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Wednesday
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New owner takes charge of newspaper

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

New year. New owner. Same commitment.

On Jan. 1, Kevin Zadina of Seward officially became the owner of the Seward Independent group, five newspapers in Seward and Saline counties. Although the ownership has changed, the papers' commitment to local information has not.

"We will still bring local news – city council, school board, local features – you will not get any other place in the state," Zadina said.

Zadina came to Seward from Beatrice in 2004. This was the sixth stop in his newspaper career, which started at Hastings.

He said he's always wanted to own newspapers, but the timing was right now.

"This is a good group, and that makes the purchase better," he said.

The group includes the papers in Seward, Milford, Crete, Wilber and Friend.

"All our papers have a unique position in their town, their community, their area," Zadina said. "We need to stay focused on what's important to them."

All the communities have civic pride, and Zadina said the staff will keep working to make the newspapers strong.

"We are as strong as our communities, and I feel good about that," he said.

He said having the community be a part of the paper is important and encouraged people to let the staff know



STEPHANIE CROSTON

Kevin Zadina, left, purchased the Seward Independent Group from Mark Rhoades of Enterprise Publishing in Blair. The group includes the Seward County Independent, Milford Times, Crete News, Wilber Republican and Friend Sentinel.

about upcoming events and submit information and photos if possible.

Zadina bought the papers from Enterprise Publishing in Blair, a company owned by Mark Rhoades. Rhoades bought the Seward paper from Alan Kremer in 1990 and later bought the papers in Milford, Friend, Wilber and Crete.

Rhoades said he felt now was a good time to sell because he's ready to slow down.

"Working with Kevin so many years made the decision easier," he said. "I know it's in good hands. He has the same belief in newspapers."

Rhoades has been in the newspaper business all his life. His son, Chris, is the sixth generation of Rhoadeses to be in newspapers.

Rhoades said there were a couple other newspapers available when he bought Seward.

"We made the right pick," he said.

Although he won't necessarily miss the road trips from Blair, he said he'll remember the people in the area he worked with and the big news stories each paper covered.

When Rhoades started in the business, pages were laid out using the cut and paste method – cutting out each section of text or photo and pasting them on pages. Those pages were

(continued on 3)

District waits for variant to come

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

While the Omicron variant has not made its way into the Four Corners Health Department, officials are just waiting.

Laura McDougall, executive director of Four Corners, said Dec. 30 the district's COVID-19 case numbers, including the Delta variant, are holding steady.

The new quarantine and isolation guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will change how long people have to be separated from others after testing positive for the virus.

Instead of 10 days to isolate after exposure, people must quarantine for five days. After that, if the person doesn't show any symptoms, they can go out but wear a mask for the next five days.

"Businesses can have workers

back," McDougall said.

If a person is fully vaccinated and has gotten a booster or is within six months of vaccination, they should wear a mask for the next 10 days with a test after five, McDougall said.

If they are not vaccinated or have not gotten a booster, they should quarantine for five days and then be tested, she said.

"They're trying to make sure people can get back to work sooner," she said. "We need workers at work and kids in school."

McDougall said officials are seeing a decrease in the Delta variant in the Four Corners district. However, she expects to see Omicron numbers rise.

"We are hearing it's milder," she said, "more like the flu or a cold. But it's more contagious."

She said the district is starting to see cases of influenza A. That could lead to a decrease in

healthcare workers and increase in people seeking care for the flu, covid and chronic illnesses.

"We're worried about a perfect storm," she said.

She said hospitals are hoping that doesn't happen, but they're already running into difficulties when they need to transfer patients who need more care.

Memorial Health Care Systems in Seward generally transfers its patients to hospitals in Lincoln and Omaha, but they are all full, McDougall said.

She recommended that people do what they can to avoid or limit potential exposure to the virus and its variants.

Although officials are concerned for the near future, McDougall said there is still much to celebrate.

"We did a lot of vaccinations and tests last year," she said. "We've all worked really hard."

4-H hosts annual STEM Challenge



COURTESY PHOTO

Seward County youth learned about space exploration in this year's annual 4-H STEM Challenge on Dec. 28. Shown are, from left, CJ Meinberg and University of Nebraska student Laura Perez-Villagomez (right) See more on 3.

Reduce, reuse, recycle your holiday decorations

by Meaghan Stout
design@sewardindependent.com

The holidays are wrapping up and it's time to take down the decorations.

If you had a holiday tree this year, you can take it to the Seward Recycling Center at 340 S. Seventh St.

"Trees can be taken to our recycling center and put by the cardboard building," Street/

Transportation and Recycling Superintendent Bob Miers said.

Otherwise, residents will have to work with their refuse hauler to dispose of their trees.

As for leftover string lights, if residents do not intend to keep them, they can recycle them in Lincoln.

Pat Coldiron at Liberty House Bed and Breakfast in Seward attempted

to collect and resell string lights in Seward in the past but with little success. Coldiron said she couldn't find anyone to buy the used lights. Despite the initial failure, Coldiron said she would love to restart the effort if she could find a way to make it work.

To recycle string lights, people will have to go to Lincoln and locate a collection box for

the ninth annual Green Holidays program. People can take their lights to multiple locations throughout Lincoln, including: Eastridge Elementary School at 6245 L St. in the parking lot on the southwest side of the building where there is a collection container, the Lincoln Children's Zoo overflow parking lot on 27th and A streets or to any Lincoln Fire and

Rescue Station.

The money raised from the light donations will be split up and distributed between multiple programs. Eastridge Elementary PTO will receive 50% of all money raised, Lincoln Firefighters' "Operation Warm" will receive 25% and the Science Focus Program will receive 25%.

The program in Lincoln accepts string lights

in working or non-working condition as well as extension cords and insulated wire. Wreaths with holiday lights and garland lights can only be taken to the boxes near the collection bin at the Eastridge Elementary site.

For more information on recycling holiday lights in Lincoln, go to <http://scrapcentralrecycling.com/light-drive.html>

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Truck driver shortage discussed at Rotary

by Keaton Burgess
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The trucking industry has gone through some changes recently, thanks in part to Covid-19.

Erich Helge of Seward Motor Freight spoke to the Seward Rotary about the history of Seward Motor Freight and about the issues that truck drivers around the country have had.

In the past few years, there has been a huge truck driver shortage. The trucking industry is currently 80,000 drivers short in the United States. It's projected that by the year 2026, the shortage will be up to 170,000 drivers, he said.

Helge said this shortage is due to changes that have happened over the years.

Some of the new regulations have forced companies to miss out on a lot of product due to accidents. One of the new regulations forced one trucker to have to dump a large amount of cat and dog food after the truck crashed.

"We had to take all of it to the dump," Helge said. "The new regulations are now forcing us to do that because of the



KEATON BURGESS

Seward Motor Freight, like many other places in the country, are experiencing a truck driver shortage due to many different issues.

liability that could fall on us shippers."

Other new regulations and rules are also hurting the trucking industry. Recently, Helge said, each driver had to have a transportation worker ID card or TWIC.

The TWICs ended up being an inconvenient thing to get for most truck drivers to get.

"For many years, our drivers had to go to Kansas City to get a TWIC card," Helge said. "But it wasn't at a truck stop. It was on the 13th floor of an office building in downtown Kansas City. It was difficult to find places for our truckers to park their truck and fill out the form."

Other issues that are hurting the truck driver

numbers in the United States are marijuana, cyber attacks and COVID-19 vaccinations.

Helge said new rules with marijuana affected employment.

"We do random drug testing with 50% of all of our drivers because it's a federal law," Helge said. "When you have states like Colorado that are legalizing marijuana, these guys are smoking on the weekends and then coming in on Monday and getting drug tested. So we lose a lot from that."

Cyber attacks can set a company back for a long time.

Helge said an attack in March of 2021 hit Seward Motor Freight.

"It was really bad, it killed us," Helge said. "I don't care if you think

you have the best IT person in the world, these people are good."

COVID-19 vaccinations have also been a big issue with drivers and where they are allowed to go if they are not vaccinated.

Helge said that certain places are forcing drivers to be vaccinated if they want to enter.

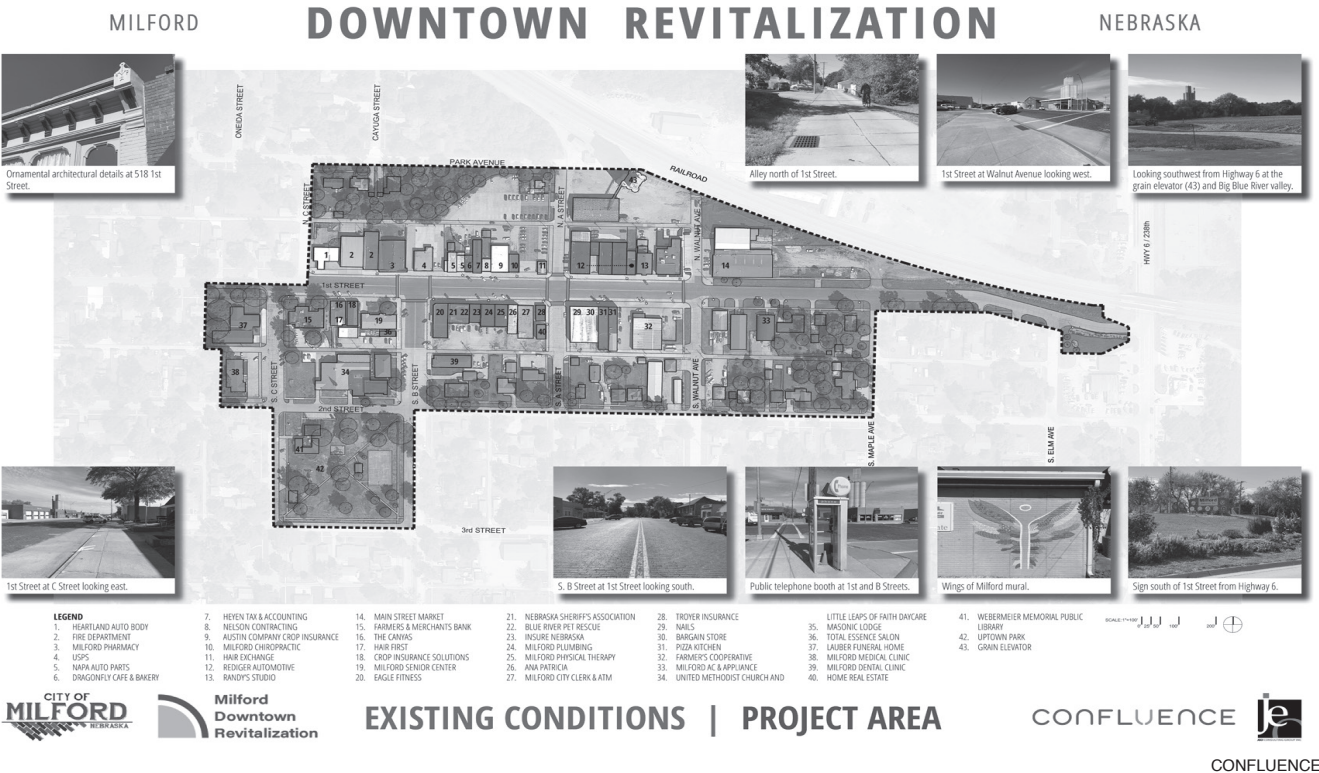
"Forty percent of all over-the-road truck drivers are vaccinated," Helge said. "There are guys who just don't want to get vaccinated. Next month, anybody who is going up into Canada is going to need to be vaccinated."

Helge said other issues like age difficulties, staged accidents and lack of truck parts are impacting the industry.



KEATON BURGESS

Erich Helge of Seward Motor Freight spoke to the Seward Rotary about the truck driver shortage many companies around the country are experiencing.



Pictured is Confluence's newest early base map for the downtown revitalization project in Milford. The project is based upon the public input in a survey and an open house.

Milford moving to next steps in downtown revitalization

by Keaton Burgess
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The city of Milford is in the process of finishing up a public survey to see what projects and new things they should focus on for the revitalization of First Street.

The survey started almost a year ago, when Mayor Patrick Kelly posted ideas on his Facebook page and went door to door to ask for the public's opinion on the project.

Kelly said he received a multitude of ideas when asking for opinions.

"At that time, I was suggesting a new splash pad and a park renovation," Kelly said. "We received a lot of really good feedback about those projects and the people of Milford

seemed to be on board."

With all of the positive feedback Kelly received, the town of Milford was able to do some fundraising for the projects.

"Along with the fundraising, we will be able to use some betterment funds for the project as well," Kelly said.

Having the splash pad and renovated park will bring more options for the kids in the warmer months.

Kelly believes these projects will benefit one business in particular.

"The new splash pad and renovated park will be a great option for the Little Leaps daycare," Kelly said. "They were on board for the idea and now they've donated to the project. We really want to thank them for that."

Along with the splash pad and park renovations, Milford has been getting other revitalization ideas from the public through an open house and a public survey.

Milford City Clerk Jeanne Hoggins said the survey is getting responses.

"It's out on our City of Milford Facebook page for anyone to take," Hoggins said. "The open house was more for broad ideas, and we're hoping the survey will bring in more specific ideas from the public."

Hoggins said once results of the survey have been taken and put together, the advisory board will meet with the city council to

review the results.

"The advisory board is made up of individuals around the community," Hoggins said.

"The board will come to the city council and present and propose ideas according to what the results are showing."

Although the survey and public input are almost over, the project is just getting started.

"This is just a planning stage right now," Hoggins said. "The next step is to apply for a grant for the project and hope to be awarded for it."

Anyone interested in taking the survey can find it on the City of Milford, NE Facebook page.

Multispecies lottery permit accepting applications

Hunters can apply for the chance to win the hunting opportunity of a lifetime.

Applications for multispecies Super Tag and Combo lottery permits will be accepted by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission beginning Jan. 2.

The Super Tag lottery permit will be valid for one elk of either sex, one antelope of either sex, one deer of either sex and two turkeys. One permit will be authorized for residents only, and one permit will be authorized for residents/nonresidents.

Persons may apply for the residents-only permit once per year for

\$25. Persons may apply for the resident/nonresident permit multiple times for \$10 per application.

The Combo permit will be valid for one antelope of either sex, one deer of either sex and two turkeys.

One permit will be authorized for residents only, and one permit will be authorized for nonresidents only. Qualifying persons may apply multiple times for \$10 per application.

Winners will be notified in fall 2022. These multispecies lottery permits will be valid in 2022 and 2023 in open seasons.



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HAPPENINGS

JANUARY 6

ONGOING

Mid-Week Movie at SML

Seward Memorial Library will host a Mid-Week Movie on Thursday, Jan. 6, at 1 p.m. Come and watch a recently released DVD on the big screen in the lower level conference room. For specific titles and questions, call the library at (402) 643-3318.

JANUARY 12

GFWC Seward Woman's Club to meet

January is officially Canine Month and the GFWC Seward Woman's Club's annual meeting program will feature the Seward Comfort Dog Nikko and his trainer Randy Newsome. The first meeting of the new year will be Wednesday, Jan. 12, and begin at 1:30 p.m. at the Seward Civic Center in the club's meeting room (the west fireplace room), at 616 Bradford Ave. in Seward. A brief business meeting, reports and "New Year" dessert will follow the program. The club welcomes new members. Guests and new potential members are welcome to attend. For more information on the meeting, contact the GFWC Seward Woman's Club President Joanna Treas at joannatreas@gmail.com.

JANUARY 19

Diabetic Support Group plans quarterly meeting

The quarterly support group meeting for diabetics and their family members will be Wednesday, Jan. 19, at noon at the Memorial Hospital meeting room A. The presentation will be "Diabetes and the Low Carb Diet" by Sarah Hanson, director of nutritional services. A light lunch will be provided. RSVP by Jan. 14 by calling (402) 646-4667. Note: Enter through the hospital front doors and take the elevator or stairs by the specialty clinic to the third floor meeting room.

Mid-Week Movie at SML

Seward Memorial Library will host a Mid-Week Movie on Wednesday, Jan. 19, at 1 p.m. Come and watch a recently released DVD on the big screen in the lower level conference room. For specific titles and questions, call the library at (402) 643-3318.

JANUARY 20

Seward Good Life Car Club to plan events

Seward Good Life Car Club meets at the Cafe on the Square to begin planning for spring and summer events. Menu available for those who care to eat. For more information, see sewardgoodlifecar.club

JANUARY 21

Registration open for St John Trivia Night

Registration is open for the 12th annual St. John PTL Trivia Night for Friday Jan 21, 2022. Ag Pavilion doors open at 5:45pm. Teams answer 10 rounds of 10 questions. Bring your own snacks, wear costumes, cash bar available. Team of eight players is \$200. Registration is open at http://tinyurl.com/stjohntrivia2022. Send questions to stjohntrivia@gmail.com or call Michelle Meyer at (402) 219-3008.

COVID-19 vaccinations are available

COVID-19 vaccinations are available by appointment at the Seward Family Medical Center. Moderna first and second dose or booster vaccinations are available to those 18 years or older. Pfizer first and second dose vaccinations are available to those 5 and older and boosters for those 18 and older. Appointments are required. Call the Seward Family Medical Center at (402) 643-4800 to schedule an appointment.

Flu shots are available

Flu shots can be obtained from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Family Medical Centers of Milford, Seward and Utica. No appointment is necessary. Walk-in Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at any of the three clinics.

SECOND TUESDAYS

Grief support group meets

Tabitha hosts a grief support group the second Tuesday of every month from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Seward. To register, call Tabitha at (402) 362-7739.

THIRD TUESDAYS

Alzheimer's group to meet

The local Alzheimer's Care Givers Support Group will meet at Kinship Pointe the third Tuesday of every month. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. If you are interested in attending, contact Rosie Beck by email at beckrmb@gmail.com.

THIRD THURSDAYS

Good Life Car Club to meet

Seward Good Life Car Club meets at the Cafe on the Square at 6 p.m. the third Thursday of the month. For more information, see sewardgoodlifecar.club

THURSDAYS

Family history questions? Society can help

Researching your family in or outside of Seward County? Looking for photographs or maps? Needing some tips on finding relatives or locating that certain piece of land? Want help understanding wills and probates? The Seward County Genealogical Society meets every Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. downstairs at the Civic Center to assist researchers and work on data bases to make researching easier.

TOPS meets weekly

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

Senior Center offers resistance band classes

The Seward Senior Center will be offering resistance band classes on Thursdays at 9 a.m. starting Jan. 6, 2022.



COURTESY PHOTO

Seward County youth learn about space exploration during the 4-H STEM Challenge on Dec. 28. The theme was Galactic Quest. The Galactic Quest kit included four activities: Astro Adventure, Stellar Optics, Cosmic Claw and Cyber Satellite. Katelin Schulte, left, and Kennedy Mainberg show the projects they worked on.

4-H: The final frontier

Quest allows youngsters to try space work

by Hanna Christensen
Seward County Independent

Seward County youth learned about space exploration through the lens of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math in this year's annual 4-H STEM Challenge on Dec. 28.

National 4-H releases a different STEM Challenge kit each year with the goal to get kids interested in STEM. This year, the theme was Galactic Quest, and youth learned about cybersecurity and cracking codes, telescopes and robots.

Two honors students from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Laura Perez-Villagomez of Omaha and Lauren Wurdeman, partnered with 4-H and were trained to lead kids in the Galactic Quest program, said 4-H extension assistant Rebecca McKay. They have been traveling to counties across Nebraska to lead the events over winter break.

"It gave the UNL honors students a chance to get involved with youth across the state, and it gave the youth an opportunity to come in and learn about the all-important STEM curriculum that we are trying to push in schools as educators ourselves," McKay said.

The Galactic Quest kit included four activities: Astro Adventure, Stellar Optics, Cosmic Claw and Cyber

Satellite. Together, they are designed to get kids to use STEM while learning about the history of humans in space, the resources and technology needed for missions and the obstacles humans face in orbit.

4-H extension assistant Cindy Wolverton said the group's favorite activity was the Cosmic Claw, in which kids built a mechanical arm that works to harvest crops in space. They used materials such as tongue depressors, plastic spoons and rubber bands to design their claw, then had a contest to see whose claw could pick up the most pom poms in 30 seconds.

The kids also watched a video of an astronaut that took them through a day at the space station and enhanced their understanding of problem solving in space. Wolverton said the lack of gravity and sunlight in space presents unique problems, and kids practiced using STEM to solve them.

The event was held at the Seward County Extension Office and was open to youth regardless of whether they are in 4-H.

Wolverton said 4-H hosts similar events throughout the year and encourages students to watch for fliers from their schools about upcoming programs.

"We're always trying to find new opportunities to provide in order to promote careers and learning opportunities within their growth and learning," she said.

Tabitha offers support groups to Seward County

Tabitha, Nebraska's industry-leading senior care provider, offers a variety of support groups throughout Seward, Saline, York, Butler, Polk, Fillmore and surrounding counties.

Helpful for many people processing their grief, grief groups give participants the opportunity to connect with others who are experiencing kindred feelings of loss. Tabitha offers multiple support groups online:

- Grieving Gracefully Book Club discusses faith-based books. The support group will begin the new year discussing C.S. Lewis' "A Grief Observed" on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month starting Jan. 11.

- Hope Book Club delves into inspirational books that exemplify others growing through grief. This club will start the year reading "Bearing the Unbearable:

Love, Loss, and the Heartbreaking Path of Grief" by Joan Cacciatore, meeting bi-weekly on Thursdays at 10 a.m., beginning Jan. 6.

- Growing through Grief is a six-week educational support group that provides its members with skills for coping with the complexity of loss while giving participants the chance to share their experiences with others. Opportunity to be done online, or in person, given interest. This event has yet to be scheduled until initial interest is noted.

If you are interested in enrolling in a grief group, contact a bereavement coordinator. Participation is free, register online at Tabitha.org/Hospice/Bereavement or call (402) 486-8506.

Tabitha also offers in-person grief support groups. Because of Covid-19, mask and social distancing rules may apply.

- Grief Support Group (Seward) is open to anyone in the community and surrounding area experiencing loss or needing support, held the second Tuesday of each month, Jan. 11 and Feb. 8, 5 p.m. at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, 1014 N. Sixth St. Call to register at (402) 362-7739.

Additionally, Tabitha is offering on-line hospice volunteer training. Hospice volunteering is a rewarding opportunity that provides companionship, pet therapy, bereavement support, respite care, office and clerical support while providing comfort and joy to Tabitha clients and families.

For questions or to learn more, contact Susan Stearns, Tabitha Hospice volunteer coordinator, at (402) 484-9983 or email Susan.Stearns@Tabitha.org.

New owner

(continued from 1)

then driven to the press, where they were photographed, the negatives burned onto metal plates which were then put on the press. Electronic transfer was a big step, Rhoades said.

Down the road, Zadini said, readers will see changes in the five papers and improvements to the websites and daily update.

"We have to adapt and move with what's going on," he said.

He's looking forward to spending more time in the two counties' towns, taking time to learn what's important to the residents.

One of the challenges the newspapers face, he said, is finding people who want to work for a newspaper and who have the skills to increase and improve the papers' social media presence.

Simply finding and hiring people is a challenge for small business

owners across the board, Zadini said.

"At times we've been as short as two reporters for five papers," he said. "We're finally getting people back in the news-room."

Rhoades said the papers have an outstanding staff.

"Without staff, we have no paper," he said.

Rhoades said the online opportunities are posing challenges for small newspapers, but he said the bigger threat is "if people quit caring about their community."

While Rhoades has sold the papers, he still owns the building in downtown Seward that houses the Independent.

Zadini has filled most roles in the newspaper. He has been a salesperson, a sports reporter and publisher. Now, he is an owner.

"I bought them because I believe in papers and am committed to be here to continue to tell your stories," he said.




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For more information contact
Boyd Navratil 402-309-6771
or
Becky Mook 402-430-4195

Spend time wisely in 2022

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

Time is a strange construct. While we know there are 365 days in a year, seven in a week, 24 hours in a day and 60 minutes in an hour, it doesn't move in a consistent manner.

Yes, each second lasts as long as every other second, but they don't always feel the same.

We say it feels like time has passed slowly or quickly. We say "that day flew by" or "that was the longest day ever."

Time seems to go more quickly when we're enjoying ourselves – on vacation, spending time with people we like or doing something we find fun. It drags by when we're bored, dreading an event or sitting through class.



Stephanie Croston
Sports editor

Maybe that last one was just me.

Anyway, we tend to have time on our minds a little more at the beginning of a new year. We set goals like spending more time with family or working on a favorite hobby or bettering ourselves somehow.

I wonder if one of our goals should be a better awareness of how we spend our time. It's interesting that the term spend, usually connected with money, is also associated with time. We have a finite amount, and we don't even know how much.

Of course, we don't want to waste time, even though we're all pretty good at that.

Unlike money, though, we can't save time. We can't put it in a bank and collect interest to extend the time we're allotted. Each day has 1,440 minutes, and once a minute is lived through, it's gone. We can't go back and redo it.

There are many minutes we'd love to go back and live over, aren't there? I can think of

hundreds in my own life – times I said something I regretted, did something I shouldn't have, didn't do something I should have – the list goes on.

But I can't go back. I can take what I learned from those minutes and try not to mis-spend future minutes.

The challenge becomes not reliving those past minutes and dwelling on the mistakes or successes we've already lived through. It's fun to remember winning an award or delivering a brilliant oration or finding success in a sporting arena. The failures are not as much fun to recall.

Time goes one direction – forward. And we've advanced into 2022. We can look back at 2021 (and previous years) to learn from them. We can't change them. We can't redo them. We can take what happened and build on it, working to make the future better than the past.

Maybe that's the best goal of all.

If this were a movie ...

by Meaghan Stout
design@sewardindependent.com

New Year's Eve, for many people in their 20s, comes with a lot of expectations.

I'm sure we've all seen a few movies or shows that portray New Year's Eve as this big important night for partying or romance and sometimes we expect our night to be the same way.

For me, I expected to have the "best night of my life" with my friend in Lincoln. I spent the day picking out the "perfect" outfit, changing at least 12 times.

Most of the day, I texted with my friend about if I should wear jeans or a skirt while she debated which shoes to wear.

Our plan was to drive out to Crete to see a few people at the bar we both work at and then head out to Lincoln around 10 p.m.

As per usual, we spent too much time choosing outfits and got to Crete late. No big deal, we could just say hello to everyone quickly and be on our way.

Except my friend decided to go see someone in town before we left. She said she would come back soon and then we could head to the bars.

Instead of coming back for me, though, she went to Lincoln without me. I checked my phone to find out she had gone with someone else.

Most people that know me don't expect me to be so easily hurt, but it felt like I was all alone in the world. My first day of the new year hadn't even started, but I was already crushed.

Maybe it wasn't a big deal, maybe I should have just driven to meet up with them, but my expectations had been so high. Now it was too late to have my



Meaghan Stout
Reporter

"perfect" night. It had already been tainted.

I spent my New Year's Eve in Crete with people I know and care about, but the whole time I just felt sad.

It wasn't what I had planned. It wasn't the night of partying and dancing I had imagined. It was just like every other night.

I don't normally like to go to bars in downtown Lincoln. I've always preferred dive bars where everyone knows each other, but I couldn't stop thinking about how to create the perfect night out.

I wanted the girls' night out that I see in movies. My expectations weren't based on reality; they were unattainable.

I thought that maybe I was missing out on something if I didn't go to a crowded bar with sticky floors and people shoving each other to get through.

I let myself get wrapped up in my own imagination of what could have been instead of focusing on what was right in front of me.

I spent the night being sad about not being able to do something that I don't even like to do, which is crazy.

Maybe it's just me, but I sometimes feel like if I don't go out and party, I'm wasting my youth. Hundreds of movies and TV shows portray people in their 20s as going out clubbing and partying, so that's how I thought my New Year's should look and I was devastated when it didn't turn out that way.

Thinking back to my night on Friday, it was, by all standards, a decent night. I started my 2022 surrounded by people I care about, the same people I see every week.

I spent most of the night being preoccupied with what other people were doing only to realize that I was right where I should've been.

It wasn't anything like a movie, it was just another night. And that's OK.

Nebraska's citizen soldiers serve in a variety of ways

by Pete Ricketts
Nebraska Governor

Over the past three years, the Nebraska National Guard has helped Nebraskans through floods, fires, and a global pandemic.



Pete Ricketts
Governor

Through it all, the Guard has proved time and again how vital they are to the citizens of our state in times of need. As Commander-in-Chief of the Nebraska National Guard, I could not be more proud of these men and women.

While generations of Nebraskans have served in the Guard, its mission changed significantly after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. Twenty-five years ago, individuals joining the Nebraska National Guard didn't expect to be deployed. Airmen and soldiers usually weren't called on to support overseas missions.

Now, they receive a much higher level of training and preparedness than in years past. Today's young women and men who join the National Guard not only know they will be deployed – they want to be deployed. They're eager to take the fight to the enemy. They're looking for opportunities to serve their fellow citizens. They're trained to do so.

The Guard has shown its versatility and value during the disasters of the past few years. It stepped up in heroic ways when Nebraska endured the 2019 floods – the most widespread natural disaster in our state's history.

Members of the Guard dropped sandbags to protect homes and businesses from rising floodwaters. They delivered hay so that ranchers could

feed their livestock.

The Guard also conducted daring rescue missions to save Nebraskans. Helicopter pilots told me the rainy and windy conditions of the flood were every bit as hazardous as flying in combat. During the floods, the National Guard saved 112 Nebraskans – 66 by helicopter hoist – and 13 pets.

A Nebraska National Guard crew won the DUSTOFF Award for performing the 2019 Rescue of the Year after pulling seven first responders out of the cold, surging waters of the Elkhorn River.

After the floods of 2019, the Nebraska National Guard again swung into action in 2020 to help their neighbors through the coronavirus pandemic. Members of the Guard volunteered to conduct coronavirus testing at Test Nebraska sites in multiple cities, seven days per week.

They served as medics, oversaw decontamination procedures, and managed traffic flows at drive-thru sites.

The Guard distributed PPE to first responders and healthcare workers across Nebraska. In total, the state delivered 18.6 million masks, 39 million sets of gloves, 5 million surgical gowns and more than 50,000 gallons of hand sanitizer.

The Guard's logistical support helped Nebraska become the first state in the country to accumulate a 120-day supply of critical PPE.

The Guard also played a key role in supporting coronavirus vaccination. Members of the Guard directly administered nearly 70,000 vaccine doses to the public.

Additionally, airmen and soldiers supported the Food Bank of Lincoln and Food Bank for the Heartland to distribute food to pantries throughout the state. Over two months in the spring of 2020,

Guard members helped package and deliver over 400,000 pounds of produce and packaged food.

This work helped families around the state put food on the table during the peak disruption period of the pandemic.

The Guard plays a leading role in the state's firefighting efforts as well. In November, I called on the National Guard to help contain the Buffalo Creek wildfire in Banner and Scotts Bluff counties. The Guard flew two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters to the blaze and dropped more than 100,000 gallons of water on the hottest spots of the fire. Their aerial firefighting capabilities played a big role in our success putting a stop to the fire before it harmed anyone.

This wasn't the only wildfire the Guard helped fight in 2021 either. Helicopter crews provided aerial assistance to combat wildfires in Holt County in June, the Hackberry wildfire near Harrison in August, and September fires south of Crawford and west of Scottsbluff.

The fantastic job done by the Guard in Nebraska is only part of its work. The Nebraska National Guard also deploys around the world to serve our country on missions vital to national security.

This spring, the 179th Cyber Protection Team returned to Nebraska after over a year of guarding the U.S. from virtual threats while stationed in Fort Meade, Maryland. About 200 Soldiers based in Columbus and Grand Island are helping to manage the humanitarian crisis on the U.S.-Mexico border.

We also have soldiers of the 67th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade serving in Africa, as well as the 1057th Military Police Company and 734th Combat Sustainment Support

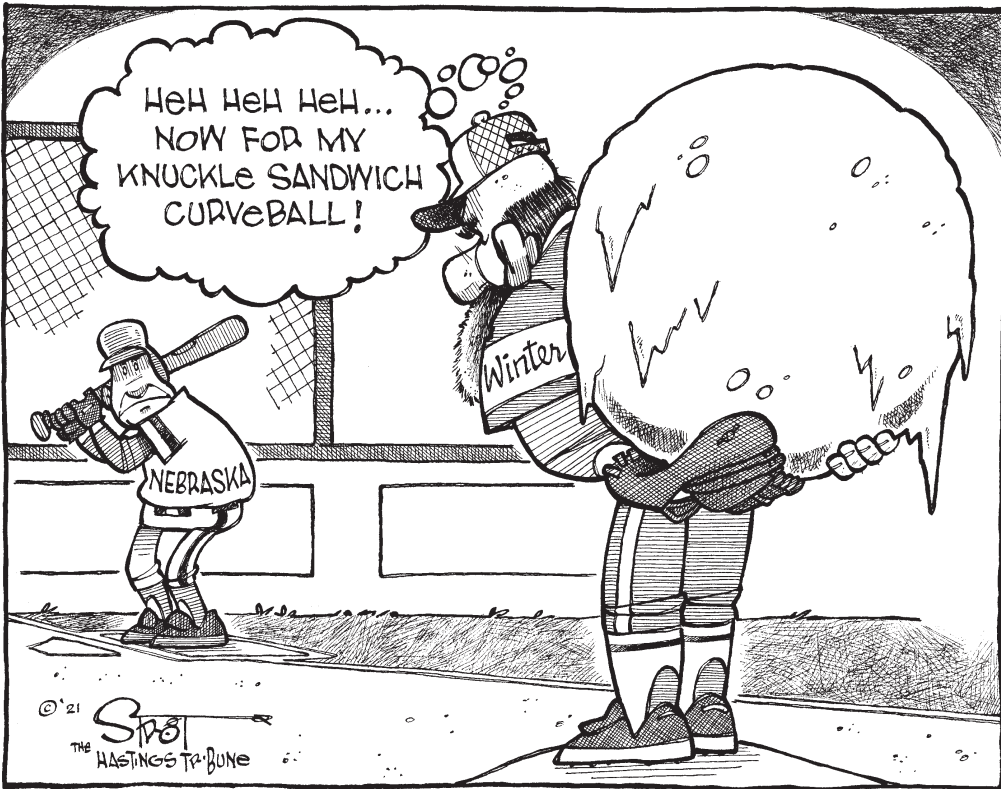
Battalion serving in Kuwait and Qatar. Members of the 192nd Military Police Detachment returned to Nebraska just in time for Christmas after a 10-month deployment to Jordan.

We're grateful to have them home for the holidays, and we pray for the safe return of all the women and men still on mission out of state.

The Nebraska National Guard is carrying on the tradition of service, sacrifice and honor that have made this the greatest country in the history of the world. Major General Daryl Bohac, Adjutant General of the Nebraska National Guard, is doing great work to prepare his Soldiers and Airmen for whatever comes their way in 2022.

On behalf of all Nebraskans, thank you to members of the Guard for your dedicated service to our state.

The Nebraska National Guard Museum in Seward tells the stories of brave Soldiers and Airmen who've served Nebraska since before the Civil War. I encourage you to make a visit. For museum hours and information go to nengm.org.



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Nebraskans play major role at Remagen in World War II

by Gerald D. “Jerry” Meyer
NENG Historian

Seventy-five years ago during World War II in Europe, the Germans were falling back toward a stand along the Siegfried Line and the Rhine River. Allied forces had just defeated the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge (December 1944-January 1945) and were pushing east to link up with the Russians.

On March 7, 1945, American forces came over the bluff looking down into the Rhine River valley near the village of Remagen and saw the Ludendorff Bridge was left intact and a perfect path to cross into the heart of Germany. Two Nebraska soldiers played a vital part in the battle on that day 75 years ago.

Lt. Karl Timmerman, 27th Armored Infantry Battalion, was born in Germany and later moved to West Point. His unit was part of the 9th Armored Division that the Germans called the “Phantom Division” because they believed it had been destroyed in the Battle of the Bulge. Timmerman took command of Able Company on March 6 when his commander was wounded on the push to the Rhine River. His company was given the mission of securing the other side of the bridge and opening a path directly into Germany, saving lives and shortening the war.

As his company formed to assault the intact bridge, the Germans set off explosives on the bridge just after noon on March 7. As the smoke cleared, the Allies looked on in astonishment...the bridge was still intact! As the Germans tried to set more charges, Timmerman's understrength company assaulted across the bridge.

One non-commissioned officer, Sgt. Alexander Drabik of Ohio, sprinted across with his squad (he was the first American soldier to step foot across the Rhine). Timmerman led his company as they split off to kill German engineers planting explosives and cutting charges and throwing them into the river. Soon Timmerman and his company were



COURTESY PHOTO

Lt. Karl Timmerman (1922-1951) of West Point became a national hero in World War II for leading the assault across the Ludendorff Bridge at Remagen. His courage under fire saw him awarded the Distinguished Service Cross (just below the Medal of Honor) for his actions on March 7, 1945.

consolidated on the western side of the bridge without any support. That was about to change. Capt. (later Major) John Cattle, Sr., of Seward, 34th Field Artillery Battalion, 9th Infantry Division Artillery was setting up his battery on the bluffs overlooking the valley to provide covering fire for the infantry assaulting the bridge.

Cattle was a seasoned artilleryman from battles in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and France. His M101A1 towed (105mm) howitzers were laid in and started to fire in support of Timmerman's company on the west side of the river. They laid in white phosphorous and regular smoke rounds to provide some cover and allow the engineers to repair damage to the bridge to bring over armor to support the assault.

When the Germans looked to counterattack and push Timmerman back over the bridge, Cattle switched to high explosive rounds to drive the enemy back. Infantry units of the 9th Infantry Division rushed to support the bridgehead and push to the bluffs on the other side. Cattle laid artillery ahead of the assaulting infantry to allow them to take the high ground and consolidate the breakout.

In the first 24 hours, over 8,000 light infantry scrambled across.

Once the bridge was repaired, Cattle and his artillerymen were the first units of the 9th Infantry Division to cross and set up supporting fire on the west side of the river. The bridge continued to allow the Allies to cross (9th, 78th and 99th Infantry Divisions) before it collapsed into the Rhine River on March 17, 1945.

Timmerman was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions on that day. Cattle received a Bronze Star for his service during the war. Both Nebraskans played a major role in creating an entry point into the heartland of Germany across the Rhine River 75 years ago during World War II.

On March 7, 1995, Timmerman Park was dedicated in West Point in his honor (he died of cancer during the Korean War). On July 4, 2016, the John W. Cattle, Sr. Exhibit Area was dedicated at the Nebraska National Guard Museum in Seward in his honor (he passed away in 1999). Some of Cattle's artifacts on display in the museum include the M1911 .45 caliber service pistol he carried throughout the war.

Jenny’s REESources

Upcoming programs offer variety

by Jenny Rees
Seward/York counties Extension educator

Happy New Year! Wishing everyone a safe and blessed 2022! This week I'm going to share some info on upcoming ag programs for the month of January.

The end of the year also means report time for those of us in Extension. Each year we need to justify the things we do in trying to help people with research-based information. If you would, please consider helping me by completing this short five-question survey at <https://app.sli.do/event/bWKk-1cPhRG5MsLmu3Y7vkR/live/polls>. I'd greatly appreciate it.



Jenny Rees
Extension
Educator

York Ag Expo will be Jan. 6-7 at the Holthaus Convention Center in York. Thank you to all the vendors and the sponsors of this event. An Ag Appreciation Lunch will begin each day at 11:30 a.m. and is sponsored by Cornerstone Bank. Pesticide Training will be at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 6 and Chemigation Training will be at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 7. RSVP to (402) 362-5508 or jrees2@unl.edu if you plan to attend either of these.

Crop Production Clinics are back in person this year with a larger number of locations to attend. The closest to this area are Beatrice on Jan. 13, Hastings on Jan. 19, ENREC near Ithaca on Jan. 21, Kearney on Jan. 25, York on Jan. 26 and a virtual option on Jan. 28. There's still the pest management room which provides for com-

mercial, non-commercial and private applicator pesticide certification and the crop/soil/water room.

We've also worked to create a few highly interactive sessions and will look forward to hearing feedback regarding them. You can learn more and register at <https://agronomy.unl.edu/cpc>.

Cow-Calf College will be Jan. 25 at the Clay County Fairgrounds from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration starts at 9 a.m. This year's program will be offered in a hybrid format through zoom and attendance in person.

The 2022 Cow-Calf College will start with an in-depth look at eastern red cedar control in the morning. The afternoon will have updates by beef cow-calf specialist, Kacie McCarthy, and a special presentation by Tom Field focusing on ways to engage youth in the beef industry.

This year's program provides flexibility. For those only interested in red cedar control, you can attend the morning session, which includes development of management plans, effective integration of management tools and use of new rangeland monitoring platforms.

Those interested in bull management and strategies for transitioning the next generation of beef producers and professionals can attend the afternoon sessions. All the sessions will be offered in-person and available via zoom.

For those attending in person, lunch will be provided for those who register by calling the Fillmore County Extension Office at (402) 759-3712 or Clay County Extension Office at (402) 762-3644 or online at go.unl.edu/frcollege. To participate via zoom, register at go.unl.edu/onlinecowcalfcollege.

Commissioners office considers ARPA spending

by Keaton Burgess
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Seward County Board of Commissioners approved a new position for the Veteran Services Office and discussed possibilities for uses of the American Rescue Plan Act funds.

The board approved a new, part-time assistant position for the Veteran Service Office. The assistant would help out with many items such as front desk work and other administrative needs.

Seward County Clerk Sherry Schweitzer said that Veteran Services Officer Matt Starkey came to the board to propose the position.

“Matt is also the Transit director, which can make him busy at times, so he came to the board asking for the position,” Schweitzer said. “He told us it would be a big help.”

The commissioners also discussed the possibilities of what to spend the ARPA funds on. ARPA provides relief funds to state and local governments that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

Schweitzer said that Seward County is struggling to determine how the county should spend the funds.

“Other counties are also struggling to find things to spend the money on,” Schweitzer said. “Most smaller counties want to spend it on something differ-

ent than they allow, like infrastructure.”

Although the ARPA funds do allow counties to make improvements to their infrastructure with water and sewage systems, it does not allow them to use it on other types of infrastructure such as streets and bridges.

With smaller counties wanting to spend the funds on other items, the Nebraska Association of County Officials is looking into getting the rules changed. If the rules would be changed, County Commissioner John Culver proposed some changes near Milford.

“I attended the NACO Conference, and they might be allowing us to use the ARPA funds on other infrastructure like roads and bridges,” Culver said. “If that ends up happening, I suggested to the commissioners that we use some of the funds on a bypass near Milford.”

The bypass would make it so that trucks wouldn't have to drive through Southeast Community College in Milford.

“There's been talk for years about making a bypass down that way,” Culver said. “Trucks going through that area has always been a safety issue, so this would fix that. It would also help Milford develop more in that direction.”

NACO has not made their final decision on expanding the funds.

New program offers cost-sharing for NRD Landscape Tree Program

A new cost-sharing program to help landowners with the purchase of a tree was approved by the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District Board of Directors when it met Dec. 15.

Beginning Jan. 12, 2022, landowners can apply to plant a tree on their land through the new Landscape Tree Program, then be reimbursed for 75% of the cost, up to \$115. Upon approval of the application and planting of the tree by the applicant, LPSNRD will inspect the planting and authorize reimbursement.

The new program is open to owners of land throughout the district, which includes most of Lancaster and Cass counties and smaller parts of Butler, Saunders, Otoe and Seward counties.

The program is based on LPSNRD's popular Community Forestry Program, which provides cost-sharing on multiple trees for community groups and local governments. The NRD also sells seedling trees in bulk, but the new Landscape Tree Program offers cost-sharing to landowners on the purchase of

one larger tree.

The new Landscape Tree Program is limited to 85 applicants per year, and each applicant or location may only benefit from the program once yearly. Landscape Tree Program rules, an application form and other guidelines will be posted, starting Jan. 12, at LPSNRD.org, click on Programs/Trees.

The board also approved new subdistrict boundaries. LPSNRD is divided into 10 subdistricts, each with two elected board members. An at-large member is also elected, to make a total of 21 board members who meet publicly each month. Every 10 years, the most recent U.S. Census data is used to re-draw subdistricts, in compliance with state statutes.

The newly approved boundaries will be in effect for the 2022 primary and general elections. Twelve board seats will be up for election. Candidate filing begins Jan. 5. Incumbents must register their candidacy with the Nebraska Secretary of State on or before Feb. 15. The non-incumbent's deadline is March 1 and the primary election is

May 10. A primary election will be held for an LPSNRD board seat only if more than two candidates file for the seat. Board members must live in the subdistrict they represent.

A revised, interactive subdistrict map will be posted as soon as possible at LPSNRD.org. The map can be zoomed to specific addresses to determine the subdistrict of that address.

In other business the board:

- Approved modifications to its Operating and Personnel Policies related to non-public financial donations, overtime and compensatory time, employment of family members and holidays
- Received a report from USDA/NRCS outlining good progress with fall field work and the processing of 51 Cover Crop Program cost-sharing applications

The next scheduled board meeting will be Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022, starting at 2 p.m. at the NRD office, 3125 Portia St., Lincoln. The public is invited to attend. Monitor LPSNRD.org for announcements about board and subcommittee meetings.



Celebrating?

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

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Time approaches to file for elections

Filing deadlines are coming up for the 2022 primary and general elections.

Incumbents can file for the primary election from Jan. 5 to Feb. 15. Non-incumbents have until March 1 to file.

Filing for the general election is Jan. 15 to July 15 for incumbents and Jan. 5 through Aug. 1 for non-incumbents.

National and state offices up for election in 2022 include U.S. House of Representatives District 1, governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state treasure, auditor of public accounts, Legislature District 24, Public Service Commission District 4, State Board of Education District 5, Southeast Community College District 1, Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District Subdistricts 1-8 and at-large director, Lower Platte South NRD Subdistrict 1 and at-large director and Norris Public Power District District 13 which includes Precincts B, C, E, K, M-Beaver Crossing and M-Cordova.

Polk Public Power District which includes part of D Precinct and Perennial Public Power District which includes part of E Precinct will

be selected in the general election only.

Local offices up for election include county assessor, county attorney, county clerk, clerk of the district court, county sheriff, county surveyor, county treasurer, Commissioner District 1 which is Precincts J, N and O including Milford, county treasurer, Commissioner District 3 which includes Precincts C, D, E, F, K, L and M and Commissioner District 5 which includes Wards 1 and 2 in the city of Seward.

In Seward, the mayor, representatives for all four wards and the Seward Airport Authority will be elected. In Milford, representatives for wards 1 and 2 will be on the ballot.

Each of the county's villages will elect board representatives including Beaver Crossing (2), Bee (3), Garland (2), Goehner (2), Cordova (2), Pleasant Dale (2), Staplehurst (2) and Utica (2).

Each of the county's school districts will elect three board members.

For filing information, contact the Seward County Clerk's office at (402) 643-2883 or at countyofsewardne.com.

SourceLink Nebraska helps entrepreneurs, business owners find needed resources

Rural Prosperity Nebraska, a division of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, has partnered with the Nebraska Business Development Center at the University of Nebraska-Omaha to launch SourceLink Nebraska.

The online platform – at sourcelinknebraska.com – offers more than 870 resources from approximately 500 organizations across the state to help entrepreneurs and business owners create and expand their businesses.

"SourceLink Nebraska is a one-stop shop of resources for entrepreneurs and business owners that can help an entrepreneur or business owner start, accelerate or grow a business," said Scott Asmus, SourceLink Nebraska's network builder.

As one of RPN's objectives is to help rural communities prosper, teaming with SourceLink Nebraska was a natural fit. The central repository for business development resources will include startup guides, growth guides, capital guides, a calendar with event listings across the state, and a video library for entrepreneurs and business owners.

In this vein, SourceLink Nebraska becomes the newest tool to augment RPN tools for community development. To strengthen activity and quality of life in rural communities, RPN combines the expertise of Extension educators with the experience of community leaders and efforts of

student fellows.

This collaborative effort across all walks of life helps Nebraska's rural communities become more vibrant.

Krasser receives Quilt of Valor



COURTESY PHOTO

A Quilt of Valor was awarded to Arnold Krasser, a member of Cordova Legion Post 359, during his family's Thanksgiving gathering on Nov. 25. Krasser served in the army from 1967-69 and was stationed in Vietnam. His quilt was made by his friends, Deb Due and Pat Becker, and provided by the Nebraska Piecemakers and Phyllis Schoenholz, South Central Coordinator. Krasser is shown with his quilt and seven of his 11 siblings.

Anglers must be aware of fishing regulation changes for 2022

Anglers must be aware of fishing regulation changes that take effect Jan. 1, according to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

The changes are:

Black Bass – The area where no minimum length limit on smallmouth bass is required has expanded to the Nebraska Public Power District Canal starting at the Sutherland Reservoir outlet to the confluence with the South Platte River in Lincoln County; this includes Lake Maloney. Bufflehead Wildlife Management Area and David City Ponds are added to

the list of waters where the minimum length limit on black bass is 21 inches.

Striped Bass, White Bass and Striped Bass Hybrid

– Wagon Train Reservoir is removed from the list of waters where the exception for bag limit is three fish in the daily bag.

Channel Catfish

– Box Butte Reservoir is added to the list of waters where the bag may not include more than one fish 30 inches or greater in length.

Lake McConaughy

– It is illegal to possess wipers on Loneran Creek from its junction at the McConaughy lakeshore upstream to,

and including, the culvert under Highway 92.

No Live Baitfish – DeFair Lake WMA in Grant County was added to the list of waters where it is illegal to use or possess live baitfish.

Anglers can read the 2022 Fishing Guide when it is available in January at OutdoorNebraska.org.

Dorothy Schweitzer
100th Birthday



Dorothy Schweitzer is turning 100 on January 13. Help her celebrate by sending a card to:
**1110 N. 2nd St.
Seward, NE 68434**

Lois (Timoney) Semin
is turning 90 on January 11!

Her family is celebrating with an open house on Sunday, Jan. 9, 1-5 p.m. at the Seward VFW 234 S. Ninth St.

Cards may be sent to:
**1030 Manor Dr. West
Apt. 109
Seward, NE 68434**

*Love,
Lori, Dona, Lisa,
Mari & families*





WHEN IT'S COLD OUTSIDE...
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If someone you love is experiencing memory loss, you may be concerned about them living on their own, especially during the cold winter months. Put your mind at ease and plan ahead with a Winter Stay at CountryHouse.

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*Base rent waived only, health-related costs are not waived, unless an all-inclusive package is chosen. Winter Stay rooms are available while they last on a first-come, first-served basis. A refundable deposit is required to hold a room. Move-in must occur no more than 30-days after deposit.

Rudbeckia ‘Sunbeckia Ophelia’ is Best of Show

by Sarah Browning
Lancaster County Extension educator

One of the most enjoyable ways for gardeners to get through the dark, cold days of winter is to begin planning next summer’s gardens.

Over the next few weeks, we’ll look at plants – annuals, perennials, edibles, trees and shrubs – to consider for addition to your gardens this summer.

First, we’ll look at the top performers in Colorado State University’s 2021 flower trials. The purpose of CSU’s trial gardens is to evaluate the performance of annuals and perennials under stressful Rocky Mountain growing conditions, which include intense sun, drying winds, severe hailstorms, large fluctuations between day and night temperatures and dry growing conditions.

Sounds a lot like Nebraska. Plants are evaluated on vigor, abundance of flowers, tolerance to environmental stress and disease resistance.

The trial gardens, located on CSU’s Fort Collins campus, are open to the public and definitely worth a visit. The gardens are beautiful and plants are labeled,



COURTESY PHOTO

Rudbeckia ‘Sunbeckia Ophelia’ has very large yellow flowers, which glow in the sun and create a solid mass of eye-catching color in the garden. It was one of the top performers in Colorado State University’s 2021 flower trials.

allowing visitors to stroll and decide which plants they like best.

Top perennial performer

One section of the CSU trial program focusses on newly released – three years or less – perennial cultivars (cultivated

variety). Each cultivar is allowed to overwinter twice and is evaluated for the characteristics mentioned above. One of this year’s top picks is ‘Firefly Sunshine’ Achillea, commonly known as yarrow.

Firefly Sunshine plants have a compact

Seven important steps to winterize a lawn mower

With winter months ahead, it is important to consider taking time and preventative care for a gas-powered lawn mower at either the end of the mowing season or at the start of spring.

Doing this will improve the lawn mower’s overall lifespan and performance, in turn saving time and money come springtime. These are some necessary steps to winterizing a lawn mower that will ensure a smoother mowing process.

Empty the gas tank

Leaving unused gas in your lawn mower all winter long makes the gas stale, which in turn gums up the carburetor and potentially allows for the possibility of things rusting. If this is the case, do not panic. Simply add some fuel stabilizer to the tank, then run the mower to distribute it through the system.

Turn the mower off and allow the engine to cool, then empty the excess gas into a clean can. Restart the mower and let it run until the engine stops. Continue to repeat this process until the mower no longer starts, indicating fuel lines are empty.

Disconnect the spark plug

Some lawn mower maintenance advice suggests that homeowners should remove and sharpen the lawn mower blades next. It is important to note that you should disconnect the spark plug first, preventing the lawn mower from accidentally kick-starting and potentially leading to serious injury.

Regardless, a dirty spark plug, or one that is coming loose, will ensure your mower performs inefficiently. It will waste fuel, run choppy, be difficult to start and will likely chew up rather than smoothly cut your lawn. Follow the proper protocol to clean your spark plug after carefully disconnecting it.

If the engine doesn’t start after that cleaning, it’s time for a new spark plug. One heads up... if your old spark plug is covered, in part, by a white oily substance, you may have a fuel leak.

You do not have to replace your spark plug with a new one every year. However, it only takes about two minutes and costs a few bucks, plus it ensures you have a good spark when starting your lawn mower.

Remove and sharpen the blade

Once the spark plug is removed, it is safe to remove the lawn mower blade and sharpen it. A sharpened blade reaps benefits for your lawn as it not only cuts grass cleanly so your lawn can recover quickly, but it also reduces the time and effort spent mowing your lawn. The blade needs to be sharpened every year.

To remove the blade, you will need to loosen the single nut or bolt holding the blade on. These bolts are usually very tight, so use a breaker-bar or long handle wrench with a socket to match the bolt. This will also keep your knuckles at a greater distance from the blade as you bear down on it. If your bolts are really stuck or rusted, apply penetrating oil and wait 10 minutes for it to soak in.

When the blade is removed, decide whether to sharpen or replace it. If you decide to sharpen it, use a 10-inch-long mill bastard hand file. Always sharpen from the top side of the cutting edge as it will give you a longer lasting edge on the blade.

Drain the oil

An oil change is a must to protect the engine of your mower. First determine if your lawn mower has a 4-cycle or 2-cycle engine. Oil is mixed with the gas if your mower has a 2-cycle engine. If your mower has a 4-cycle engine, you will need to change

the oil. Your owner’s guide will help you find the right replacement oil and assist you with the process.

Anticipate oil spattering, so have a tarp and pan ready to catch oil and keep things from getting too messy. Set your mower on its side with the air filter and carburetor facing up so that oil and gas residue don’t spill into them. Next, remove the oil reservoir plug and slowly tilt the mower until oil drains into the pan.

Clean the undercarriage

A dirty deck is a major problem that can easily result in both corrosion and inferior cutting. Cleaning the undercarriage of your mower keeps it from rusting, clears the discharge chute passage-way and allows the deck to work the way it was designed, making your lawn mowing routine easier.

Change the air filter

It is likely your mower’s air filter is inhibiting peak performance. The best approach is to change the mower’s air filter before cutting your first blade of grass in the spring. This allows your engine to burn gas efficiently and doesn’t restrict air needed for combustion. Determine if your mower has a paper filter or an oil-soaked sponge filter.

If it has a paper filter, replace it with a new one, paper edges facing out. If it has an oil-soaked sponge filter, you will first need to remove it, wash it out with soap and water, let it completely dry out and then apply a small amount of clean oil to it before putting it back in the mower.

Replace the spark plug

Finally, replace the spark plug on your lawn mower. Again, using a new spark plug is only a few dollars and will ensure a smoother start for your mower.

upright growth habit. In the CSU trials, flower stems did not lodge (fall over), even under continued overhead irrigation. The flowers are bright yellow, which contrasts well against dark green foliage. It was also noted during the trials, the plants did not spread themselves around the garden as other yarrows are prone to do.

Plant in full sun with average garden soil. Avoid very rich soil. Plants reach a height of 28-30 inches, with a spread of 24-28 inches.

Once the initial flush of flowers has faded, cut plants back by half and allow them to regrow

for another round of color.

“Best Of” Annuals

Several annual selections were chosen with great characteristics worthy of consideration.

Best of Show – Rudbeckia ‘Sunbeckia Ophelia’ has very large yellow flowers, which glow in the sun and create a solid mass of eye-catching color in the garden. This annual black-eyed Susan requires no pinching. New layers of flowers cover up older ones, in effect “burying the dead.” Plants reach a 20-24 inches height and 15-20 inches width. Choose a full to partial sun location with well-drained soil.

Best Novelty – Heliotropium ‘Augusta Lavender’ has soft lavender flowers with a yellow eye, which are quite showy and bring a light fragrance to the afternoon landscape. Heat and humidity tolerant, it performs best in full to partial sun locations. Plants have good uniformity, reaching 12-24 inches height and 24-36 inches spread, with a mounded growth habit. A favorite of pollinators.

Sarah Browning is an Extension educator with Nebraska Extension and can be contacted by phone (402) 441-7180 or by e-mail sarah.browning@unl.edu.

AREA CHURCHES

Calvary Baptist Church

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

www.cbcseward.com

Sunday School (all ages).....10:00 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship11:00 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Prayer/Bible Study..... 7:00 p.m.

Church of Christ

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

www.sewardchurchofchrist.com

Sunday Worship 9:30 & 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday Bible Study (Small groups) 6:30 p.m.

Faith Lutheran Church (ELCA)

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

www.faithseward.org

Pastor Miles Ruch Jr.

Service available on Facebook.

Sunday Worship9:15 a.m.
Sunday School10:15 a.m.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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

www.goodshepherd-milford.org

Pastor Steve Stork

Sunday School—PreK–4th Grade
(during school year)9:00 a.m.
Sunday Adult Bible Study.....9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship10:00 a.m.
Monday Worship 6:30 p.m.
Adult Bible Study.....Thurs. 8:30 a.m.
Confirmation Class
(during school year)Wed. 6:30 p.m.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS)

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

www.graceseward.org

Pastor Mark A. Haefner

Sunday Bible Class8:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship8:45 a.m.
Sunday School and Fellowship.....9:45 a.m.

Great Plains Community Church

1155 May St. • Goehner • 402-730-2594

Pastor Galen Skinner

Sunday Worship10:00 a.m.
Wednesday Night, Adult Bible Studies,
Children and Teen Activities..... 7:00 p.m.

Hillcrest Evangelical Free Church

2433 Progressive Road • Seward • 402-643-2316

Senior Pastor Curt Coddington

Administrative Pastor Brant Taylor

Worship Pastor Kyle Soflin

Youth Pastor Zach Mulvihill

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

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (LCMS)

1042 May St. • Goehner • 816-308-7859

Pastor James Dahlke

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

Lighthouse Pentecostal Church

201 S. 11th St. • Seward • 402-937-8377

Pastor Timothy Daywitt

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

Living Word Lutheran Church (LCMC)

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

www.livingwordseward.org

Pastor Scott Krohn

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.
Traditional; Communion 1st & 3rd Sundays
Words on Wednesday (WOW).....4:00 p.m.
.....Meal 5:30 p.m.
Varied activities by age, from youth to adults

To find out how to list your church, call 402-643-3676

Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church

(AALC)

Partner in ministry with the

Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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

www.mightyfortress.us • Like us on Facebook

Interim Pastor Norman Porath

Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church (LCMS)

3.5 miles west of Staplehurst • 402-535-2625

Pastor Shawn Kitzing

Worship (church in the country).....9:00 a.m.
Sunday School (school in Staplehurst)..... 10:30 a.m.
Bible Class (school in Staplehurst) 10:30 a.m.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

401 Dimery • Beaver Crossing • 402-532-2545

Msrgr. Mark Huber

Saturday Mass5:00 p.m.
Confessions 30 minutes before Mass
Mon., Tue., Thurs., Fri. Mass.....8:00 a.m.

Seward United Methodist Church

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

Rev. Dr. Mary Kay Totty, Lead Pastor

Rev. JoEllen Axthelm, Associate Pastor

Sunday Traditional Worship
(in person and online) 8:00 a.m.
Sunday Small Groups 9:15 a.m.
Sunday Praise Worship
(in person and online) 10:30 a.m.

St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church

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

Rev. Pam Williams

Sunday Worship (in person & online).... 10:30 a.m.
Clergy office hrs..... Wed. by appt.

St. John Lutheran Church (LCMS)

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

www.stjohnseward.org

Pastor Scott Bruick • Pastor David Rempfer

Deaconess Jeri Morrison

Saturday Worship5:30 p.m.
Sunday Worship.8:30 & 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Education Hour 10:00 a.m.

St. John’s Lutheran Church (LCMS)

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

Pastor Brian Tuma

Sunday Worship.9:00 a.m.
Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

St. Patrick’s Catholic Church

110 3rd St. • Utica • 402-532-2545

Msrgr. Mark Huber

Sunday Mass9:00 a.m.
Confessions 30 minutes before Mass
Wednesday Mass 7:00 a.m.

St. Paul Lutheran Church (LCMS)

1100 ‘D’ St. • Utica • 402-534-2200

Pastor Jon Dunbar

Pastor of Visitation: Pastor Terry Groth

Sunday Worship9:00 a.m.
Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church

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

www.stvincentseward.org / See our FB page

Msrgr. Robert Tucker

Saturday Evening Mass.....5:30 p.m.
Sunday Mass.8:00 & 10:00 a.m.
Confessions 30 minutes before each Mass

The Rock (LCMS)

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

therockseward.org • info@therockseward.org

Pastor Michael Meyer

Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.

Zion Lutheran Church (LCMS)

370 4th St. • Garland • 402-588-2229

Zionlcms@revdobb.com

Pastor David Dobbertien

Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

Obituaries

Sheila M. Franks

July 22, 1973 – Dec. 24, 2021

Sheila Marie Franks of Lincoln was born July 22, 1973, to Mike McBride and Molly Mullin in Baraboo, Wisconsin.

She graduated from Bridgeport High School. On Oct. 30, 2010, Sheila was united in marriage to Jake Franks in Lincoln. She worked as an office manager at Elegant Optics. In her free time, she enjoyed being outdoors, painting and doing crafts. She was always willing to help others when needed. Sheila passed away Dec. 24, 2021, in Lincoln, at the age of 48 years, 5 months and 2 days.

She is survived by her husband, Jake Franks, Lincoln; parents, Mike McBride, Winner, South Dakota, and Molly (Tom) Mullin, Mount Vernon, Washington; siblings, Bobby McBride, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Roger Mullin, Portland, Oregon, Casey Mullin, Bellingham, Washington, and April Mullin, Oroville, Washington; children, Allyssa Rodgers, Lincoln, and Jessica Rodgers; grandchildren, Bentley Hecht and Lillian Hecht; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Mike and Jo Franks, Utica; brother-in-law, Jeremiah Franks, Bellingham, Washington; grandmother-in-law, LaDean Rieger, Utica; and numerous relatives. Sheila was preceded in death by her son, Dustin Pane.

A memorial service was Dec. 30 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Utica. Memorial contributions are suggested in care of the Franks family in lieu of flowers. Condolences may be left for the family online at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.



Bennett “Benny” L. Engel

Dec. 27, 1946 – Dec. 31, 2021

Bennett “Benny” Lee Engel was born Dec. 27, 1946, in Wayne to Bennett and Frances (Johnston) Engel, and passed away peacefully on Friday, Dec. 31, 2021, at his home near Beaver Crossing at the age of 75.

As a young boy, Benny and his family moved to Beaver Crossing, where he attended Beaver Crossing Public School and was a 1965 graduate. He was employed with Hughes Bros. in Seward and later with the Farmers’ Cooperative of Beaver Crossing until his retirement in 1992. Benny later farmed with his father for a period of time. He was united in marriage to Laurel Stutzman in 1966 and to this union, two sons, Scott and Shawn, were born. Benny bartended part-time at the Lloyd’s Beaver Lounge and at the American Legion. He married Marilyn Law in 1976 and together resided in Beaver Crossing. Benny worked for Phil Müller, a close friend of the family east of Beaver Crossing and other farmers who needed a helping hand. Benny was always willing to help other people and rarely said no. He was the sextant and held the records for the Beaver Crossing Cemetery for many years. He was blessed to find Nance Percival and on Feb. 27, 2002, they were married in Seward and a daughter, Meggan, joined the family. He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion of Beaver Crossing. Benny enjoyed gardening, tending to his farm animals, feeding his birds, his fish ponds and taking great pride with his yard. Benny’s personality was infectious and made people around him feel welcome. He was a loving and thoughtful man and had a great sense of humor.

Survivors include his wife, Nance, Beaver Crossing; sons and daughter-in-law, Scott and Barb Engel of Utica and Shawn Engel of Milwaukee, Wisconsin; daughter and son-in-law, Meggan and Jeff Weber, Friend; grandchildren, Sydney Engel and fiancé, Luke Post, Michaela Engel and fiancé, Jacob Young, Chelsie Engel, Kylie and Justin Weber, Justin (Clarissa) Mueller, Karri Anne (Chris) Hager, Andy (Rachel) Kunert, Josh Kunert and Jessica Stutzman; brother-in-law, Norman Percival; sister-in-law, Kim Hodgen, all of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, many cousins and a host of other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Beth Engel; former wife, Marilyn; grandson, Jordan Czajkowski; granddaughter, Alex Weber; and a sister-in-law, Norma Jean Menke.

It was Benny’s wishes that there would be no service, however, a visitation for Benny will be Thursday, Jan. 6, at the Beaver Crossing United Methodist Church from 2 to 8 p.m. where family will receive friends and relatives from 5 to 7 p.m. Memorial contributions are suggested to the family for future designation. Condolences may be left for the family online at lauberfh.com.



Donald O. Butzke

Dec. 1, 1930 – Dec. 28, 2021

Donald Otto Butzke of Seward was born Dec. 1, 1930, to Walter and Elsa (Gierhan) Butzke in Seward.

On June 9, 1957, Don was united in marriage to Janice Martens at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Utica. He worked at Volzke Well Drilling and for the Village of Utica. Don served on the Utica Volunteer Fire Department for 57 years. In his free time, he enjoyed woodworking, fishing and watching sports. He especially enjoyed having coffee with the boys at Bronco Spur.

Don passed away Dec. 28, 2021, in Seward at the age of 91 years and 27 days.

He is survived by his children, Kevin (Traci) Butzke, York, Christopher (Robin) Butzke, Beaver Crossing, Darin Butzke, David City, Robin (Robert) Ratcliffe, Lincoln, and Karen Anthony, Lincoln; sister, Justine Luecke, Florida; brother-in-law, Tom (Jackie) Martens, Columbus; sister-in-law, Inez (Don) Scherer, Lincoln; grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Don was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Elsa Butzke; wife, Janice Butzke; parents-in-law; daughter, Kathryn Butzke; granddaughter, Brook Eden; brother, Wilfred Butzke; and sister, Leora Dittmar.

The funeral service was Jan. 5 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Utica with interment at the Utica Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to the church or the Utica Fire Department. Condolences may be left for the family online at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.



Bryce L. Clausen

Nov. 16, 1939 – Dec. 29, 2021

Bryce Lowell Clausen of Utica was born Nov. 16, 1939, to Hans and Retha (Miller) Clausen in Friend.

He graduated from Utica High School in 1958. Bryce served in the United States Army from Jan. 8, 1960 – Dec. 20, 1962. On June 6, 1964, Bryce was united in marriage to Karen vonFange at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Utica. He was a truck driver for Richter Bros., Ricenbaw and Crete Carrier. He was also an owner/operator for Dahlsten. He received the 1,000,000-mile safe driver award while with Dahlsten. Bryce ended his 38-year career as a grain hauler for Utica Co-op using his own tractor/trailer, retiring in 2012.

Bryce enjoyed family vacations every summer and in his free time, he enjoyed listening to country music, watching old westerns, bird watching and being outside. He especially enjoyed spending time with his family. He was a member of Utica Jaycees, Utica Volunteer Fire Department and Utica V.F.W. Post 49. Bryce passed away Dec. 29, 2021, in Lincoln at the age of 82 years, 1 month and 13 days.

He is survived by his wife, Karen Clausen, Utica; son, Steve (Andrea) Clausen, Lincoln; daughter, Krista (Shadd) Rohrbough, Lincoln; brother, Neal (Donna) Clausen, Bloomington, Illinois; grandchildren, Kaleb Blakemore and Zach Clausen; great-granddaughter, Roayn Clausen; sisters-in-law, Sylvia vonFange, Austin, Texas, and Susan vonFange, Mt. Clemens, Michigan; brother-in-law, Howard (Rose) vonFange, Wichita, Kansas; nieces, nephews and cousins. Bryce was preceded in death by his parents, Hans and Retha Clausen.

Visitation is from 2 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Jan 6, at Volzke Funeral Home in Seward, with a gathering of family and friends from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The funeral service is at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 7, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Utica with interment at the Utica Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to the church, Mission Central or the Orphan Grain Train. Condolences may be left for the family online at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.



Dennis L. Kimsey

Nov. 26, 1953 – Dec. 29, 2021

Dennis L. Kimsey of Seward was born Nov. 26, 1953, and passed away Dec. 29, 2021, in Lincoln. A full obituary can be found and condolences left for the family online at www.volzkefuneralhome.com.

Police

Information provided by the Seward Police Department for activity Dec. 23 – 29.

Dec. 24

10:42 a.m.—A two-vehicle, non-injury accident was reported in the area of North Second and Roberts streets.

Dec. 28

9:38 a.m.—A caller in the 2600 block of Progressive Road reported a vehicle had been broken into the night before with the dash torn apart and wires cut.

Summary of other calls:

Abuse/neglect of a child 1
Disturbance 5
Field contact 3
Fire-no burn permit 1
Fraud 1
Harassment 1
Hit-and-run accident 2
Miscellaneous 17
Noise complaint 2
Open door business 1
Reckless driving 3
Suspicious vehicle/person 3
Terroristic threats 2
Traffic stops 21
Theft 1
Weapons offense 1
Welfare check 7

Dorothy M. Brooks

March 11, 1930 – Dec. 30, 2021

Dorothy Mae (Berry) Brooks was born March 11, 1930, in Boston, Massachusetts, to Edward and Sarah (Burley) Berry and passed away Dec. 30, 2021, in Lincoln at The Journey House, surrounded by her family, at the age of 91 years, 9 months and 19 days.

Dottie was baptized into the Christian faith on March 15, 1930, at St. Peter’s Church in Dorchester, Massachusetts, and was confirmed Nov. 12, 2006, at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Malcolm.

Dottie met the love of her life, a handsome sailor named Wesley Fay Brooks, in Boston and they were united in marriage on April 22, 1950, in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. To this union, three children were born, Wesley Jr., Deborah and John.

Dottie was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She unselfishly supported her spouse throughout his military career. Wes’s 30-year stint in the U.S. Navy took him, Dottie and the children to stations including Port Smith, Virginia; Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; Key West, Florida; Lexington, Kentucky; Jacksonville, Florida, and Lincoln to name a few. Upon their retirement in 1971, Wes and Dottie put down roots in Malcolm. In her younger years, Dottie was a licensed beautician, an avid bowler and she loved to dance. In more recent times, she cherished visits with friends and family, playing cards and attending Bible Study at St. Paul’s.

She was preceded by her husband of 53 years, Wes; son, Wesley Jr.; sister, Jacquelyne Ferguson-Zaccaria; twin brother, J. Edward Berry; and parents, Edward and Sarah.

Survivors cherishing her memory include her children and spouses, Debbie Berg and husband, Mike, John Brooks and wife, Nicole; daughter-in-law, Celia Brooks-Thomas; grandchildren, Jennifer, Wesley III, Christina, Cottie, Amanda, Josh and Shelby; 12 great-grandchildren and 10 great-great-grandchildren.

Visitation is from 1 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5, at Zabka-Perdue Funeral Home in Seward with family receiving friends from 6:30 to 8 p.m. A Celebration of Life will be at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 6, at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Malcolm with inurnment at the Malcolm Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to the church. Condolences may be left for the family online at www.zabkafuneralhome.com.



Real estate

Information taken from records filed with the Seward County clerk.

Dec. 21 – 29

Darko Gligorevic and Suzanne Gligorevic to Olivia O'Dell, Lots 9 and 12, Block 6, Seward. DS \$308.25

Timothy A. Burkey and Sidney D. Burkey to Everence Foundation Unique Assets,

LLC, NE1/4 NE1/4 34-9-2. DS exempt

Philip A. Bangert and Sandra Bangert, David C. Bangert and Linda J. Buckley and William Buckley to Meyer Properties, LLC, W1/2 NE1/4 19-10-3. DS \$1,226.25

Ralph G. Schmidt and Janice E. Schmidt to the Lutheran Church – Missouri

Synod Foundation, trustee, E1/2 Lots 1, 4, 5 and 8, Block 6, South Seward Addition to Seward. DS exempt

Timothy A. Burkey and Bonnie Burkey and Sidney D. Burkey and Peggy Burkey to David Ulrich, a tract of land in the W1/2 NE1/4 34-9-2. DS \$427.50

Sarah Kraus and Byron

Kraus to Hladky Accommodation, LLC, NE1/4 20-12-3. DS \$3,309.25

Larry L. Beckler and Teri L. Beckler to Larry L. Beckler and Teri L. Beckler, trustees, SW1/4 21-10-2. DS exempt

Robert R. Kropf and Mary J. Kropf to Robert R. Kropf and Mary J. Kropf, north 80 feet of Lot 10, Schlueter's

Second Addition, Seward. DS exempt

Philip A. Bangert and Sandra Bangert, David C. Bangert and Linda J. Buckley and William Buckley to Derwin D. Roth and Tiffany T. Roth, W1/2 SE1/4 18-10-3. DS \$1,233

Clippers win home tourney

by Heath Kramer
Seward County Independent

After a decade of letting the championship plaque leave the building, the Malcolm boys' basketball team will be keeping it in house this year.

With a hard-fought 50-43 win over Oakland-Craig on Dec. 29, the Clippers won the Malcolm Boosters' Holiday Tournament for the first time since 2011.

"I like how our guys are playing right now," Malcolm coach Chris Lewandowski said. "This team plays well together and does a good job of picking each other up and sharing the load."

After an even first quarter, Malcolm leaned on Drew Johnson to give the Clippers a four-point lead heading into the break. The 6-5 junior got hot from both inside and out as he scored nine points in the second frame.

"Drew does a great job of taking what he's given," Lewandowski said. "He was able to get open a couple times from outside, but he also did nice work cleaning up the glass inside and getting some key put backs."

That Johnson was able to have success inside was a bonus for a Malcolm team that was undersized against an Oakland-Craig lineup that had two 6-6 starters taking up space inside as well as a 6-4 guard on top of their 1-3-1 zone.

"Their length was a concern," Lewandowski said. "I was really pleased with the calm confidence our guys showed as they attacked their zone."

The Clippers extended their lead to five by the end of the third quarter and then did enough at the line in the fourth quarter to hang on for the win. Malcolm went 9-of-17 from the charity stripe down the stretch.



DOUG CARROLL/SCI

Malcolm's Drew Johnson goes up for a dunk against Oakland-Craig Dec. 29.

While the Malcolm stat lines were far from pretty, they were enough to secure the win.

"We didn't hit particularly well," Lewandowski said of his team that went 15-of-40 from the field. "But, being the

smaller team, the way we crashed the boards made me proud."

Malcolm out-rebounded the Knights 47-31. Johnson had a double double as he led Malcolm with 16 points and 10 rebounds. Brayden

Boehle also nabbed 10 boards. Hayden Frank contributed 12 points, had seven rebounds and three assists.

"Hayden scored the first five points of the game," Lewandowski said. "That got their attention and they made it their plan to limit him. I'm glad we had other guys step up."

The Clippers earned a spot in the championship game with a 38-25 win over Wilber-Clatonia Dec. 28. Frank led all scorers with 14 while Johnson added ten.

Malcolm (7-3) heads into the new year with a tough home matchup against Palmyra (4-3) on Thursday, Jan. 6, before heading south to No. 7 Milford (8-2) Friday, Jan. 7.

"It's the start of a tough January grind for us," Lewandowski said. "Palmyra embarrassed us last year, and they have some big wins this year."

The Panthers won the David City Holiday Tournament with wins over Douglas County West and Aquinas Catholic.

"Milford is such a well-coached team and they always play us tough. That one will be a battle," Lewandowski said.

Malcolm Boosters' Holiday Tournament						
Malcolm 50, Oakland-Craig 43						
O-C	10	10	7	16	43	
MAL	10	14	8	18	50	

MALCOLM—H. Frank 3-7 4-6 12, Meyer 1-3 2-3 4, Christensen 2-6 3-6 7, Boehle 1-5 3-7 5, Johnson 7-19 0-0 16, Zegar 1-9 3-4 6, Kouma 0-1 0-0 0.

O-C—Totals 19-55 1-5 43.

Three-point goals—MAL 5-22 (H. Frank 1-3, Meyer 0-2, Boehle 0-1, Johnson 2-5, Zegar 0-4), O-C 4-13. **Rebounds**—MAL 47 (Boehle 10, Johnson 10), O-C 31. **Assists**—MAL 9 (Frank 3, Meyer 3). **Steals**—MAL 7 (Johnson 3). **Blocks**—MAL 2 (Johnson 2). **Turnovers**—MAL 13, O-C 10. **Fouls**—MAL 8, O-C 20.

Malcolm 38, Wilber-Clatonia 25						
W-C	1	4	9	11	25	
MAL	10	13	7	8	38	

MALCOLM—H. Frank 3-10 1-3 14, C. Frank 0-1 0-0 0, Meyer 2-7 2-2 6, Christensen 0-1 2-3 2, Boehle 0-3 1-2 1, Johnson 4-13 0-3 10, Zegar 1-5 0-0 2, Kouma 1-2 1-4 3.

W-C—Totals 10-40 2-8 25.

Three-point goals—MAL 3-15 (H. Frank 2-5, Meyer 0-1, Boehle 0-1, Johnson 2-7, Zegar 1-8), W-C 3-14. **Rebounds**—MAL 37 (Boehle 6), W-C 31. **Assists**—MAL 8 (H. Frank 2, Johnson 2, Schmidt 2). **Steals**—MAL 8 (Johnson 5). **Blocks**—MAL 2 (H. Frank, Johnson). **Turnovers**—MAL 8, W-C 13. **Fouls**—MAL 14, W-C 21.

SHS bowlers top holiday tournament

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Seward boys' bowling team came back from the holiday break Dec. 28 at the Pius X tournament in Lincoln and brought home the championship.

"We were there eight hours, but it was worth it," Coach Steve Conner said.

Seward beat Columbus 6-2 and Fremont 5-3 but lost to Millard South 6-2 in the pool competition. Conner said Seward had a bad game and MS bowled better than it ever had.

"It was a freak thing," he said.

Pool play determined seeding in the bracket, and Seward was fourth. The bracket play was best three of five baker games.

Seward beat Millard West and Millard North before topping Lexington in the semifinals. Seward bowled a 278 in the final game, which is the highest score it has bowled so far, Conner said.

The championship match pitted Seward against Grand Island Northwest, and it went down to the wire, Conner said. Seward won 3-2.

"There were a lot of close games. It was

really exciting," he said. "It was good to see the team start to bond. I was proud of how they kept their composure."

He said as the tension mounted, his job was to remind the bowlers to have fun.

"We are the team to beat in the state," he said. "It's kind of fun, but I would rather be the person they forget about."

Dane Conner was named to the all-tournament team for the day. He bowled a 605 series and had a 246 game.

Seward, which is 15-1 on the season, was to bowl at Millard North Jan. 3 and host Columbus and Omaha Westside Saturday, Jan. 8, for a double dual starting at noon.

Girls struggle
The Seward girls' team didn't have as good a day, Coach Julie Benes said. The first game against Papillion-LaVista South did not go well, and that ended the competition for the Jays.

Maddie Viger bowled a 473 series to lead the team.



D. Conner

Milford boys earn fifth at Central City

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

Although the Milford boys' basketball

team couldn't claim another Central City holiday tournament title, it did bring home two more wins from the tournament.

The Eagles defeated Superior 61-32 Dec. 27 and Central City 65-51 Dec. 28.

Coach Tony Muller said Milford didn't get out to a quick start against Superior and led 10-8 after the first quarter. Then the offense got clicking, and Jaxon Weyand started scoring. The MHS senior recorded 18 of his 25 points in the second quarter and helped Milford to a 36-15 halftime lead.

Muller said the scoring was more balanced in the third quarter, with seven Eagles contributing. The 54-21 lead after the third allowed the starters to rest in the fourth and the bench to get some time on the court.

"It was a good win," Muller said.

In addition to Weyand's 25 points, Seth Stutzman scored 10 and grabbed eight rebounds. Micah Hartwig delivered nine assists.

The Eagles played Central City for fifth place, and while MHS won by 14, Muller said the game was closer than the score indicated.

Milford jumped out to an 11-4 lead early in the first quarter, but then the Bison went on a 13-0 run to take a 17-11 lead.

(continued on 11)

CHS girls come back for third place

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

After a tough outing against a quick, experienced team, the Centennial girls' basketball team came back with a solid win to close the Malcolm Holiday Tournament.

The Broncos opened play against Oakland-Craig Dec. 28 and couldn't get the offense going in a 43-14 loss.

"They took advantage of our inexperience," Coach Jake Polk said.

The Knights' press forced too many turnovers (Centennial finished with 42) and kept the Broncos out of rhythm.

"When you turn the ball over, there's no opportunity to shoot," Polk said, adding that other teams will try to use the press to their advantage against CHS.

Once the Broncos got into their half-court offense, Polk said, they played well. Oakland-Craig just got a lot of easy layups in transition.

Centennial was missing a couple players Dec. 30, but the team was able to limit the Wilber-Clatonia offense to 24 points, 14 of which came in the second quarter and won

37-24.

"We were worried about rebounding and inside," Polk said. "I thought we played hard."

Savannah Horne was the story on offense, as the sophomore was 4-10 from three-point range and finished with 15 points. Karley Naber was 2-8 from three, as well and scored eight.

Polk said getting the outside shooting going against a zone defense is good because then it opens the inside game.

"It was great to have Savannah step up," he said, adding that he'd like to see multiple players considered threats to score.

Centennial (3-6) was to play at Heartland Jan. 3 and then travel to Sutton Friday, Jan. 7, and host Raymond Central Saturday, Jan. 8, starting at 2:30 p.m.

Polk said Raymond Central is a much-improved team that has surprised some teams.

"We will have to continue our tough defense and find ways to score," he said.

On the injury front, the Broncos lost sophomore guard Rylee Menze to a knee injury in the Milford game in December.



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Gracen Fehlhafer of Centennial dribbles out of the lane on a rebound against Wilber-Clatonia Dec. 29.

Oakland-Craig 43, Centennial 14						
CHS	2	2	4	6	14	
OCHS	14	13	8	8	43	

CHS—Halle Kinnett 0-1 0-0 0, Savannah Horne 1-2 0-0 2, Gracen Fehlhafer 0-1 0-0 0, Molly Prochaska 1-1 0-0 2, Karley Naber 0-1 0-2 0, Natalie Sams 0-1 0-0 0, Cora Payne 2-4 1-2 5, Ava Fischer 0-1 0-0 0, Halley Heidtbrink 0-1 1-2 1, Catelynn Bergen 2-2 0-1 4, Ella Wambold 0-1

0-0 0. Totals 6-16 2-7 14.

OCHS—Totals 17-41 5-16 43.

Three-point goals—CHS 0-3 (Fehlhafer 0-1, Naber 0-1, Fischer 0-1), OCHS 4-15. **Rebounds**—CHS 23 (Payne 4), OCHS 14. **Assists**—CHS 3 (Naber 2). **Steals**—CHS 7 (Payne 3). **Blocked shots**—2 (Naber, Heidtbrink 1). **Turnovers**—CHS 42, OCHS 18. **Fouls**—CHS 10, OCHS 11.

Centennial 37, Wilber-Clatonia 24						
WCHS	2	14	2	6	24	

CHS 7 6 11 13 37

CHS—Horne 4-10 3-4 15, Prochaska 1-7 1-2 3, Naber 2-8 2-3 8, Sams 0-0 0-2 0, Payne 3-5 0-0 6, Averie Stuhr 1-2 1-2 3, Bergen 1-5 0-2 2, Wambold 0-3 0-1 0. Totals 12-40 7-16 37.

Three-point goals—CHS 6-24 (Horne 4-10, Prochaska 0-3, Naber 2-8, Stuhr 0-1, Bergen 0-1, Wambold 0-1). **Rebounds**—CHS 25 (Bergen 7). **Assists**—CHS 10 (Bergen 4). **Steals**—CHS 14 (Bergen 7). **Blocked shots**—CHS 2 (Payne, Stuhr 1). **Turnovers**—CHS 19. **Fouls**—CHS 11.

Broncos split at Malcolm

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Centennial boys' basketball team had its work cut out for it Dec. 28 and 29 at the Malcolm Holiday Tournament.

The Broncos were missing some players, Coach Cam Scholl said, but those who were available battled hard.

CHS opened the tournament with a 64-30 loss to Oakland-Craig, one of the best teams the Broncos play all year, Scholl said.

"We didn't have our two best guards (Maj Nisly and Jake Bargaen), and that's a recipe for disaster," he said. "I thought we battled hard. Oakland-Craig played as well as they had all year."

Lance Haberman led the team with 11 points, and Lane Zimmer scored 10.

In the third-place game, the Broncos defeated Wilber-Clatonia 37-26. Bargaen was back on the court but not at 100%, Scholl said.

"That was one of the guttier performances," he said.

CHS trailed 20-17 at halftime but held WCHS to six points in the second half to come away with the win.

"I'm proud of the kids," Scholl said. "This was a nice team win for us."

He said Zimmer had an outstanding game on both ends of the court, despite scoring just three points. Scholl described him as "the glue guy" for CHS.

Jayde Gumaer was big for the Broncos, Scholl said, and Sam Ehlers came off the bench to hit



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Devin Slawynk of Centennial drives into the Wilber-Clatonia defense Dec. 29 at the Malcolm Holiday Tournament.

some big shots.

Bargaen led the team with 17 points, and Ehlers added 11, making three from three-point range.

"Overall, we were not close to 100%, but we'll take what we can get," Scholl said.

Centennial (5-4) was to play at Heartland

Jan. 3 and then at Sutton Friday, Jan. 7, before hosting Raymond Central Saturday, Jan. 8, at 4 p.m.

"It is a grind in January," Scholl said.

Oakland-Craig 64, Centennial 30					
OCHS	17	19	17	11	64
CHS	5	8	10	7	30
CHS —Sam Ehlers 1 0-0 3, Alex Hirschfeld 1 1-4 3, Lance Haberman 4 0-0 11, John Fehlhafer 0 1-2 1, Lane Zimmer 4 2-2 10, Jayde Gumaer 0					

2-2 2, Totals 10 6-10 30.					
OCHS —Totals 25 7-16 64.					
Three-point goals —CHS 4 (Ehlers 1, Haberman 3), OCHS 7.					

Centennial 37, Wilber-Clatonia 26					
WCHS	11	9	3	3	26
CHS	14	3	6	14	37
WCHS —Totals 10 0-0 26.					

CHS—Ehlers 3 2-2 11, Hirschfeld 0 2-2 2, Jake Bargaen 5 3-4 17, Zimmer 1 1-3 3, Gumaer 2 0-0 4. Totals 11 8-11 37.

Three-point goals—WCHS 6, CHS 4 (Ehlers 3, Bargaen 1).

Complete game stats for the holiday tournament were not available at press time.

Bluejays fall in Wahoo tournament

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The 2021-22 season has not gotten off to the start the Seward girls' basketball team had hoped for.

The Jays had hoped to turn things around at the Wahoo tournament Dec. 27 and 28, but Bishop Neumann and Wahoo kept SHS out of the win column.

Coach Beth Bohuslavsky said Neumann's post was the difference in a 46-36 loss in the opening round.

"Bishop Neumann does a great job of pressuring you on the defensive side. We just couldn't capitalize when we needed to," she said. "We got many steals late in the game, but we have to be able to get a look at the basket instead of turning the ball over."

Haylie Sloup led the team with 10 points. Eden Schulz and Kelsey Miller had five rebounds each, and Hannah Benedict recorded four

assists.

On day two of the tournament, Wahoo took home third place with a 62-43 win over the Jays. Bohuslavsky was pleased with how her team competed.

"After a not-so-great shoot around in the morning, I wasn't sure how we were going to show up to play," she said. "The girls answered the challenge and competed well."

Seward followed the scouting report exactly in the first half and trailed 9-8 after the first quarter and 28-17 at half time. The second half saw the team missing layups and free throws, the coach said.

She was happy with how the Bluejay ballhandlers managed the press.

The biggest difference in the game was Wahoo's perimeter shooting. The Warriors made five three-pointers in the third quarter, and Seward couldn't overcome that.

Miller scored 11 points and grabbed four rebounds to lead the Jays.

Seward (0-9) was to host Beatrice Friday, Jan. 7, at 6 p.m. and travel to Schuyler Tuesday, Jan. 11.

Bohuslavsky said the athletes continue to work hard and have good attitudes.

"They are hungry for a win as much as I am," she said. "As soon as we can put four quarters of good basketball together, look out!"

Bishop Neumann 46, Seward 36					
SHS	5	15	7	9	36
BNHS	12	17	11	6	46
SHS —Haylie Sloup 2-4 5-6 10, Tarryn Hartman 1-3 4-8 7, Eden Schulz 2-5 0-0 5, Hannah Benedict 2-14 0-0 5, Ona Stutzman 1-9 0-0 3, Jeff Schaefer 0-3 0-0 0, Kelsey Miller 1-3 2-2 4, Jayden Fernau 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 10-44 11-16 36.					
BNHS —Totals 16-49 9-17 46.					
Three-point goals —SHS 5-30 (Sloup 1-2, Hartman 1-3, Schulz 1-4, Benedict 1-9, Stutzman 1-7, Schaefer 0-2, Miller 0-1, Fernau 0-2), BNHS 5-17. Rebounds —SHS 21 (Schulz, Miller 5). Assists —SHS 7 (Benedict 4). Steals —SHS 12 (Stutzman 3). Blocked shots —SHS 1 (Miller 1). Turnovers —SHS 20. Fouls —SHS 20, BNHS 13.					

Wahoo 62, Seward 43					
SHS	8	9	10	16	43
WHS	9	17	24	12	62
SHS —Sloup 1-5 7-9 9, Dalaney Anderson 0-2 0-0 0, Hartman 0-0 1-2 1, Schulz 1-6 0-0 2, Benedict 4-9 0-2 10, Stutzman 0-4 2-2 2, Madison Dominy 0-0 2-4 2, Schaefer 1-2 0-0 3, Miller 5-9					

1-3 11, Fernau 0-1 0-2 0, Keira Lliteras 1-1 0-0 3. Totals 13-39 13-24 43.					
WHS —Totals 22-55 9-16 62.					
Three-point goals —SHS 4-17 (Sloup 0-1, Schulz 0-3, Benedict 2-5, Stutzman 0-3, Schaefer 1-2, Miller 0-1, Fernau 0-1, Lliteras 1-2), WHS 9-28. Rebounds —SHS 22 (Sloup, Miller 4), WHS 39. Assists —SHS 6 (Sloup, Benedict 2). Steals —SHS 11 (Miller 4). Blocked shots —SHS 2 (Miller 2). Turnovers —SHS 22, WHS 20. Fouls —SHS 15, WHS 21.					

Eagles announce college plans



COURTESY PHOTO

Thomas Vance, a senior at Milford High, recently signed to wrestle at Northwestern University in Iowa. Pictured are, from left: (seated) Tami, Thomas and John Vance; and (standing) MHS Coaches Jonah Peterson and Joe Schluckebier.

Eagle girls third in tourney

by Stephanie Croston
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Milford girls had chances to beat Superior Dec. 27. Coach Bryce Roth said. MHS led 34-20 in the second half, but Superior battled back to edge the Eagles 48-45.

"Extremely tough loss after being in the position we were in," Roth said.

Ayla Roth scored 19 and recorded eight rebounds to lead the Eagles.

The team came back with a 46-20 win over Cozad to finish third in

the Central City holiday tournament. Milford held Cozad to five first-half points and 10 through the first three quarters.

"That just shows the type of girls we have on this team," Coach Roth said.

The Eagles (7-3) were to play at Auburn Jan. 3 and host Malcolm Friday, Jan. 7, at 6 p.m. Malcolm (9-1), which just won its holiday tournament, is sixth in the Class C1 wildcard standings.

SHS	9	11	12	16	48
MHS	17	15	6	7	45

SHS—Totals 16 11-17 48. **MHS**—Kaitlin Kontor 1-9 0-0 3, Addi Mowinkel 2-3 0-0 6, Ayla Roth 5-13 6-6 19, Tanya Miller 1-7 2-4, Izzy Yeackley 2-9 2-2 7, Hannah Schilz 0-1 0-0 0, Taylor Roth 2-2 2-6. Totals 13-44 11-12 45.

Three-point goals—SHS 6, MHS 8-25 (Kontor 1-6, Mowinkel 2-3, A. Roth 2-9, Miller 1-3, Yeackley 1-4). **Rebounds**—MHS 22 (A. Roth 8). **Assists**—MHS 8 (Kontor 3). **Steals**—MHS 4 (four with 1). **Blocked shots**—MHS 1 (Kontor 1). **Turnovers**—MHS 11. **Fouls**—SHS 14, MHS 17.

Milford 46, Cozad 20					
MHS	11	14	13	8	46
CHS	2	3	5	10	20

MHS—Kontor 3-8 0-0 8, Mowinkel 1-10 0-3, A. Roth 6-11 2-5 15, Miller 2-6 2-2 6, Yeackley 3-5 1-2 7, Schilz 0-1 1-2 1, T. Roth 0-3 2-4 2, Camille Stauffer 1-3 0-0 2, Mackenzie Watenpaugh 1-10 0 2, Karlee Kuklis 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 17-40 8-15 46.

CHS—Totals 8 1-9 20.

Three-point goals—MHS 4-15 (Kontor 2-6, Mowinkel 1-1, A. Roth 1-3, Miller 0-3, Yeackley 0-1, Kuklis 0-1), CHS 3-13. **Rebounds**—MHS 23 (T. Roth 5). **Assists**—MHS 11 (Kontor 6). **Steals**—MHS 13 (Kontor 5). **Blocked shots**—MHS 3 (three with 1). **Turnovers**—MHS 6. **Fouls**—MHS 12, CHS 11.

Superior 48, Milford 45



COURTESY PHOTO

Savannah Spahr, a senior at Milford High, recently signed to play volleyball for Nebraska Wesleyan University. Pictured are, from left: (seated) Janna, Savannah and Jeff Spahr; and (standing) Sarah Spahr and Milford Coach Emily Restau.

Milford

(continued from 9)

The Eagles battled back to hold a 30-29 half-time lead and extended the margin to five points in the third quarter.

In the third quarter, Weyand scored eight, Hartwig five and Stutzman and Cabe Schluckebier four each. To balance that, Central City made four three-pointers in the period.

The Eagle defense shut down the Bison in the fourth quarter, allowing just three points. Stutzman scored eight in the period.

“We did a good job limiting them to one shot,” Muller said. “We got deliberate and got good shots.”

MHS had four players reach double figures – Weyand with 19, Stutzman 14, Hartwig 13 and Schluckebier 11. Hartwig reached a double double with 11 assists, and Carter Roth grabbed six rebounds.

The Eagles (8-2) were to play at Auburn Jan. 3 and then host Malcolm Friday, Jan. 7, starting at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday, Jan. 8, the team heads up Highway 15 to David City.

MHS had four players reach double figures – Weyand with 19, Stutzman 14, Hartwig 13 and Schluckebier 11. Hartwig reached a double double with 11 assists, and Carter Roth grabbed six rebounds.

The Eagles (8-2) were to play at Auburn Jan. 3 and then host Malcolm Friday, Jan. 7, starting at 7:30 p.m. On Saturday, Jan. 8, the team heads up Highway 15 to David City.

Milford 61, Superior 32					
MHS	8	7	6	11	32
SHS	10	26	18	7	61
SHS—Totals 14-51 2-6 32.					
MHS— Jaxon Weyand 9-17 6-8 25, Reice Stutzman 2-5 0-1 4, Charer Roth 1-5 1-2 4, Maddox Baker 2-5 0-5 0, Caste Nitzsche 1-1 0-3, Cayden Baker 0-1 0-0, Nelson Girmus 2-4 2-2 6, Seth Stutzman 4-11 2-2 10, Gabr Schluckebier 1-6 1-1 2, Colton Hauder 0-5 1-2 1, Hudson Mullet 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 22-60 13-18 61.					
Three-point goals—SHS 2-21, MHS 4-34.					
Weyand 1-4, 8, Stutzman 0-1, Roth 1-4, Baker 0-3, Nitzsche 1-1. Rebounds—SHS 35, MHS 35.					
(S. Stutzman 8). Assists—MHS 17 (Hartwig 9).					
Steals—MHS 16 (Weyand, Hartwig 3). Blocked shots—MHS 3 (three with 1). Turnovers—SHS 24, MHS 13. Fouls—SHS 15, MHS 6.					

Milford 65, Central City 51					
MHS	16	14	23	12	65
CCHS	18	11	19	3	51
MHS— Weyand 8-13 2-2 19, Hartwig 4-7 2-2 13, Roth 1-4 2-2 4, Girmus 1-3 2-2 4, S. Stutzman 7-10 0-14, Schluckebier 4-8 3-4 11. Totals 25-45 11-12 65.					
CCHS—Totals 19-47 5-11 51.					
Three-point goals—MHS 4-9 (Weyand 1-2, Hartwig 3-6, Girmus 0-1), CCHS 8-22. Rebounds—MHS 22 (Roth 6), CCHS 21. Assists—MHS 21 (Hartwig 11). Steals—MHS 6 (S. Stutzman 2).					
Blocked shots—MHS 3 (Schluckebier 2). Turnovers—MHS 11, CCHS 14. Fouls—MHS 10, CCHS 13.					

Jays I-I at Wahoo

The Seward boys’ basketball team defeated Bishop Neumann 58-47 Dec. 27 and lost to Wahoo 64-31 Dec. 28 to finish second in the Wahoo holiday tournament.

Seward (4-5) was to host Beatrice Friday, Jan. 7, at 7:30 p.m. and travel to Schuyler Tuesday, Jan. 11.

Game stats from the tournament were not available at press time.



Jordan Denton of Malcolm controls the ball and looks down court for an open teammate Dec. 29 against Oakland-Craig in the Malcolm Holiday Tournament championship.

Clippers down Knights for holiday championship

by Heath Kramer
Seward County Independent

In a world where every win matters as you collect wildcard points, the fact that you win is more important than how you win. The Malcolm girls’ basketball team was happy to survive a tenacious Oakland-Craig defense as the Clippers won their Dec. 29 Malcolm Boosters’ Holiday Tournament championship game. The 34-31 victory came against a Knights team missing one of its best players.

“If she had been there, it might have been a completely different game,” Malcolm head coach Andy Klepper said about Oakland-Craig junior Sadie Nelson. “They were enough of a handful without her.”

Nelson was averaging nearly 15 points per game before a concussion sidelined her.

It was a struggle all night to put the ball in the basket as high pressure defense was on display on both sides of the court. Both teams shot under 25% from the floor.

“I was most worried about their press,” Klepper said. “We let them put us in a lot of bad situations.”

After jumping out to a 14-9 lead early in the second quarter, the Clippers went scoreless to close out the half as the Knights went on a 10-0 run to take a 19-14 lead into the break.

Malcolm was just a little bit better than Oak-

land-Craig in the second half as its defensive pressure forced enough turnovers to give the Clippers a chance. The Knights committed 28 turnovers in the game which Malcolm converted into 16 points.

In a game with a combined 42 fouls and 63 free throw attempts, Malcolm did just enough down the stretch to hang on for the win.

Alyssa Fortik led Malcolm with 13 points while Diamond Sedlak added five points while grabbing six rebounds and six steals. Emma Brown scored eight while grabbing six boards.

Malcolm opened tournament play with a dominating 61-16 win over Wilber-Clatonia. Four Clippers were in double-figures as Sedlak scored 16, Fortik had 11 and Brown and Lauryn England each added 10 points.

“Lauryn had a good tournament,” Klepper said. “She’s really stepped up the past couple of weeks. She’s practicing well and it’s translating to the games. She gets her hands on the ball a lot and she’s

had some nice hustle plays.”

The No. 4 Clippers (9-1) begin the new year at home Thursday, Jan. 6, when they host Palmyra (0-6) before heading to Milford (7-3) Friday night.

“Milford will be a test,” Klepper said. “They have some good freshmen that are making a difference, and they shoot the ball well from the outside which will test our defense.”

Malcolm Boosters' Holiday Tournament					
Malcolm 34, Oakland-Craig 31					
O-C	7	12	4	8	31
MAL	10	4	7	13	34
MALCOLM—Wondercheck 0-1 2-2 2, Elkins 0-0 0-1 0, Denton 1-5 0-0 3, Zegar 0-1 0-0 0 Fortik 5-14 3-5 13, Sedlak 1-11 3-7 5, Brown 2-7 4-10 8, England 1-2 1-4 3.					
O-C—Totals 7-34 15-34 31.					
Three-point goals—MAL 1-11 (Denton 1-1, Zegar 0-1, Fortik 0-5, Sedlak 0-4), O-C 2-5					
Rebounds—MAL 30 (Sedlak 6, Brown 6), O-C 42.					
Assists—MAL 3 (Elkins, Fortik, Sedlak), O-C 2.					
Steals—MAL 17 (Sedlak 6, Fortik 4), O-C 10.					
Blocks—MAL 4 (Sedlak 2, Brown 2), O-C 0.					
Turnovers—MAL 20, O-C 28.					
Fouls—MAL 22, O-C 20.					

Malcolm 61, Wilber-Clatonia 16					
W-C	2	8	3	3	16
MAL	22	22	9	8	61
MALCOLM—Schultz 0-1 2-2 2, Wondercheck 0-2 1-2 1, Babb 1-1 1-1 3, Elkins 1-1 0-0 2, Denton 1-7 1-2 3, Sehi 1-1 0-0 3, Zegar 0-1 0-0 0, Fortik 4-10 1-2 11, Sedlak 6-9 0-1 16, Brown 5-5 0-0 10, England 2-6 4-4 10, Kucera 0-1 0-0.					
W-C—Totals 6-26 4-9 16.					
Three-point goals—MAL 9-20 (Schultz 0-1, Denton 0-1, Sehi 1-1, Fortik 2-5, Sedlak 4-7, England 2-5), W-C 0-2.					
Rebounds—MAL 22 (Fortik 4, Sedlak 4), W-C 25.					
Assists—MAL 17 (Wondercheck 4, Fortik 4), W-C 4.					
Steals—MAL 24 (Wondercheck 7), W-C 6.					
Blocks—MAL 3 (Fortik, Brown, Wollberg), W-C 1.					
Turnovers—MAL 10, W-C 29.					
Fouls—MAL 10, W-C 13.					

Dogs down Doane



Justin Wiersema of Concordia dribbles from the three-point line against Doane Jan. 1. Wiersema finished with 14 points, seven rebounds and two steals in the 60-50 Concordia win.



Sadie Powell of Concordia elevates over the Doane defense for a shot Jan. 1. Powell recorded a double double with 21 points and 10 rebounds in CU’s 76-70 overtime win over the Tigers.

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The January meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit 6 will have a remote option available on Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 6:00pm. The link to join is <https://dvlg-org.zoom.us/j/99610125284> The agenda for said meeting as well as the Open Meetings Act can be found at www.esu6.org.
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City of Seward – Part-Time Position

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Part-time, Regular (no health benefits) position with the City of Seward at the Seward Memorial Library, 233 S. 5th Street, for approx. 10-15 hours per week; hours vary but includes at least one evening (4:00 or 4:30-8:15 p.m.) as well as weekend time plus subbing for others. Essential duties include shelving, using computers, assisting patrons, light cleaning, and more. Must be able to lift 40 lbs., climb step stools and kneel to the floor, keyboard 40 wpm accurately. Applications accepted until filled—application review begins Thursday, January 6, 2022, with interviews scheduled as appropriate. Applicants must be 16 or older and enrolled in or graduate of high school or equivalent or have one year of applicable work experience.

Job description and application: www.CityofSewardNE.gov or www.sewardlibrary.org.

For questions, please contact the Seward Memorial Library (402) 643-3318.

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.

Classified Advertising

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FOOD SERVICE POSITION AVAILABLE

The School District of Seward is accepting applications for a **food service position**.

Hours are 7:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. at the high school.

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

The position is subject to a veterans preference.

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Stop in the office at 101 N. Main in Friend or email friendelev@diodecom.net for an application. If you have any questions, please call Ed Menke at 402-947-4291.

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GUN SHOW: January 14-16, 2022 Westfair Fairgrounds, Council Bluffs, IA Fri 3-8pm, Sat. 9am-5pm, Sun. 9am-3pm. \$7 (under 14 FREE) . Large selection of GUNS and AMMO for sale! More info: 563-608-4401 www.marvkrauspromotions.net

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THE COVID crisis has cost us all something. Many have lost jobs and financial security. Have \$10K in debt? Credit Cards, Medical Bills, Car Loans. Call National Debt Relief! We can help! Get a Free debt relief quote. Call 1-866-834-5927.

OGALLALA GUN Show, Keith Co. Fairgrounds, Jan. 15-16, Sat., 9-5, Sun., 9-3. Raffle - \$500 Gun Show Bucks. Meals by Classic Catering. Information, 308-233-2501.

SOCIAL SECURITY Disability Benefits. Unable to work? Denied benefits? We Can Help! Strong, recent work history needed. Call to start your application or appeal today! 866-563-0161 [Steppacher Law Offices LLC Principal Office: 224 Adams Ave Scranton PA 18503]

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Saturday, Jan. 8 ♦ 9:30 a.m.
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The Independent will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-642-6112. <http://www.nol.org/home/NEOC>.

FOR SALE

The City of Friend is selling a 2013 Chevrolet Police Impala No rust or damage 60,000 miles. Closed bids will be taken until January 31st, 2022. Highest bid will be accepted on February 1st, 2022 at the council meeting. Bids need to sent to: City of Friend Attn: City Clerk, 235 Maple St., Friend, NE 68359

Male Maltese Puppy, ready 1/15. Will have 1st shots. Family Raised. Parents on site. \$1500 obo. Call/text for pictures 720-277-1163



FOR RENT

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

LOST & FOUND

Found cat, black & white up by Seward High School on Monday 12/13/2021. Call 402-429-8223

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NAME CHANGE

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF SEWARD COUNTY,
NEBRASKA
Case Number CI21-219
IN RE NAME CHANGE OF
Dominic Russell Girmus.
Notice is hereby given that on the 3rd day of December 2021 a petition was filed in the District Court of Seward County, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which is for the change of the petitioner's name from Dominic Russell Girmus to Dominic Elijah Rocole.
A hearing will be had on said petition before the Honorable James C. Stecker, in courtroom no. 1, Seward County Justice Center, 261 South 8th St, Seward, Nebraska, on the 7th day of February 2022 at 9 a.m., or as soon thereafter as will be convenient for the court and that unless sufficient cause is shown to the contrary, the petitioner's name will be changed from that of Dominic Russell Girmus to Dominic Elijah Rocole.
Dominic Russell Girmus
Petitioner
718 1st St.
Milford, NE 68405
402-802-6011
SCI — December 15, 22, 29, 2021,
January 05, 2022
ZNEZ

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF SEWARD COUNTY,
NEBRASKA
Case Number CI21-231
IN RE NAME CHANGE OF Tiffany Sue Girmus.
Notice is hereby given that on the 9th day of December 2021 a petition was filed in the District Court of Seward County, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which is for the change of the petitioner's name from Tiffany Sue Girmus to Tiffany Sue Rocole.
A hearing will be had on said petition before the Honorable James C. Stecker, in courtroom no. 1, Seward County Justice Center, 261 South 8th St, Seward, Nebraska, on the 7th day of February 2022 at 9 a.m., or as soon thereafter as will be convenient for the court and that unless sufficient cause is shown to the contrary, the petitioner's name will be changed from that of Tiffany Sue Girmus to Tiffany Sue Rocole.
Tiffany Sue Girmus
Petitioner
718 1st St.
Milford, NE 68405
402-802-0174
SCI — December 15, 22, 29, 2021,
January 05, 2022
ZNEZ

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE DISTRICT COURT
OF SEWARD COUNTY,
NEBRASKA
Case Number CI21-235
IN RE NAME CHANGE OF Angela Lynne Rystrom
Notice is hereby given that on the 27 day of December, 2021, a petition was filed in the District Court of Seward County, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which is for the change of the petitioner's name from Angela Lynne Rystrom to Angela Lynne Sandman.
A hearing will be had on said petition before the Honorable James Stecker, in courtroom no. 1, 261 S 8th St., Seward NE 68434 on the 22nd day of February, 2022, at 9 a.m., or as soon thereafter as will be convenient for the court and that unless sufficient cause is shown to the contrary, the petitioner's name will be changed from that of Angela Lynne Rystrom to Angela Lynne Sandman.
Angela Rystrom
Petitioner
765 2nd Street
Utica, NE 68456
402-366-9817
SCI — January 05, 12, 19, 26, 2022
ZNEZ

GENERAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT
Notice is hereby given that a Termination of Notice of Commencement was recorded with the Seward County Register of Deeds on December 21, 2021, at Instrument No. 202104054 terminating the Notice of Commencement recorded with the Seward County Register of Deeds on April 7, 2021, at Instrument No. 202101161 against the real property legally described as follows:
Unit "B", SRC Condominium, a condominium located in the City of Seward, organized and existing under the laws of the State of Nebraska, and created by Condominium Declaration recorded October 22, 2021, as Instrument No. 202103453 in the records of Seward County, Nebraska
The Termination of Notice of Commencement was filed by the contracting owner, IHC Properties, LLC whose address is 3301 S. 7th St., Ste. C, Lincoln, NE 68502. The contracting owner is the fee simple owner of the above-described property. The Notice of Commencement is terminated as of January 23, 2021. All lien claims for which a notice of lien is not recorded by the termination date may be defeated by a transfer of the real estate.
SCI — January 05, 12, 19, 2022
ZNEZ

ESTATES

AMENDED NOTICE
IN THE COUNTY COURT
OF SEWARD COUNTY,
NEBRASKA
ESTATE OF ORIS A. HASS, DECEASED
Estate No. PR21-92
Notice is hereby given that on December 16, 2021, in the County Court of Seward County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said Decedent and that Glen Hass, whose address is 3865 S. 177th Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska 68130 and Dean Hass, whose address is 11618 W. 157th Terrace, Overland Park, Kansas 66221, were informally appointed by the Registrar as co-Personal Representatives of the Estate. Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before February 28, 2022, or be forever barred.
/s/Sheila R. Beins
Clerk of the County Court
Seward County Court
261 South Eighth Street
Seward, NE 68434
Timothy L. Moll (#20451)
Rembolt Ludtke LLP
1128 Lincoln Mall, Suite 300
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 475-5100
SCI — December 29, 2021,
January 05, 12, 2022
ZNEZ

NOTICE
IN THE COUNTY COURT
OF SEWARD COUNTY,
NEBRASKA
ESTATE OF RICHARD T. DUGDALE, DECEASED
Estate No. PR 21-90
Notice is hereby given that on December 13, 2021, in the County Court of Seward County, Nebraska, Jenifer Dugdale, whose address is 721 Rockhurst Dr., Lincoln, NE 68510, was informally appointed by the Registrar as Personal Representative of the Estate. Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before February 22, 2022, or be forever barred.
/s/Sheila R. Beins
Clerk of the County Court
Justice Center
Seward, NE 68434
Robert 1. Blevens #10344
Blevens & Damman Law Office
Box 98
Seward, NE 68434
402-643-3639
Attorney for Estate
SCI — December 22, 29, 2021,
January 05, 2022
ZNEZ

PROPERTY SALES

NOTICE OF SALE OF CITY OF SEWARD FARM LEASES
NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Seward, Nebraska, a Municipal Corporation ("the City or Lessor") will offer for sale at Public Action to be held at the Municipal Building, 142 North 7th Street, Seward, Nebraska on the 24th day of January, 2022, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. local time, Farm Leases covering the following described property:
Tract, Sec/Twp/Rge, Acres
1. 22-11-3, 15
2. 16-11-3, 41.4
3. 29-11-3, 12
4. 21-11-3, 29.48
5. 28-11-3, 6
Each tract is offered and the Lease for each tract will be issued for the acreage indicated, which may be more or less than the actual acreage. Each Lease shall be subject to all easements, restrictions, reservations, public roads, rights-of-way and any other matters of record.
Such Leases will be for a term of three years. Each such Lease will be sold to the highest and best bidder therefore subject to the right of the City of Seward to reject any and all bids. All Leases are subject to final approval of the City of Seward City Council. Copies of the Lease forms are available prior to the sale by contacting the City Clerk.
CITY OF SEWARD
/s/ Kelly R. Hoffschneider
City Attorney
Derek Bargmann
City Clerk
537 Main Street
Seward, NE 68434
402-643-2928
D e r e k . b a r g m a n n @
cityofsewardne.gov
SCI — December 29, 2021,
January 05, 12, 2022
ZNEZ

MEETINGS

NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
The board of education of the School District of Seward will meet in regular session on Monday, January 10, 2022, at 5:30 p.m. for a board study session to be followed by the 7:00 p.m. regular business meeting. The meeting will be held at the Administrative Offices located at 410 South St., Seward, Nebraska. An agenda for the meeting which shall be kept continually current is readily available for public inspection at the Superintendent's Office during normal business hours. To view the agenda go to <http://SewardPublicSchools.org/> and find the eMeeting link.
SCI — January 05, 2022
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
The January meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit 6 will meet at the Educational Service Unit 6 main office, located at 210 5th St, Milford, NE on Thursday, January 13, 2022, at 6:00pm. The agenda for said meeting is on file at that location and kept continually current.
SCI/MT/FS/WR/CR — January 05, 2022
ZNEZ

ORGANIZATION

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF UNO CAPITAL LLC
Notice is hereby given that UNO Capital LLC, a Nebraska limited liability company, has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with its initial designated office at 1021 Augusta Drive, Seward, Nebraska 68434. The initial agent for service of process of the Company is Brock Henderson, 1021 Augusta Drive, Seward, Nebraska 68434.
UNO Capital LLC
SCI — January 05, 12, 19, 2022
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF SWEET TEA MEDIA, LLC
A Nebraska Limited Liability Company
Notice is hereby given that Sweet Tea Media, LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with its designated office and its registered office at 647 Chestnut Circle, Seward, Nebraska 68434. The name of the Company's Registered Agent is: Angie D. Zadina. The general nature of its business is to engage in and do any lawful act concerning any and all lawful business, other than banking or insurance, for which limited liability companies may be organized under the laws of the state of Nebraska. The company was organized and commenced on December 15, 2021, and will have perpetual existence unless terminated sooner. The affairs of the company are to be conducted by a Manager, Kevin L. Zadina, until such time as his successor is selected pursuant to the Operating Agreement.
SCI — December 29, 2021,
January 05, 12, 2022
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF AA BADER FARMS LLC
Notice is hereby given that AA Bader Farms LLC, a Nebraska limited liability company, has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with its initial designated office at 1957

Star Street, Seward, Nebraska 68434. The initial agent for service of process of the Company is Andrew J. Bader, 1957 Star Street, Seward, Nebraska 68434.
AA Bader Farms LLC
SCI — December 29, 2021,
January 05, 12, 2022
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF JKT CATTLE, LLC

Notice is hereby given that JKT Cattle, LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the state of Nebraska, with its initial designated office at 740 364th, Beaver Crossing, Nebraska 68313. The initial agent for service of process of the Company is Kyle Vander Pol, 740 364th, Beaver Crossing, Nebraska 68313.
JKT Cattle, LLC
SCI — December 22, 29, 2021,
January 05, 2022
ZNEZ

MINUTES

December 28, 2021
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
Boards of Commissioner Meetings are held each Tuesday morning in the Seward County Courthouse at 9:00 a.m., except for the first. The Seward County Board of Equalization convened on December 28, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. Present: Chairperson: John Culver Members: Misty Ahnric, Bob Vrbka, Ken Schmieding, Darrell Zabrocki County Clerk: Sherry Schweitzer County Assessor: Marilyn Hladky Approved minutes of December 14, 2021.
Approved Tax List Corrections. Hladky gave an update of her office.
Convened as the Board of Commissioners.
Approved minutes of December 21, 2021.
Terry Wicht, Highway Supt., gave an update of his office.
Commissioners gave reports of their activities.
Approved authorization to sign a letter for the Federal Audit.
Approved Annual Road Dept. skid loader lease.
Approved City of Seward Allocation Agreement for American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.
Approved rescinding the starting wage for the E911 Director set on December 21, 2021.
Approved wage study for the E911 Director position.
Discussion was held on ARPA funding.
Approved the agenda for January 4, 2022, and adjourned at 9:52 a.m.
Sherry Schweitzer
County Clerk
SCI/MT — January 05, 2022
ZNEZ

2022 starts with a winter wallop



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Though snow totals may have fallen short of forecast depths, the cold temperatures and accompanying wind made for an uncomfortable start to the new year weather-wise.

Blue River Pet Rescue seeks the “best situation possible”

by Meaghan Stout
design@sewardindependent.com

Welcoming a furry family member into your home can be a big decision.

It doesn’t always work out the way you planned it; animals are unpredictable. That isn’t to say you shouldn’t try.

The Blue River Pet Rescue has been overwhelmed by the amount of cats and dogs in its facility. With little funding and only one employee, director Brogan Casey, they need more people to take a chance on a rescue pet.

Alexis Moslander adopted Jax, an Australian Shepherd, from BRPR in late September. Though he was listed as a purebred, Moslander believes he may be a mix.

Moslander said Jax had no issues adapting to his new home or getting along with Moslander’s cat.

“It’s a typical cat and dog relationship. They just leave each other alone,” Moslander said.

When asked if she would recommend adopting from a rescue rather than purchasing a dog from a breeder, Moslander said abso-



COURTESY PHOTO FROM RICHARD AND CAROL HAIN

Maggie, right, and her new sibling have gotten along great since she was adopted in September from the Blue River Pet Rescue.

lutely.

Richard Hain adopted a female German Shepherd named Maggie in early September from the BRPR. After a few months of having Maggie, Hain said there haven’t been any issues.

“At first she was a little unsettled, but she settled down pretty quick. We have found that she is just so well-trained, so obedient. Just a really nice dog. I mean, we couldn’t hardly ask for anything better,” Hain said.

Some rescue dogs have trouble acclimat-

ing to their new homes and families, but Maggie has settled down nicely, Hain said.

Maggie also gets along well with the family’s pet Corgi, as well as any other dog she meets. Hain’s wife takes Maggie out to the dog park in Seward to make new friends often.

Not all adoptions work out, according to Casey. There are a couple of dogs who have been adopted and then surrendered back to the shelter.

A malamute husky mix named Moose is

one of them. After being adopted, it was real-

ized that Moose didn’t get along with smaller animals and he was brought back.

Though Moose was not suited to that family, Casey hopes that the right family will come along for each animal. The right family just needs to be willing to take a chance, Casey

said.

“We need people to step up to that plate and really take that swing,” Casey said. “What we’re trying to do at the end of the day is take the animals within Seward County and find them the best situation possible, however long that takes.”

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- Has attention to details
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Please send resume and potential start date to:
Kevin Zadina, owner • kevinzadina@sewardindependent.com

SEWARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT

Full-Time REPORTER

The Seward Newspaper Group has an opening for a full-time reporter/feature writer/photographer. The applicant will be responsible for reporting on a range of topics, from hard news to features to sports with an opportunity to help advance our digital footprint.

Taking a big-city newspaper approach to community journalism is key to our success. Our staff is a mixture of experienced veterans and young, enthusiastic journalists, which makes the Seward Newspaper Group a great place for someone just out of college or for someone who wants to further their journalism skill set. A love for small-town living in the Midwest is a must for success in this position.

The Seward Newspaper Group is a set

of weekly newspapers based in Seward, covering a two-county area just west of Lincoln. Our circulation reaches over 6,500 homes in our coverage area.

The Seward County Independent has been named the top weekly newspaper in Nebraska twice and has been serving the area for over 130 years. Staff members are also consistent award winners in the annual Better Newspaper contest through the Nebraska Press Association.

Send resume, writing samples and potential start date to:
Kevin Zadina, owner
kevinzadina@sewardindependent.com

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