Walz, as well as Sen. Terrell McKinney of Omaha.

Following two hours of debate, senators voted 28-6 to advance LB529. Murman eventually withdrew his amendment but said he intends to introduce a similar amendment in the future.

You're invited to the

Seward County Pheasants Forever

21st Annual
Banquet & Auction
Saturday, May 1
Seward Co. Ag Pavilion • Seward, NE

An evening of great food, raffles, prizes, auctions and fun!

LIVE & SILENT AUCTIONS including corn & soybean seed

Rooster Bucks Package (call for details) and Many More Great Bargains!

Other items for raffles and auction:

- Firearms
- 22LR Ammo
- Great items and prizes exclusive to Pheasants Forever events
- Exclusive framed prints by Terry Redlin & other renowned wildlife artists

Proceeds go towards youth & habitat projects

Raffles Open at 5 p.m.

Dinner at 7 p.m.

Admission includes a Prime Rib Dinner

PHEASANTS forever
Seward County Chapter

For Tickets & Info call
Gary 402-417-8571, Roy 402-239-2489
or Merlyn 402-890-3235
Or visit us online at
www.SewardCountyPheasantsForever.org

11th Annual

2021 VIRTUAL BEE BUZZ RUN

I-MILE or 4-MILE RUN or WALK

Run on your own, on a treadmill or track or a hiker/biker path! Run anywhere in the world. Pick your time and go. Make it fun. Time your run/walk. Receive a certificate and a shirt. Awards will not be given out this year. You will be contacted with further details after submitting your registration.

Enter by April 16
at getmeregistered.com/beebuzzrun
or by mail. Entry forms are available at:
www.villageofbee.com/buzz-run
Do your run/walk April 17-30.
For more information, call Dan at 402-641-2965.

Entry Fees: \$25 (Age 18 & Up); \$20 (17 & Under)

BUFFET BREAKFAST
Serving from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 18
States Ballroom • Bee, NE
Freewill Offering — All proceeds will benefit the Bee Ballroom Restoration Project.

WITH HEARTFEEL THANKS

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who helped with our move on Saturday, April 10. To our St. John family who helped pack and carry boxes. To the Concordia football players who did a lot of heavy lifting. To our Milford and Pleasant Dale friends for cleaning house and moving items. To Abigail's friends and family for all the hard work all day, including mowing our new lawn. To our new Mennonite neighbors for moving the playset. And to Grandma Jane and our Kansas "family" for working overtime to make it all happen smoothly. You are all a huge blessing! It was a long journey getting here and we are so thankful to finally be HOME!

— Jenny, Abigail, Joshua, Micah and Chloe Brinkmeyer

Obituaries

Carol M. Kralik

Sept. 5, 1947 – April 8, 2021

Carol Marie Kralik was born Sept. 5, 1947, in Norfolk, to Orval and Betty (Aughe) Hauf, and passed away unexpectedly on April 8, 2021, at her home near Seward at the age of 73 years, 7 months and 3 days.



Carol grew up in Stanton, where she attended and graduated from Stanton High School with the Class of 1965. On June 17, 1965, Carol was united in holy matrimony to Bernard "Bern" Kralik in Madison. The couple moved to Seward in 1966, where they were blessed with four children, Shad, Staci, Shawn and Shari. Carol was the co-owner of Bern's Body Shop in Seward for 44 years and St. PJ for 22 years. Carol also owned Aspen Miniatures for three or four years. She enjoyed working on crafts, cooking for her family and she loved holidays and hosting her family. Carol loved her family, especially her grandchildren. She loved watching all sports. Carol was known as Grandma Rabbit. She was a longtime member of St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church and a former member of the Seward Area Chamber of Commerce.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Bern; daughter, Shari; granddaughter, Sidney Lewis; parents-in-law, Rudolph and Alice Kralik; brother-in-law, Daniel Kralik; two sisters-in-law, Diane Long and Sally Henderson.

Survivors cherishing her memory include her children, Dr. Shad (Iva) Kralik, Sarasota, Florida, Staci (Mike) Lewis, Seward, Dr. Shawn (Anne) Kralik, West Point; seven grandchildren, Kelsie Kralik, Mitchel Kralik, Brock Lewis, Shelby Lewis, Kolton Kralik, Konnor Kralik and Jackie Lazek; two great-grandchildren, Mason Lewis and Liam Lazek; two brothers, Jerry Hauf, Stanton, and Martin Hauf, Norfolk, two sisters-in-law, Jane (Doug) Brosh, Pender, and Bonnie Soulliere, Columbus; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

Mass of Christian Burial was April 12 at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church with a graveside service and interment at the Seward Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Kralik family for future designation. Condolences may be left for the family at www.zabkafuneralhome.com.

Rev. Leonard C. Laetsch

Nov. 7, 1941 - April 5, 2021

The Rev. Leonard C. Laetsch, 79, Tucson, Arizona, (formerly of Highland, Illinois), died April 5, 2021, in Tucson, Arizona.



Pastor Laetsch was born at Hays, Kansas. His father was pastor at the local church near there. Pastor was a graduate of Concordia Senior College and then Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. After his ordination, he worked at Concordia College in Seward for several years. He served congregations at Holy Cross Church-Waterloo, Illinois; Zion Church-Carlinville, Illinois; Redeemer Church-Gillespie, Illinois; Resurrection Church-England (for eight years); and came to Hope Lutheran Church in Highland in 1987. He retired as Pastor Emeritus in 2017. After retirement, he moved to Arizona to be near his brother and sister and their families. While at Hope Lutheran Church, he built a new church facility in 1998. "I cannot remember a time when I wasn't planning to be a minister," he said. Both his father and grandfather were Lutheran ministers.

Survivors include a brother, Dr. Theodore W. Laetsch, PhD, Tucson, Arizona; a sister, Charleen K. Miller, Choctaw, Oklahoma; nieces and nephews, Michael J. (Victoria L.) Laetsch, Tucson, Arizona, Theodore W. (Mackenzie Frost, MD) Laetsch Jr. MD, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dr. Thomas A. Laetsch, PhD, New York, New York, Adam J. Miller, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Daniel J. (Jenny) Miller, Dr. of Pharmacy, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Charlotte Laetsch, Elijah Laetsch, Adam Miller, Jacob Miller, Vivian Laetsch, Violet Laetsch, Alyssa Miller, Lucas Miller and Dominic Miller.

He was preceded in death by his parents, the Rev. Willis E. and Melba C. Laetsch.

A memorial service was Wednesday, April 14, at Hope Lutheran Church in Highland with interment at Saint Peter's Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri. Memorial contributions are suggested to Hope Lutheran Church. Condolences may be left for the family at www.spengel-boulanger.com.

Robert Redman

Dec. 14, 1968 – April 9, 2021

Robert Redman was born Dec. 14, 1968, and passed away April 9, 2021. Arrangements are pending with Zabka-Perdue Funeral Home in Seward. A full obituary may be found and condolences left for the family at www.zabkafuneralhome.com.

Support local businesses!

Marvene M. Bowen

May 16, 1935 – April 5, 2021

Marvene Mae Bowen, age 85, of Lincoln died peacefully at home, surrounded by family on Monday, April 5, 2021. She was the youngest of five children and only daughter of Herman and Bertha (Rezabek) Behrens of Crete. Marvene married Robert L. Bowen on Jan. 21, 1954, in Crete. They lived in Ord, Seward and Crete before making Lincoln their final home.



She is survived by her children, Pam (Dave) Hollowell of Lincoln, Russ (Linda) Bowen of North Richland Hills, Texas, Deb (Bill) Vocasek of Lincoln and Shelly (Terry) Manson of Crete; grandchildren, Ryan, Aaron VanAndel, Angie (Bowen) Short, Glen Bowen, Mike, Stefanie, Nic Vocasek, Shane and Stacy Manson; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Marvene was preceded in death by her loving husband of 61 years, Robert, and son, Wesley J. Bowen.

An interment/burial service will be at a date yet to be decided due to COVID-19 and family travel arrangements. Condolences may be left for the family at lincolnfh.com.

Marilyn L. Rocker

Dec. 16, 1929 – April 11, 2021

Marilyn L. Rocker was born Dec. 16, 1929, and passed away April 11, 2021. Arrangements are pending with Volzke Funeral Home in Seward. A full obituary may be found and condolences left for the family at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.

Marriage licenses

Information taken from records filed with the Seward County clerk.

March

Dani Lenahan, Beaver Crossing, and Jason Koehler, Beaver Crossing

Abby Tobin, Beaver Crossing, and Eric Scheele, Beaver Crossing

Wendy Morrissey, Lincoln, and William Kreuser, Lincoln

Michelle Kelly, Seward, and Marvin Vacha, Seward

Amberlyn Tuma, Cordova, and Martin Hill, Westmoreland, New Hampshire

Heather Brogan, Lincoln, and Allen Overholtzer, Lincoln

Cacey Vavra, Beaver Crossing, and Caleb Utter, Utica

Brooke Allen, Pleasant Dale, and Ethan Childress, Pleasant Dale

Kaitlyn Stara, Lincoln, and Jory Criner, Lincoln

Taylor Oborny,

Seward, and Michael Bishop, Seward
Rebecca O'Flaherty, Seward, and Leonard Peterson, Seward
Jessica Setiawan, Chicago, Illinois, and Chase Wurdeman, Chicago, Illinois

Police

Information provided by the Seward Police Department.

April 2

1:31 p.m.—A caller reported graffiti under the bridge near the Parade of Flags.

April 4

5:45 p.m.—Following a traffic stop on 11th Street, two people were arrested on warrants out of Madison County.

9:13 p.m.—Following a traffic stop in the area of 280th Road and Izaak Walton Road, a person was arrested for driving under the influence.

April 5

6:32 a.m.—A man turned himself in at the Seward County Detention Center on a Seward County District Court arrest warrant.

April 6

8:16 a.m.—An officer stopped a vehicle in the area of Highway 15 and Hillcrest Drive who was having an apparent medical episode. The driver refused medical assistance, but was compliant and said he would see a doctor.

5:51 p.m.—An officer gave verbal warnings to three juveniles on ATVs to not drive on the highway and to get flags on their vehicles.

April 8

5:43 p.m.—A caller in the 500 block of North Ninth Street reported they could smell marijuana in the building. An officer walked through the halls and determined there was no smell.

Summary of other calls:

911 misdial 1
Abandoned vehicle 3
Abuse/neglect child 1
City ordinance violation 2
Civil-child custody 1
Criminal mischief 1
Disturbance 1
Field contact 12
Fix-it ticket 1
Fraud 1
Funeral escort 2
Harassment 1
Hit and run accident 2
Miscellaneous 12
No burn permit 1
Noise complaint 1
Parking violation 5
Protection order violation 1
Reckless driving 1
Suspicious person/vehicle 2
Terroristic threats 1
Theft 2
Traffic stops 49
Welfare check 3

Mark your calendar!

**SEWARD CITYWIDE
GARAGE
SALES**
Friday, May 21
Saturday, May 22

You'll get:

- Your garage sale listing ad* in six newspapers
- Your listing on the flyer and map in the Seward County Independent, The Milford Times and Connection
- Garage sale signs and stickers

\$19: *List your sale items, address, date(s) and times. Entire ad not to exceed 25 words.

\$15: *Address, date(s) and times only.

Our website will have an interactive map!

Ads must be submitted with payment to the Seward County Independent May 3–May 14 before noon—No exceptions.

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Call the Seward County Independent for more details
402-643-3676
office@sewardindependent.com





Jon and Taryn Vanderford of Lincoln were the featured speakers at the March 24 Seward Rotary meeting.

“Pure Nebraska” hosts stop at Seward Rotary Club

Taryn and Jon Vanderford of the “Pure Nebraska” TV show were the featured speakers March 24 at the Seward Rotary meeting. They were sponsored by Rotarians Phil Bangert and Clark Kolterman who introduced the couple and shared some of their background.

The Vanderfords are often labeled a “Husker Love Story Couple,” having met on the campus of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where both were members of the marching band –both played the saxophone and were leaders in the UNL broadcasting program.

Taryn is a native of Pender, first from a country school and a Pender High graduate-valedictorian of her class. Jon is from Murdock and a graduate of Murdock High. They traveled with the band to the Citrus Bowl and became friends, having many classes together in broadcasting.

They have been married almost 25 years, with two children – Jacob at UNL with a double major in vocal performance and sports media/communication and Olivia who is at Lincoln High and involved in the 4-H program in Lancaster County.

Jon started his career at St. Joseph, Missouri, after college and came back to work in Lincoln first as a weekend anchor and reporter. Taryn started her broadcasting career working for 96KX in Lincoln.

They moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, for seven years, where Taryn was a producer and writer for HGTV and Jon was an anchor for WATE-TV. They returned to Lincoln in 2003, and Taryn joined

the team in 2010, when she and Jon co-anchored the KOLN Morning Show.

These Emmy-award winning journalists have had many different roles throughout their careers in broadcast journalism.

Taryn and Jon started the First at Four news broadcast for KOLN and the also created the show Pure Nebraska. Jon is the executive producer, writer, photographer and editor for the program and they co-host it.

They talked about the evolution of the local KOLN-KGIN TV programming featuring Pure Nebraska, promoting a focus on agriculture and small town Nebraska. They felt there is need to share the stories of small towns, and they can both relate to the small towns, being products of small towns themselves. The show Pure Nebraska began in 2012 and was first featured on Sundays only.

They shared many

stories generated from their research and travels with Pure Nebraska and shared their favorites and unique spots in Nebraska such as favorite restaurant, favorite bakery, favorite B and B and favorite stop.

A fun place to visit, for example was the town of Monowi, population one. They visited with Elise Eiler, who is the sole resident of the town, runs the local bar/coffee shop and is the town librarian. They spoke fondly of their escapades down the Niobrara River in a canoe and the various “characters” they have met along the way in their stories.

Their travel to western Nebraska usually included their children, and they try to get about five or six stories a day with each story taking at least one to one and a half hours to shoot-hoping to return with at least 25 new stories with each outing.



The Milford High School archery team recently finished runner-up in the Nebraska state competition.

Milford archers strike success

The Milford High School NASP archery team had an extremely successful state competition. For the first time ever Milford had students and a team finish in the Top 10 at state.

In fact, the high school team was the state runner-up team, beating out some really large established high school programs.

Milford had several standout archers. Conner Kohout led the team with a 281/300 and placing second in ninth-grade boys, sixth in high school boys, and seventh out of 278 boys overall. Hunter Oborny was right behind him in third for ninth-grade boys, seventh in high school and eighth overall. Bowen Dick-Burkey was third in 12th-grade boys, ninth in high school boys and 10th overall in the boys’ division.

That is the first time we have had anyone finish in the top 10 in any category, Coach Jim Wissenburg said.

In the Middle School Division, Jay Wissenburg was first in seventh-grade boys, third in the middle school division, and 34th in overall boys.


Sydney Havlat was fifth in the eighth-grade girls, fifth in the middle school girls, and 27th out of 279 girls overall.

Team members are Conner Kohout, Hunter Oborny, Bowen Dick-Burkey, James Wissenburg, Mattie Mullet, Sydney Havlat, Dane Kolb, Jakob Wolf,

Logan Hershberger, Emma Hershberger, Brody Mach, Makennen Havlat, Mara Shepard, Autumn Wissenburg, Alexandria Keib, Keenan Troyer, Jenna Wolfe, Sophia Pierce, Savannah Boettner, Logan Price, Aydenn Freeman, Cheyenne Sage, Heath Bacon, Nolan Eickhoff, Layla Elstun, Brenna Jackson and Alayna Tvrdy.

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The siblings and family of **Sally Hofer** would like to thank the friends and workers at Ridgewood who gave such wonderful care until her passing. Thank you, friends and family, for calls, visits, cards and food. God bless you all. Thank you, Zabka-Perdue Funeral Home, for the care of our family.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY Happy Birthday **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** HAPPY BIRTHDAY

THIS SWEET YOUNG GIRL WILL BE CELEBRATING ON APRIL 18, 2021.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, RITA KMENT!

WE LOVE YOU, SISTER!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

We would like to say **thank you** to everyone who shared in our sympathy in memory of Ron Gade by bringing food, sending flowers, memorials and cards. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

*Sharon Gade
Tim and Michelle Winkelmann
Max and Faith*

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James Landholm DDS Jesse Murphy DDS

WITH HEARTFELT THANKS

The family of **Richard Bennett** wishes to thank all those who sent cards, food, flowers and memorials.

A special thanks to the staff of Memorial Hospital, Paul Soulek for the beautiful music, Monsignor Tucker for his support and comforting service, the Patriot Guard Riders, Brad and Jill Perdue and Greg and Dixie Zabka for their compassion and guidance.

*Lucy Bennett
Stephanie and Chris Schmitt & family
Chris and Heather Bennett & family
Tom and Jeanette Bennett & family
Jason and Kami Bennett & family
Kierra Bennett & family
Russ and Monia Bennett & family
Dorothy Bennett*

We want to thank all who sent birthday greetings to my husband, Roger and myself for our 80th birthdays this past January 2021. Your cards and notes meant much to both of us.

Much love was shown to my husband by the caring and loving staff while he was a resident at Ridgewood Rehabilitation and Care Center for the last 2½ years, as seen by myself and family when we were able to visit every day except for his last ten months due to COVID-19.

Visits by the ministerial staff of St. John Lutheran Church while my husband was hospitalized in Seward and Lincoln were also much welcomed. We wish to thank Doctors Plasek, Brooks and their staffs for their skilled care while Roger was a patient at Seward Memorial Hospital and to Dr. Riddle at Bryan East Medical Center and the nursing staff—among them, Lexington and Luke for their excellent care, and to Maggie Glawatz for her palliative counseling care.

Appreciation is also being expressed for the many memorials, cards of sympathy and love sent to our family most recently when Jesus sent His angels to escort Roger to Himself in heaven.

Gifts of flowers, plants, food and paper goods from relatives, friends and neighbors were received with gratitude by our families who always enjoy great food with minimal clean-up.

In thanks to God for all our blessings each day.

Sharon Mailand and our sons, Michael and Joel and their families

With Our thanks

The family of Wayne Hansen wishes to express our deep appreciation to those who have offered such kindness, support, messages of sympathy, flowers, memorials and comfort in our bereavement.

Words cannot express the gratitude in our hearts. We especially wish to thank Brad and Jill Perdue of Zabka-Perdue Funeral Home, Pastor David Rempfer and Pastor Scott Bruick of St. John Lutheran Church, St. John's Ladies Aid, Organist Paul Soulek and the Staplehurst Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department.

*Marjorie Hansen
Tim Hansen
James Hansen
Darrin and Tammy Hansen & family
Andrew and Jacque Hansen & family
Paul and Stephanie Messerli & family*

Seward County SPRING CLEANUP DAY



**Saturday
April 24
8:00 a.m. - Noon**

Anyone with a 16-County plate is welcome to participate in the cleanup!

**Located at the City of Seward Wastewater Plant Parking Lot (South Gate)
1040 S. Columbia Ave. } Please enter from the north on South Columbia & enter the south gate.**

APPLIANCES & SCRAP METAL:

\$5.00 per appliance or load of scrap metal. Most appliances accepted!

ELECTRONIC DEVICE RECYCLING:

- Most electronic devices accepted
- All LCD monitors - \$10.00
- CRT (glass tube) monitors or TVs up to 25" - \$20.00
- TVs 27" and up - \$30.00
- Large wooden projection TVs - \$40.00



HAZARDOUS WASTE:

Quantities of more than five gallons cannot be accepted.

- Acids
- Antifreeze
- Banned materials (chlordane, DDT, etc.)
- Cyanide
- Fertilizers (yard chemicals)
- Flammables
- Gasoline and oil in small quantity
- Lead acid batteries
- Mercury and mercury-related materials
- All paint and paint-related materials (stains, varnish, etc.)
- Poisons
- Pesticides
- Fluorescent bulbs



NO

- Tires
- Farm chemicals
- Medical sharps
- Empty or dried-out paint cans
(They can go directly into the trash)

Thank you!



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York College Traveling Children's Theater performs 10 Minute Fairy Tales



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE CROSTON

LEFT: The Bear family, from left, Papa (Christopher Martens), Baby (Nathan Lacina) and Mama (Sam Crump) return home from a walk during an improvisation on Goldilocks and the Three Bears, part of 10 Minute Fairy Tales presented by the York College Traveling Children's Theater April 10 at the Seward Memorial Library. ABOVE: Jack (Christopher Martens), right, hides from the Giantess (Kelsey Beck), left, as Henrietta the Hen (Alysa Shaw) blocks her view in Jack and the Beanstalk, part of 10 Minute Fairy Tales presented by the York College Traveling Children's Theater.



COURTESY PHOTO

The details on Charlie Cook's service vehicle show nods to the United States, State of Nebraska and Nebraska State Patrol.

Trooper's new Tahoe turns heads

by Greg Forbes
editor@sewardindependent.com

Nebraska State Patrol trooper Charlie Cook's patrol vehicle is a little different than the rest of the department's fleet.

The 2020 Chevrolet Tahoe is wrapped in an American flag-themed pattern with nods to the history of the State Patrol and the State of Nebraska. A state-of-the-art lighting system, courtesy of Whelan Light, reflects off the custom paint job.

Cook's vehicle is eye-catching and easy to see from miles away, and that's the point.

"It's a fully functioning patrol car, but its main use will almost be like a traveling billboard," said Cook, who lives in Seward. "It's for recruiting, it's for going to different events and presentations throughout the state,

but at the same time, it can be used to make traffic stops, help with traffic control, crashes and whatever may come along the way."

Cook said that the idea to bring a recruitment vehicle to the department was nearly a year and a half in the making between selecting the vehicle and a design then fitting the details onto the car.

Cook's first day out with the vehicle was April 6, and it's already proving to be a valuable asset.

"We can never get enough qualified recruits, so we thought this was worth a try to get the public's attention and get some new recruits in here," he said. "We've done some presentations with the vehicle present and people ask questions, talk about it...it gets attention, so we start talking about the patrol and recruiting."



COURTESY PHOTO

Nebraska State Trooper Charlie Cook, a Seward resident, stands next to his new service vehicle which will be used as a recruiting tool, as well.

Milford students create duck nests



COURTESY PHOTO

Students from the Milford High School Wildlife Management Class install wood duck nesting boxes on the Kubicek Ranch near Milford. The class built the boxes as part of a habitat unit and will now monitor the nest boxes for the rest of the semester to determine if they are used and possibly how many ducklings may hatch this spring.

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Bulldog teams earn spots in national tournaments

Concordia University will be represented in two national tournaments starting this week – volleyball and women's soccer.

Volleyball

The Bulldog volleyball team will be more than 1,000 miles from home when first serve of the NAIA Volleyball National Championship Opening Round occurs on Saturday, April 17.

Cheers rang out from the on campus Walz Conference Room April 12 when members of the team learned they would be headed to New Orleans. As an at-large national



qualifier, the Bulldogs will travel to play Xavier University of New Orleans.

Head Coach Ben Boldt's program will make a second straight appearance at the national tournament. Last season they went straight to the final site in Sioux City, Iowa, bypassing the opening round. In this year's format, all 48 national qualifiers must compete in the opening

round.

Travel plans are quickly in the works for Concordia, which did not play outside of the Midwest during this past fall or spring. Boldt had a simple message for his team in the short address that followed the national tournament announcement on Monday. Now is about making the most of the time they have leading up to Saturday's match.

One of five GPAC teams to qualify for nationals, the Bulldogs will enter Saturday's contest with an overall record of 15-4. They have

been ranked 10th in the NAIA in all five national coaches' polls released this spring. That ranking represents the highest for Concordia in the history of its program. Meanwhile, Xavier qualified for the opening round by winning the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference Tournament title.

As of the afternoon on Monday, a match time had not yet been announced. Fans will be allowed to attend Saturday's match. Specific information about fan attendance will be disseminated when available.

Each opening round winner will advance to pool play at the final site, the Tyson Events Center in Sioux City. The action in Sioux City will run from April 27 – May 1.

Women's soccer

Following a thrilling run to a GPAC tournament title, Concordia learned of its national tournament draw April 12. The Bulldogs have been assigned to the Columbia Bracket and will play against third-ranked Keiser University (Fla.) on Thursday, April 15, as part of the **(continued on 4B)**



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Malcolm's Dillon Beach powers to the finish line in the 400-meter dash April 7, beating, from left, Rollin Roth of Milford, Gavin Zoucha of Malcolm, Rayshun Foreman of Centennial, Colby Sizemore of Malcolm and Will Wenz of Wilber-Clatonia.

Clippers host track meet

by Heath Kramer
Seward County Independent

A reality of being a high school athlete in Nebraska is that competing in spring sports will mean dealing with unfavorable weather conditions. A great way to end a string of warm days is by scheduling a track meet. Eight schools battled wind and drizzle with the Malcolm girls claiming the team title and the Malcolm boys placing second at the April 7 Malcolm Invite.

"A day like that really comes down to mental toughness," Malcolm head coach Dustin Tobey said. "Every team has to deal with the same weather, so it's a matter of how much you're going to let it bother you."

"I feel like our kids typically handle it as well as any team. They don't complain about it, they just deal with it."

The Malcolm girls narrowly defeated Centennial. The Clippers scored 115.5 points while the Broncos had 109. While there were no dominating performances among the Malcolm girls, there were several events in which multiple girls added to the team



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Abbie McGuire of Milford was second in the 1,600-meter run and won the 3,200-meter run at Malcolm April 7.

total.

Cora Schweitzer earned her first career gold in discus with a throw of 97-2. The junior had not touched a discus before this spring and has medaled in both meets this season.

"She wanted to give it a try and we needed throwers," Tobey said. "What she's doing isn't easy as she does hurdles. There's not much in common with those workouts."

"She splits up her week working on the

two events every other day. It takes a lot of dedication to do that, but she's willing to put in the work necessary to help her team."

Kiley Elkins had a big day as she earned three medals. The junior who transferred from Raymond Central after her freshman year finished first in the 100-meter hurdles, second in the high jump and third in the 300-meter hurdles.

"Since we didn't have a track season last year, Kiley was a bit of a mystery to us," Tobey said. "She's very athletic and is definitely one of our better possibilities to be a state qualifier this year."

The Clippers' other gold medal performances came from Katie Lewis with a pole vault of 7-6 and the 3,200-meter relay team of Reagan Wondercheck, Addy Hanson, Ashlynn Sehi and Jospheine Holliday also took the top spot in the 800-meter run with a photo-finish win over Centennial's Daylee Dey.

"Jo is helping us a ton this year," Tobey said. "I know Dey was a state qualifier in the 800 two years ago, so that's a big win."

(continued on 3B)



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Ava King of Seward passes the ball downfield April 5 against Holdrege.

Bluejay girls get second win

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

After three games in two days, the Seward girls' soccer team had a little break before picking up its second win of the season.

The Bluejays started the week with the Bluejay Invitational April 5. Seward opened the day with a 5-0 loss to Omaha Concordia 3-0.

Coach Nick Holmes said while the Jays struggled with the wind, they didn't play poorly.

"We gave away too many gifts," he said. "It was 4-0 at half, and we gave them three."

He said the team played well in spurts. Against Concordia, he said, the Jays ran out of gas. Seward missed a couple shots on goal that would have given it a lead.

"If those go in, it's a different game," Holmes said.

Heavy legs the next day against Conestoga led to a 6-0 loss for the Jays. Again, Seward gave away too many goals, Holmes said. The team would try to

complete a pass when it should just kick the ball out of bounds, he said.

"It's a learning thing," he said.

The April 8 game against Schuyler was moved to April 9 because of conditions. The score was 1-0 at halftime, but the Seward offense came alive in the second half and the Jays won 7-1.

Holmes said the team switched to an old-school 4-4-2 set, which is simpler and easier for the defense to match up.

Ellie Sagehorn finished with a hat trick (three goals). Jordyn Collins scored two, and Ava King and Claire Geidel scored one each. Myka Smith recorded two assists, and King added one.

"We looked like a soccer team," Holmes said. "It was a good way to end the week."

The Jays (2-7) were to play Schuyler again April 12 in the play-in game for the Central Conference tournament. The rest of the tournament is April 15 and 17.

"We'll take each as it comes. We're improving every day at practice," Holmes said.

Crete-Milford baseball struggles to score runs in losses

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Crete-Milford baseball team struggled to find offense last week in three games, losing to Wahoo/Bishop Neumann/Lincoln Lutheran 6-5 April 5, to Beatrice

9-1 April 6 and to Bennington 7-0 April 10.

The Wahoo coop came from behind to get the win on Monday. Crete-Milford led 5-0 going into the bottom of the fourth inning, but Wahoo scored two in the fourth, one in the fifth

and three in the seventh to take home the win.

Micah Hartwig was 3-4 with a double and two RBIs to lead the Cardinals. Tadd TeBrink also hit a double and drove in two. Lucas Lenhoff took the loss on the mound.

CM collected four hits in its loss to Beatrice the next day. Braden Schmeckpeper was 2-3 with a double and a triple and got the start on the mound. Madaux DeLong and Jaxson Dittmer both pitched in relief.

The team was on the

road again Saturday at Bennington and couldn't get the offense going, managing just one hit – a single by TeBrink – in the loss.

Trent Stauffer was the losing pitcher for CM, allowing seven runs, three earned, in three

innings.

The Cardinals (3-7) are scheduled to host Central City April 13 and travel to Pender Thursday, April 15. The team is back home Monday, April 19, for a game against Seward at 4:30 p.m. at Tuxedo Park.

Bucks no-hit Bulldogs in week's only game

by Heath Kramer
Seward County Independent

They come along only once in a while. The no-hitter is a rarity. For the first time in the three-season history of the Branched Oak baseball team, one was tossed by a pair of Bucks in a 9-0 win over Auburn on April 5 in Malcolm.

Maclain Beach pitched a perfect five innings before Maddox Meyer came on in relief to close the door. Beach — a senior southpaw — was in command from the start as he mowed down the Bulldogs lineup by locating his fastball and mixing in off speed pitches.

“His control was great,” Branched Oak head coach Andrew Edwards said. “Their hitters couldn’t get anything going.”

As arm soreness meant an early end to the day for Beach, Meyer was unfazed by the moment. The freshman retired six of the seven batters he faced with the lone baserunner coming on an infield error.

“He locates his off speed pitches for strikes,” Edwards said. “That’s tough on hitters at this level.”

Beach recorded five strikeouts and Meyer added four.

Beach benefitted from plenty of run support as the Bucks put runs on the board in five different innings.

After seeing seeing seven pitches in his lead



DOUG CARROLL/SCI

Branched Oak Bucks' Hayden Frank looks to drive a pitch against Auburn April 5.

off at-bat, Travis Nelson drove the eighth pitch over the centerfield fence to put Branched Oak up 1-0 in the first inning. In the second, it was Connor Zegar who scored after being hit by a pitch and then working his way around the diamond on a combination of errors, a walk and another hit batter.

The Bucks bats were hot in the third inning as Colby Denhartog and Zegar each singled before being brought in by a three-run homer from Beach. Nelson notched his second RBI of the game and put the Bucks up 6-0 by driving in Lucas Buresh who had earlier singled.

A Hayden Frank home run in the fourth inning made it 7-0. “Our offense was able to get on top early and get all the momentum,” Edwards said. “Maclain does really well when we give him some cushion

to work with.” Nelson finished the day going for 2-for-3 and drove in three runs while Zegar was 3-for-3. “Our guys have been working hard on correcting their timing,” Edwards said. “We’re also working on being more patient at the plate and not going into panic mode when things don’t go our way.”

Branched Oak (5-3) had games against Platte Valley and Douglas

County West scheduled for April 8 and 9 postponed due to wet fields. The Bucks have a busy week planned with games Monday at Arlington (2-8) and Tuesday at Guardian Angels Central Catholic (2-2). They hope to make up the game with Platte Valley (5-4) Thursday in Valparaiso before hosting the Capitol

Conference Tournament Friday and Saturday. “We have a good opportunity to build some more momentum,” Edwards said. “We are going into the tournament expecting to win it. It will come down to managing our pitch counts and making sure we have our best guys available.”

Area track leaders

Seward • Milford • Centennial • Malcolm

Girls

- 100-meter dash**
1) Coral Collins, Seward, 13.11
2) Sydney Stelling, Milford, 13.27
3) Eden Schulz, Seward, 13.28
- 200-meter dash**
1) Coral Collins, Seward, 27.8
2) Sydney Stelling, Milford, 27.9
3) Savannah Horne, Centennial, 28.38
- 400-meter dash**
1) Caitlyn Adams, Milford, 1:04.67
2) Eden Schulz, Seward, 1:06.19
3) Kate Hirschfeld, Centennial, 1:06.34
- 800-meter run**
1) Samantha Hughes, Seward, 2:33.64
2) Daylee Dey, Centennial, 2:37.07
3) Karnie Gottschalk, Seward, 2:39.41
- 1,600-meter run**
1) Keegan Beisel, Seward, 5:48.69
2) Samantha Hughes, Seward, 5:53.8
3) Daylee Dey, Centennial, 5:57.88
- 3,200-meter run**
1) Keegan Beisel, Seward, 12:34.41
2) Tande Masco, Seward, 12:40.49
3) Abbie McGuire, Milford, 13:04.05
- 100-meter hurdles**
1) Drew Kratochvil, Seward, 16.65
2) Kiley Elkins, Malcolm, 18.03
3) Mavis Hansen, Milford, 18.09
- 300-meter hurdles**
1) Libby Kratochvil, Seward, 51.3
2) Kiley Elkins, Malcolm, 53.14
3) Kate Hirschfeld, Centennial, 53.66
- 4x100-meter relay**
1) Seward 53.42
2) Malcolm 54.74
3) Centennial 54.67
4) Milford 55.89
- 4x400-meter relay**
1) Seward 4:29.14
2) Centennial 4:29.26
3) Malcolm 4:40.72
- 4x800-meter relay**
1) Seward 10:30.27
2) Malcolm 11:10
3) Milford 11:14
4) Centennial 11:18
- Shot put**
1) Desirae Hibbert, Seward, 34-3.75
2) Lovely Hibbert, Seward, 34-3
3) Nataliy Anderson, Seward, 33-6
- Discus**
1) Maddie Viger, Seward, 116-7
2) Kailey Ziegler, Centennial, 105-9
3) Camille Stauffer, Milford, 98-9
- High jump**
1) Sarah Spahr, Milford, 5-2
2) Brooke Meyer, Seward, 5-0
3) Kiley Elkins, Malcolm 5-0
- Pole vault**
1) Samara Ruether, Centennial, 8-6
2) Hannah Helmer, Seward, 8-2
3) Nadiya Schrad, Seward, 7-6
3) Katherine Lewis, Malcolm, 7-6
- Long jump**
1) Abbey Ringler, Seward, 16-4.25
1) Jillian Bailey, Centennial, 15-2.75
3) Libby Kratochvil, Seward, 15-1.75
- Triple jump**
1) Kate Hirschfeld, Centennial, 32-10.75
2) Alanea Babb, Malcolm, 32-3
3) Morgan Heywood, Malcolm, 32-0.5

Boys

- 100-meter dash**
1) Katon Thomas, Malcolm, 11.39
2) Ayden Shook, Milford, 11.59
3) Antonio Sims, Malcolm, 11.63
- 200-meter dash**
1) Reid Schanou, Seward, 23.39
2) Katon Thomas, Malcolm, 23.41
3) Colby Sizemore, Malcolm, 23.8
- 400-meter dash**
1) Reid Schanou, Seward, 52.28
2) Boone Duncan, Seward, 54.13
3) Dillon Beach, Malcolm, 56.14
- 800-meter run**
1) Maddox Baack, Milford, 2:17.48
2) Kameron Dyer, Seward, 2:17.59
3) Eli Hiser, Seward, 2:18.67
- 1,600-meter run**
1) Nathan Nottingham, Seward, 4:47.38
2) Carter Roth, Milford, 4:57.9
3) Ty Brockhaus, Malcolm, 4:59.29
- 3,200-meter run**
1) Nathan Nottingham, Seward, 10:30.71
2) John Boesen, Malcolm, 10:52.73
3) Ryan Payne, Centennial, 10:55.53
- 110-meter hurdles**
1) Collin Piening, Milford, 15.97
2) Will Saunders, Centennial, 16.45
3) Logan Petersen, Malcolm, 17.44
- 300-meter hurdles**
1) Collin Piening, Milford, 43.49
2) Jake Barga, Centennial, 44.21
3) Will Saunders, Centennial, 45.7
- 4x100-meter relay**
1) Malcolm 46.16
2) Seward 46.48
3) Centennial 48.06
4) Milford 48.97
- 4x400-meter relay**
1) Seward 3:41.24
2) Malcolm 3:45.24
3) Centennial 3:52.68
4) Milford 3:59.04
- 4x800-meter relay**
1) Seward 9:04.38
2) Malcolm 9:12.44
3) Milford 9:29.6
- Shot put**
1) Trey Dickey, Seward, 48-8
2) Vlad Rybak, Malcolm, 46-2.5
3) Carson Fehlhafer, Centennial, 45-6
- Discus**
1) Trey Dickey, Seward, 164-7
2) Carson Fehlhafer, Centennial, 137-9
3) Nathan Pence, Seward 126-9
- High jump**
1) Jake Barga, Centennial, 6-0
2) Drew Johnson, Malcolm 5-8
3) four at 5-6
- Pole vault**
1) Kalen Knott, Seward, 13-6
2) Cooper Gierhan, Centennial, 12-3
3) Sam Tomes, Centennial, 12-0
- Long jump**
1) Boone Duncan, Seward, 20-5
2) Caden Brooks, Seward, 20-0.5
3) Austin Earnest, Malcolm 19-0.5
- Triple jump**
1) Lucas Christensen, Malcolm, 38-9.5
2) Trace Rowland, Milford, 37-4.25
3) Collin Piening, Milford, 37-2.25

Bronco chooses Storm for next team



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Asia Nisly, a senior at Centennial High, signed April 8 to play basketball at Southeast Community College-Beatrice. Pictured are, from left: (seated) Betty, Asia and Mitch Nisly; and (standing) SCC Coach Lynn Schlake, CHS Coach Mark Ortmeier, Mike, Maj and Bree Nisly and CHS Coach Jake Polk. Asia said she chose SCC because of the people, including former CHS teammate Hunter Hartshorn. She decided to continue basketball because it’s the sport she loves the most. “It was always my number one sport,” she said. Asia plans to study criminal justice and is excited about meeting her new teammates.

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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Kiley Elkins, a senior at Malcolm, won three medals at the Malcolm Invitational April 7. She was first in the 100-meter hurdles in 18.24 seconds, second in the high jump at 4-10 and third in the 300-meter hurdles in 53.48 seconds.

Honorable Mention
• Abbey Ringler - Seward
• Kailey Ziegler - Centennial
• Mariah Richards - Milford

Trey Dickey, a senior at Seward, was a double gold medalist April 9 at Waverly. He won the shot put with a throw of 48-8 and the discus with a toss of 159-2.

Honorable Mention
• Cooper Gierhan - Centennial
• Micah Hartwig - Milford
• Dillon Beach - Malcolm

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Concordia University

(continued from 1B)

NAIA Women's Soccer National Championship Opening Round. Kickoff from Columbia, Mo., is set for 6 p.m.

Head Coach Thomas Goines, the coaching staff and student-athletes met in the Walz Conference Center on Monday to watch the live selection show. Concordia was tagged as a No. 4 seed while Keiser is the No. 1 seed in the Columbia Bracket.

Goines will lead the Bulldogs into the national tournament in his first season at the helm of the program. Concordia made previous appearances at the national tournament opening round in 2014 and 2016. The Bulldogs traveled to West Palm Beach, Florida, and played Keiser in 2016 (result was a 2-0 loss).

Concordia plans to depart early on Wednesday morning, en route to Columbia, a drive of roughly five-and-a-half hours. The Bulldogs will take an overall record of 11-6-2 into play on Thursday. Their run through the GPAC tournament included a 2-1 win over Dakota Wesleyan, a PK shootout advancement over Midland and a 2-1 victory over Jamestown in the championship game.

Concordia will find itself in an underdog role while up against the Seahawks, the defending NAIA national champions. Keiser sports a 16-2-1 overall record and is a member of The Sun Conference. Head Coach Matt Dunn's squad earned an at-large berth after falling in The Sun Conference tournament championship game to No. 2 Southeastern University (Fla.). Keiser has racked up 87 goals in 19 games.

Columbia College is the No. 2 seed in its own bracket. The Cougars will take on third-seeded Kansas Wesleyan University at 2 p.m. on Thursday. The Concordia/Keiser winner will go head-to-head with the Columbia/Kansas Wesleyan winner for a spot in the final site. The 10 winners that emerge from the opening rounds will advance to play in Foley, Alabama, April 27 - May 3.

Honors

A monster performance at the Hastings Bronco Invite yielded athlete of the week awards at both the conference and national levels for star thrower Addie Shaw. As announced April 6, Shaw



GREG FORBES/SCI

Concordia's Cheyenne Smith moves the ball down the pitch during Concordia's 2-1 win against Jamestown in the GPAC tournament championship April 9.

has been selected as the GPAC/Hauff Mid-America Sports Women's Field Athlete of the Week and the NAIA National Field Athlete of the Week.

Shaw turned in three season bests last week with her efforts in the shot put, hammer and discus. The native of Bassett currently ranks either first or second nationally in each of those events - first in the shot put (46-10), second in discus (151-0) and second in hammer (177-2). At the Bronco Invite, Shaw won event titles in the hammer and shot put and placed second to teammate Erin Painter in the discus. Shaw was one of five Bulldogs to post automatic national qualifying marks in the discus. Shaw is a two-time discus national champion who possesses eight career All-America honors.

Track and field

Sunny skies greeted a field of competitors from seven different institutions as Concordia University track and field hosted a meet for the first time this 2021 outdoor season.

The yields for the Bulldogs at the Concordia Outdoor Invite included 10 performances that met the automatic national qualifying standard and 11 event titles. Two-time 400-meter national champion Rachel Battershell enjoyed another fine day, and Addie Shaw won two of the three throwing events she competed in.

Head Coach Matt Beisel's program put on its first outdoor home meet since the 2019 Twilight Meet. Throwing events began on Friday with the bulk of the meet

picking up on April 10 from Bulldog Stadium. Concordia entered the weekend with NAIA national ratings of No. 1 for women and No. 6 for men (according to the USTFCCCA).

Battershell was stellar in all three events she ran on Saturday. The native of Wheatland, Wyoming, broke the school record (previously eclipsed last week by teammate Sarah Lewis) in the 100 meter hurdles (14.59), clocked an automatic national qualifying time in the 400 hurdles (1:03.22) and anchored the 4x400 meter relay that placed first with another auto time of 3:53.92. Battershell was joined in the 4x4 by Keri Bauer, Lewis and Sydney Schernikau. That same group earned All-America honors this past indoor season.

The throws crew may not have duplicated its massive tosses from last week's Bronco Invite, but it was still a solid weekend. A fresh 'A' standard was achieved by Dagne' Buck in the hammer. In that same event NAIA hammer national leader Jacob Cornelio bumped up his PR with another 200+ footer that put him atop the Concordia Invite competition.

On the women's side, the trio of Shaw, Sarah Ragland and Liz Stottlemyre were responsible for a combined four automatic national qualifying marks. Stottlemyre improved upon an existing 'A' standard in the javelin with her mark of 152-4.

Lincoln Lutheran alum Josie Puelz just keeps doing her thing in the pole vault. She won another competition while equaling her own outdoor school record clearance of 12-11.5. Erin Mapson has also stepped up to the plate as another elite vaulter. She cleared 12-3.5 on Saturday (fourth place) in a loaded field.

In the women's 4x100 meter relay, Concordia just missed a school record with a time of 48.35. The relay team included Emily Loy, Amira Cummings, Hannah Mulligan and Cora Olson.

At one point, Loy ran the 100 hurdles all by herself and clocked a PR of 15.00. Lewis came in at 14.77 in the 100 hurdles. For Olson her day also featured a time of 25.61 in the 200 meters.

In addition to Battershell's win in the 400 hurdles and the triumph by the women's 4x400 relay, the following individuals won their races: Sydney Clark (5,000 meters), Rylee Haecker (1,500 meters) and Camden Sesna (3,000 meter steeplechase).

Beisel continues to



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Mary, left, and Grace Pennekamp of Concordia hit the water jump in the 3,000-meter steeplechase April 10 during the Concordia Invitational.

see progress with his group of steeplechasers. Lydia Cook placed second in the event on the women's side. The last event title (not previously mentioned) went to Amy Richert in the high jump (5-2.5).

Concordia athletes also combined for a total of 15 Concordia Invite runner-up placements. Among them was Joel Rathe, who achieved a personal best of 22-11.75 in the long jump. In the men's pole vault, Chase Berry of Seward and Zach Bennetts were neck-and-neck for second place (both cleared 15-1). Indoor All-American Wyatt Loga of Malcolm got near the 'B' standard in the high jump (6-4.75).

The outdoor season will continue next week with the Jim Dutcher Invite April 16-17 hosted by Doane. The next time the Bulldogs host another meet, it will be GPAC championship time (April 30-May 1).

Women's golf

Despite colder, damper conditions, the Concordia University women's golf team thrived on day two of the Concordia Bulldog Invite. The Bulldogs carded an 18-hole school record 324 April 7 while moving up from ninth place after day one to a final placement of fifth. The event, staged at Highlands Golf Course, welcomed 90 golfers from 15 different institutions. Morning-side emerged with the team title.

Head Coach Brett Muller's squad carded a two-day total of 354-324-678. The school record for a 36-hole event still stands at 670. Muller hopes his team can build off the momentum from Wednesday's massive improvement.

"The girls were very excited to play on our home course and maybe put a little added pressure on themselves (on Tuesday) to go out and play well," Muller said. "We did a great job of adjusting to adverse weather conditions. It was awesome to see us shoot a school record and move up in the team standings."

In Wednesday's round, four Bulldogs shot 86 or lower. It was a rock solid tournament for star Kendra Placke, who tied for third on the overall leaderboard by way of a two-day total of 78-75-153. She finished five strokes behind tournament champion

Dominika Gradecka of Bellevue University. A tournament titlist twice in the fall, Placke, a Seward High graduate, has earned five top-five finishes out of eight events overall in 2020-21.

Mia Martin also cracked the 70s for the first time as a Bulldog and shot 87-79-166 (tied for 14th). Next in line for Concordia was Lauren Havlat (93-86-179; T-42nd), Andrea Peterson (96-84 - 180; 46th) and Logan Eschliman (97-96-193; 65th).

Another trio of individuals represented the Bulldogs: Emily Jensen (96-89-185; T-51st), Ashley Gercyznski (98-97-195; T-66th) and Mya Nurse (105-112-217; 80th). Concordia wound up finishing third out of the nine GPAC teams in the field at Highlands. The addition of Martin seems to solidify the Bulldogs as one of the top teams in the conference.

The spring season will continue this Sunday and Monday with Concordia headed to the Wayne State Wildcat Classic at Wayne Country Club. The action is slated to get started at 9 a.m. both days.

Scores

MEN'S SOCCER: One team's jubilation is another team's heartbreak when it comes to PK shootouts in the postseason. The Concordia University men's soccer team found itself in the heartbreak category April 10 in a tension-filled, drawn-out shootout.

Finally, on the 10th round of PKs, fourth-seeded Northwestern celebrated an advancement to the GPAC semifinals while hosting the fifth-seeded Bulldogs. The two sides had played to a 0-0 draw in 110 minutes of action (two overtimes).

SOFTBALL: Before darkness fell upon Crete, Camry Moore starred in her hometown while helping the Concordia University softball team to an 8-4 win at Doane April 7.

In a midseason matchup of GPAC contenders, Concordia clashed against Midland in a doubleheader April 11. After the Bulldogs earned a 6-3 victory in game 1, game 2 quickly turned into a pitchers' duel with the wind picking up and stifling any fly balls that left the infield. Game 2 ended with a three run seventh

inning from the Warriors to propel them past Concordia by a score of 3-0.

BASEBALL: After a forgettable game 1, the 20th-ranked Concordia University baseball team responded in game 2 of April 10's doubleheader at Bishop Mueller Field in Sioux City, Iowa. Ben Berg delivered a grand slam and Nick Little put together another quality pitching performance in an 8-3 victory over Briar Cliff. The Bulldogs dropped the first game by a score of 8-0.

The Bulldogs went deep four more times April 11 while pounding out 32 hits in a doubleheader sweep of Briar Cliff at Plum Creek Park. Not only that, Jake Fosgett dazzled on the mound in an 18-0 white-washing in game 1. Concordia rallied to win game 2, 13-10.

VOLLEYBALL: As evidence of the strength of the GPAC, the conference volleyball tournament semifinal round featured four teams all ranked in the top 12 of the latest NAIA coaches' poll.

On one side of the bracket, the 10th-ranked Concordia University volleyball squad took on No. 5 Northwestern in a clash between combatants both capable of leaving their mark on the national stage. The Red Raiders owned a 15-7 advantage in blocking and won, 25-22, 25-22, 18-25, 25-23, inside the Bultman Center April 7.

TENNIS: Concordia University women's tennis went up against Baker University April 8. The Bulldogs earned a singles win apiece courtesy of Ansley Gates and Luisa Esquivel, but fell by a final team score of 5-2. In shaking off Thursday's loss at Baker University (Kan.), Concordia had no problem April 10. The Bulldogs swept all singles and doubles matches in a snappy, 7-0, victory over visiting Mount Marty.

Concordia men's tennis struggled in indoor competition April 8. The Bulldogs lost, 4-0, to Baker University. In-progress matches were halted once the team victory was clinched by the Wildcats.

Concordia remained unbeaten in the GPAC while hosting Mount Marty in a match that got started in the morning April 10. The Bulldogs made quick work of the Lancers, 7-0, and swept all singles and doubles matchups.



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Ethan Ideus of Concordia keeps the pace in the 1,500-meter run April 10 at the Concordia Invitational.

HELP WANTED

THE CITY OF WILBER IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR MANAGER(S), Asst MANAGER(S) and LIFE GUARDS at the Wilber Municipal Pool for the summer of 2021. All Manager Applicants must be certified in First Aid, CPR and complete the Nebraska Swimming Pool Operators Class. All Lifeguards Applicants must be certified in First Aid, CPR and Lifeguard Training. Applications must be received in the City Office by: Friday, April 23, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. Applications available at: City of Wilber, 110 W Third St. Wilber, NE 68465 or online at cityofwilber.com - contact us/employment. For further information contact the City at (402) 821-3233

HEAVY EQUIPMENT operators wanted, Apply in person to Shanahan Brothers Construction at 5905 West "O" Street Lincoln, NE. 402-476-0101

HELP WANTED

Starting Wage \$10/hour
Apply in Person
Git 'N Split
536 Roberts • Seward, NE
EOE

The Village of DeWitt is now accepting applications for Lifeguards & Assistant Managers at the DeWitt Pool for the 2021 summer. All applicants must be certified in First Aid, Lifeguard Training, CPR and must be 15 years of age. Applications may be picked up at the Village Office (209 E Fillmore, DeWitt) or downloaded at www.dewitt.ne.gov and returned no later than April 23, 2021, to PO Box 208, DeWitt, NE 68341. Lifeguard Training classes are offered through the YMCA in Beatrice and Lincoln. Tiered reimbursement of training cost based on hours worked at the end of the season. EOE

The Village of Staplehurst Nebraska is accepting applications for Full Time General Maintenance Personnel including the operation of the Water Distribution and Wastewater Treatment Facility or being able to acquire certification. Pay range \$13.10- 17.37 per hour. Applications & Job description available at the Village Hall, 155 South 3rd Street; P.O. Box 174, Staplehurst, NE 68439. Telephone 402-535-2758 or contact Sharon Reinmiller, Village Clerk. 402-535-2507

FULL-TIME office help in local electronics store. General office duties. Electronic knowledge helpful. Call Eric 402-643-2560 or stop by Ehlers Electronics.

The Village of Exeter, Nebraska, is now accepting applications for the part-time position of Library Director. Applicants must be 21 years of age, possess a high school diploma or equivalent, a valid Nebraska driver's license and be a U. S. Citizen. Computer & record keeping skills are needed. Must be willing to obtain NLC Librarian Certification. Some physical activity is required. If you have any questions, call Becky Erdkamp at 402-266-3051. Send cover letter and resumes to: Village Clerk, P.O. Box 96, Exeter, NE 68351. Deadline for application is May 4, 2021. The Village of Exeter is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PART-TIME OPTICAL TECHNICIAN

Will provide on-the-job training. Stop by our office to fill out an application.

Bessler Family



EYE CARE

1119 Main Ave. • Crete
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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

Part-time Evening & Weekend Shifts Available Bartender & Wait Staff

\$12+/hr (wages & tips)

Must be at least 19 years of age

Stop in for application

Sparetime Lounge & Grill
123 S. 4th • Seward

PEN RIDER WANTED

Midwest Feeding in Milford

Experience helpful. Full-time position available. Benefits.

Apply in person or mail resume to:

Midwest Feeding Co. • 851-238th, Milford, NE 68405

Feedlot is immediately south of the I-80 Milford exit

- Nurse: FT Evening or Night (LPN/RN)
- CNAs: FT Evening & Night Shifts
- MedAide: FT Evenings
- Dietary Manager | • Dietary Aide: FT
- Cook: FT PM Shift | • Housekeeping: FT



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

Applications at www.sunrisecountrymanor.com/careers.html

The Seward County Farm Service Agency located in Seward, NE, is hiring a permanent program technician. Benefits package included. The successful candidate will carry out office activities pertaining to one or more of the USDA programs administered in the county.

Applicants will apply online at www.usajobs.gov. The closing date for the announcement is April 27, 2021.

Questions about the position may be directed to Reid VanWesten at (402) 643-4586 ext. 2. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

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

Director of Nutritional Services: Full-time, Registered Dietician and Licensed Medical Nutrition Therapist in NE, and Bachelor's Degree required. One to three years supervisory experience preferred. -Memorial Hospital

Health Information Technician/Information Analyst: Full-time day position, Monday-Friday. Candidate will ensure quality of the electronic health record by scanning, verifying and analyzing the patient's record. Candidate will assist with credentialing appointment and reappointment process, back up other office functions and clerical duties. Candidate must possess excellent customer service skills, attention to detail and the ability to multitask. Medical records experience preferred but not required. -Memorial Hospital

Maintenance Technician 1: Full-time day position. Candidate is responsible for the maintenance of MHCS facilities including snow and ice removal; installing, maintaining and repairing machinery, equipment, physical structures, pipe and electrical structures. Providing assistance to preventative maintenance program and housekeeping duties within the department. Scheduling will include on call rotation; must be available after hours, nights and weekends and holidays as needed. Candidate must be 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license. -Memorial Hospital

RN/LPN - Nights: Full-time night position, 5 p.m.-5 a.m. 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

RN-LPN: Full-time Clinic RN/LPN Day Nurse position available, Monday-Friday with Saturday rotation. This position requires good communications skills between you and the provider. Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are essential to providing excellent customer service and communicating with our patients. Computer skills are required. Previous Clinic Nursing experience preferred. Education and training will be provided for Lab and Radiology procedures. Current licensure required. -Milford Family Medical Center

Pharmacy Technician: Part-time days (24 hours per week) rotating schedule including some Saturday mornings. Candidate will assist pharmacist in filling prescriptions and helping customers in retail setting. Candidate needs to be motivated, hardworking and have excellent customer service skills, and attention to detail. Certification not required but will be necessary within one year of employment. Job requires standing/walking. -Seward Family Pharmacy

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.

PARAPROFESSIONALS WANTED

The School District of Seward is accepting applications for Elementary paraprofessionals for the 2021-2022 school year.

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.



Now Hiring LANDSCAPING CREW, GARDEN CENTER ASSOCIATES, and LAWCARE TECHNICIANS.

Stop by the store to apply or call 402.643.2891 for more information.



1143 Elm St., Seward
merlesgardencenter.com

East Butler Public School

is accepting applications for

Bus Route Drivers

for the 2021-2022 school year. \$1,608.65 per month. Blue Cross/Blue Shield Single Health Insurance provided. Positions are open until filled.

Interested persons should send a letter of application and resume to:

Mr. Michael Eldridge, Superintendent
East Butler Public School, PO Box 36, Brainard, NE 68626
402-545-2081 • meldridge@ebutler.esu7.org • EOE

East Butler Public School

is accepting applications for a

School Nurse (RN)

for the 2021-2022 school year. This position will follow a 188-day contract and will consist of 30 to 40 hours per week. Salary range of \$25 to \$35 per hour depending on experience and will include an insurance plan. Position is open until filled.

Interested persons should send a letter of application and resume to:

Mr. Michael Eldridge, Superintendent
East Butler Public School, PO Box 36, Brainard, NE 68626
402-545-2081 • meldridge@ebutler.esu7.org • EOE

WEBER FEEDYARDS, LLC Positions Available

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All positions require a valid drivers license and must be insurable under the company insurance policy. Competitive pay and benefits.

Contact Joel @ 402-641-3530

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.

POLICE CAPTAIN

The City of Seward is seeking highly-qualified applicants to fill the position for Police Captain. Salary range \$5,326 to \$6,251/mo. plus full benefits. Applicants must be 21 years old, a U.S. citizen, high school graduate or equivalent, hold a current Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center (NLETC) Certification, including Supervision Certification. Must successfully complete the NLETC Management Course within one year of hire; experience with various computer programs and their application to law enforcement functions; seven years of law enforcement experience including three years of supervision, management and municipal law enforcement; advanced courses of police techniques and administration; Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice or related field; or any equivalent combination of experience and training; possession of a valid driver's license; pass vision and physical exam determining fitness for sworn duty. Individuals claiming Veteran's Preference must include a copy of DD214 with the application. The process will include a minimum of two oral board interviews and a written essay. Civil Service Commission reserves the right to limit the number who undertake oral interview.

Job description and application form available at City Hall, P.O. Box 38; Seward, Nebraska 68434; 402-643-2928 or from City's website: www.CityofSewardNE.gov.

Applications accepted through 12:00 p.m. (noon) on April 21, 2021.

Reasonable accommodations available if 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. The City is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

City of Seward - Full-Time Position • Full Benefits

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Daily care and maintenance of parks, cemeteries, City Hall, golf course, fire station, library, senior center, athletic fields, swimming pool, and other city-owned facilities and grounds; perpetual care of graves; maintenance of streets. Physical requirements. Valid driver's license required. Applications accepted until filled. Application review begins April 23, 2021. Must meet minimum requirements.

Full 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.

CHECK OUT THE CLASSIFIEDS!

