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SEWARD • COUNTY
INDEPENDENT

THE MILFORD
Times

A Salute to

FIRE

& RESCUE

Kampraths celebrate collective 108 years with SVFD

by Hanna Christensen
Seward County Independent

As Terry Kamprath, 73, observes his 50th year with the Seward Volunteer Fire Department this October, he and his wife, Connie, 72, reflect on their family's time serving the community.

Terry started at the department in October of 1972. He was working in construction at the time, and one of his co-workers, who was a member of the SVFD, asked him if he was interested in joining the department.

Terry spent 33 years in active service and now has 50 years and counting on the department.

Connie, who had previously spent six years volunteering for the Staplehurst Volunteer Fire Department, joined the Seward department in 1996. That is where she met Terry.

"I was in training, and he was doing trainings all the time, so I told him I chased him down," she said. "He was always so nice."

Their son, Bill Anderson, became a volunteer firefighter for Seward in 2001 and was a member until 2013. Their cousin, Scott Kamprath, was part of the department for 20 years.

Connie said all four family members com-

pleted the Firefighter I exam, which has a question portion and a physical portion. They all encouraged one another to do well and helped each other practice.

Terry and Connie found a shared interest in that they both worked in the criminal justice field.

Terry worked at the sheriff's office, and Connie worked at the women's prison in Newark.

The time they spent at those jobs in combination with the time they spent at the SVFD added up to a busy schedule for the couple, but they said they loved every second of it because it was good for the heart.

"We had pagers on 24 hours a day, seven days a week," Connie said. "He would always have his clothes laid out in case he needed to jump into them because he would always go for the fire calls. He would go right away."

Terry took over as chief in 1985, and he implemented the numbering system SVFD uses to keep track of the people on the fireground.

He also crafted a wooden board with the names of all active and reserve members that hangs in the SVFD.

Terry and Connie played an instrumental role in the installation

of the 9/11 memorial statue outside the fire station. They helped host breakfasts twice a month for three years to raise the \$15,000 they needed for the statue.

Connie said the Kampraths have enjoyed participating in outings with the firefighters, including the Fourth of July parade and annual water fight. The SVFD has a scrapbook that captured these special memories.

"We love to do it. It takes a special type of person to do this, but I think it's a good way to serve the community," Terry said. "I picked this because if I got to join something, I want to give it 100%."

Terry and Connie are both active reserve members now, and Terry said although they miss going on calls, they continue to make it a point to stay in connection with the firefighter community.

They still place flags on the graves of former firefighters every Memorial Day.

Terry said he encourages anyone who is interested to apply to the department.

In recent years, it has become more difficult for the department to find enough volunteers.

He said there was a time when SVFD had nearly 75 members, and new applicants were put



COURTESY PHOTOS

Above: Terry and Connie Kamprath stand ready to serve the community at the Seward Volunteer Fire Department alongside their son, Bill Anderson (right). Right: Bill Anderson stands next to his mom, Connie Kamprath, after battling a blaze together. Below right: Scott Kamprath (holding the nearest left corner of the stretcher) practices a mutual aid drill with other Seward County fire departments many years ago at the Seward County Courthouse.



on a waitlist.

"I'm just proud of anyone who wants to do this, and I'd recommend it to anybody who wants to try it," he said.

The Kampraths said the SVFD and the Firefighter's Association have led them to friendships that will last a lifetime.

"You just meet very, very good people," Terry said. "It's more like a family."



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Seward Volunteer Fire Department

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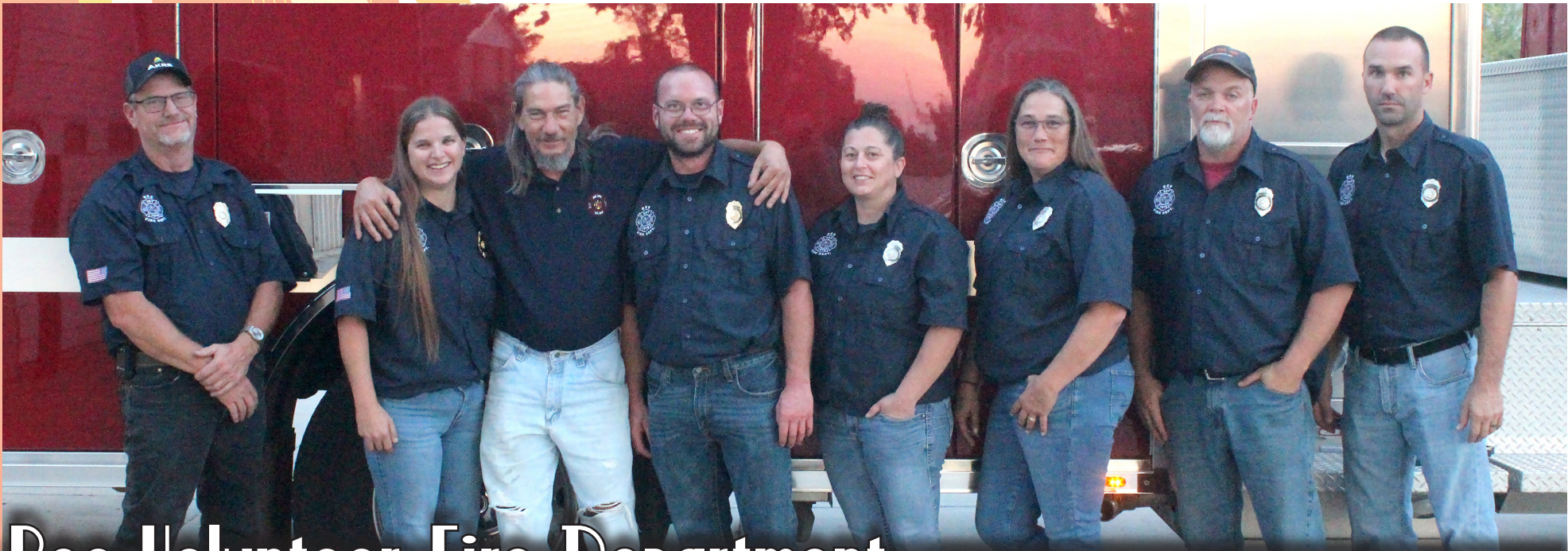
Members of the Seward Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department include, from left: (front row) Lisa Kimsey, Thomas Barnett, Johnny May, Connie Languein, Emily Estes, Zach Pilfold, Jensen Schulz and William Montag; (back row) James Kimsey, Mark Suhr, John Singleton, Travis Pollak, Ian Finkbeiner, Tayler Mifflin, Jose Castillo Jr., Lucas Brettman, Kent Auman, Tami Svehla and Dan Brumm; (on top of truck, front row) Brent Tempel, Tyler Dickinson, Landon Dirks, Bryan Niebrugge and Thomas Suhr; and (on top of truck back row) Colby VanDerslice, Brady Johnson, Jeff Neihardt, Kelby Nitz and Kelly Kumm.



Beaver Crossing Volunteer Fire Department

STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI/MT

Members of the Beaver Crossing Volunteer Fire Department 2022 include, from left: (front row) Gary Grantski, Shawn Briney, Robin Butzke, Bonnie Grantski, Heather Black, Shannon Steckly, Becky Clark, Marissa Pfile and Patrick Pfile; and (back row) Aaron Stinson, Mark Kreutzer, Kris Kreutzer, Chris Butzke, Irwin Crawford, Jerry Zieg, Kent Smetter, Brandon Allen, Jeremy Craig and J.P. Black. Not pictured are Scott Petersen, Alex Kohout, Mike Stutzman and Brian Pethoud.



Bee Volunteer Fire Department

KEATON BURGESS/SCI/MT

Members of the Bee Fire Department include, from left, Tommy Kouma, Jackie Corner, Dave Niebrugge, Nathon Emmons, Caitlin Strauss, Sherri Slack, Rick Craig and Bobby Kozisek.



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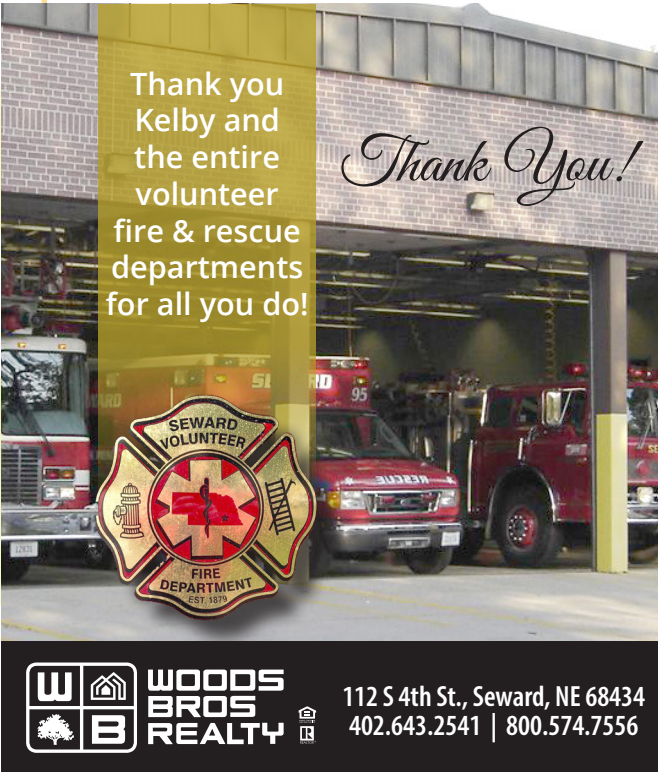
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Cordova Volunteer Fire Department

Members of the Cordova Fire Department include, from left, Blake Due, Buzz Zastrow, Lars Larsen, Rick Ricenbaw, Ryan Pavlish, AJ Hansen, Travis Due, Brayden Olsen, Ryan Eastin, Dan Wittenbal, Duane Barnes and Lance Larsen.

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Garland Volunteer Fire Department

Members of the Garland Fire Department include, from left: (front row) James Pliefke, Lance Jarzynka, Jake Bennett, Jason Swerczek, Nicole Wehman, Phil Haizleis, Mike Luebbe, Cory Madsen and D.R. Herold; and (back row) Rod Bromwich, Ethan Richter, Alyssa Richter, Sydney Thompson, Deb Robotham, Erinn Blaske, Brian Johnson, Mark Henning, Toby Beckmann and Chuck Luebbe.

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Goehner Volunteer Fire Department

Members of the Goehner Volunteer Fire Department include, from left, Jason Jarzynka, Jamie Knisley, Jesse Meinberg, Jeff Adams, Dakota Fernau, Clint Bialas, Cale Gierhan, Alex Dodson, Jeff Luebbe and Shawn Nagel. Not pictured are Jon Schulz, Matt Howe, Daryl Hale, Clint Ostrander, Matt Meyer, Travis Soukup, Harvey Cool, Jeff Schoepf, Jessica Anthony, Ryan Arborgast, Fred Ulch, Bill Cronquist, Dustin Blecha and Colton Hackbart.

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Malcolm Volunteer Fire Department

Members of the Malcolm Fire Department include, from left: (front row) Logan Peterson, Adam Benischek, David Rohe, Steven Heidtbrink, Cliff Schweitzer, Kerry Fry, Dave Wacker, JJ Frink and Gary Heidtbrink; (second row) Jim Densberger, Cody Densberger, Vince Meyer, Aaron Schmidt, Doug Heidtbrink, Shaun Donahoo, Dylan Mason, Ken Hawthorne, Trevor Colton, Justin Matthes, Jared Ritze and Travis Plautz; and (back row) Ginger Andrews, Melissa Wilcox, Lexi Gropp, Barry Petersen and Kevin Klink.

KEATON BURGESS/SCI/MT



Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department

Members of the Pleasant Dale Volunteer Fire Department include, from left: (front row) JJ Vance, Mitch Bennett, Joey Carder, Colton Wehrs, Larry Lawton, Charlie Bennet and Colby Yeackley; and (back row) Cody Rohrig, Austin Ficke, Andrew Ficke, Bobby Meyer, Brittany Minnehan, Malissa Sittler, Leslie Thomas, Jeremy Seffron, Mike Dankers, Stephanie Meyer, Tanner Smith, Leroy Trease and Brian Barnes. Not pictured are Craig Anderson, Michael Bridgford, Duane Burd, Harlan Dankers, Mike Dankers, Nick Dankers, Dave Ficke, Nate Keller, Jason Klug, Jim Kouma, Ernie Krenk, Roger Michaelis, Michael Minnehan, Jeff Oehm, Dustin Piening, Jonathan Piening, Trevor Piening, Tyler Piening, Dylan Rohe, Jerry Rotschafer, Austin Stinson, Aaron VanAndel, Jim Vance, Travis Meyer and Joe Filipek.

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Waco Volunteer Fire Department

Members of the Waco Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department are, from left: (front row) Chris Butzke, Alex Lekai, Chief Chris Farley, Assistant Chief Kevin Butzke, Connor Wiese and Greg Heine; (second row) Jeremy Hogue, David Norquest, Gale Dinkelman, Renee Dinkelman, Todd Bauder, Justin Scamehorn and Aarik Naber; and (third row) Jeff Due, Sam Hall, Wayne Sackschewsky, Jason Able, Keven Dye, Rex Heiden and Matt Mau. Randy Barnes is not pictured.

COURTESY PHOTO



Staplehurst Volunteer Fire Department

Members of the Staplehurst Fire Department include, from left: (front row) Ashley Douthit, Amy Prochaska and Megan Emons; and (back row) Tyler Strong, Colton Stava, Shawn Kitzing, Jeremy May, Jason Schaefer, Jamison Fern, Colton Hood, Trey Braudenburg, Justin Hemphill and Mike Sheehan.

KEATON BURGESS/SCI/MT



Ulysses Volunteer Fire Department

Members of the Ulysses Volunteer Fire Department are, from left: (front row) Justin Wynegar, Carol Martinez, Kylee Martinez, Allison Zitek, Jessica Stieder and David Stieder; and (back row) Gary Zitek, Randy Semin, Jim Klement, Jacob Kahnk, Doug Stara, Mitch White and Jon White.

COURTESY PHOTO

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Tamora Volunteer Fire Department

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The 2022 Tamora Fire Department members include, from left: (front row) Jon Propst, Josie Propst, Johnny Bapat, Gary Douthit, Adam Hladky and Justin Crumley; and (back row) Dave Scholl, Tim Classen, Dave Payne, A.J. Bapat, Ray Besse, Doug Cutshall and Bob Viger. Not pictured are Robert Stokes, Max Nordmeyer, Mike Pflughaupt, Nate Payne and Matt Miller.



Utica Volunteer Fire Department

EMILY HEMPHILL/SCI/MT

Members of the 2022 Utica Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department include, from left: (front row) Loyd Erks, Curtis Deremer and Adam Simmerman; (second row) Eugene Hinze, Allen Klepper, Bill Deremer, Amanda Struble, Lanette Simmerman, Shane Shandera, Travis Grantski and Josh Struble; and (third row) Shawn Harroun, Ben Koski, Andy Fehlhafer, Jesse Hartshorn, Wes Rhodes, Jon Koski, Cody Nuttleman and Adam Fritz. Not pictured are Byron Kraus, Sarah Kraus, Coleman Outhet, Tammy Sladek, Craig Wolf, Jim Avery, Gordon Luebbe, Todd Murphy, Colette Stelling and Jay Stelling.



Milford Volunteer Fire Department

CRAIG JONES/MT

Members of the Milford Fire and Rescue Department in 2022 include, from left: (front row) T.J. Buchli, Stu Schweitzer, Trevor Plessel, Jeremy Dinges, Yvette Yoder, Keith TeSelle, Karen Mundhenke, Eric Strole and Kaytlin Keilig; and (back row) Troy Pickerill, Travis Keilig, Tim Stewart, Travis Fougeron, Brad Freeman, Stephanie Yoder, Ron Erb, Dan Pickerill and John Sage. Other people on the roster include: Jessica Allen, Duane Compton, Jordan Cross, Waylon DeLong, Kyle Fastenau, Tyler Gingerich, LaDonna Howe, Michael Langenberg, Phillip Loseke, John Melena, James Novotny, Matt Roth, Ryan Roth, Brent Schweitzer, Shalene Shepard, Delton Stauffer, Wayne Stohlmann, Bruce Stutzman, Dave Swartzenteruber, Steve Troyer, Dave Ulrich, Haley Yeackley, Travis Yeackley, Andrew Yoder and Derrek Yoder.

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