

April 26, 2023

The Crete News | The Friend Sentinel | The Wilber Republican

SALINE COUNTY

Progress

SALINE COUNTY



Crete
DeWitt
Dorchester
Friend
Swanton
Tobias
Western
Wilber

WE'RE NEBRASKA IN A BANK



Founded by Farmers. Rooted in Community. Committed to you.

Whether you're a small family farm or a big operation, you deserve a lender who understands you and your business. We offer a variety of agri-business loans to get your business started and keep it moving forward.

- Equipment Loans
- Operating Loans & Lines of Credit
- Livestock Loans
- Real Estate Loans

CONTACT JUSTIN KOZISEK OR VINCE KREJCI
FOR YOUR AG LENDING NEEDS.



CRETE 143 East 13th Street
402.826.2121 • pinnbank.com



KEATON BURGESS

The Crete High School weight room was able to get new equipment, including new treadmills, after the booster club donated \$60,000 and the school matched it.



KEATON BURGESS

The Crete High School weight room was able to get new equipment, including a leg press machine, after the booster club donated \$60,000 and the school matched it.

Crete High School continues to improve ScoreVision system

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

In July of 2022, Crete High School installed new scoreboards in the high school gym through ScoreVision and continues to work and improve the things they can do with them.

Matthew Martin, director of activities at Crete High School, said the school was interested in getting new scoreboards last spring.

“By the spring, we had school board approval and a plan with our booster club for sponsorships,” he said. “The initial build was installed in July.”

Although the initial build was installed, Martin said the school continues to work out some kinks and other additions, including shot clocks.

“That piece is not completely operational yet,” he said.

Martin said the idea for the new scoreboards came from superintendent Josh McDowell. Martin said the idea of pursuing it came from benefits that the scoreboards could bring including upgrading capabilities in the classroom such as video produc-

tion and technical training, enhancing the gameday atmosphere and revenue with advertisements.

With some of the kinks being worked out and things running smoother, Martin said the feedback he’s heard so far has been positive.

“As the year has gone on, we have gotten a lot of positive feedback from community members,” he said. “We’ve even had schools start to reach out to us for a reference to do something similar.”

Along with the positive feedback, Martin would agree that the scoreboards have been beneficial for many reasons including the opportunities for students and the atmosphere they bring to game day.

“Students get to learn real-world job skills,” he said. “It really takes all the right parts of high school sports and magnifies them to make a great atmosphere to play in.”

At this point, Crete High doesn’t have future updates for its gym, but Martin said they will continue to produce better content for their ScoreVision app and scoreboards.

Crete High sees weight room improvements after donation

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Crete High School weight room has seen upgrades after the Crete Athletic Booster Club donated \$60,000 to Crete Public Schools.

Rhiannon Svitak said Matthew Martin, athletic director at Crete High School, consulted with coaches and teachers at Crete High School and Middle School to see where the greatest needs were for funding.

“They indicated that collaborating with this project would be most beneficial to the most student-athletes and our programs,” she said.

The booster club has raised the funds over several years with

help from the annual CABC Golf Tournament held in July, the Slatka Jamma Youth Basketball Tournament and several other fundraisers and activities. CABC also is supported by families, businesses, fans, the community and teachers through memberships.

“We currently have 91 family and fan memberships and 41 businesses that support us through donations and advertising,” Svitak said.

Some of the new additions to the weight room include bars for curls, stability balls, more double racks and iPads for every rack, a new leg press, curl and extension machine, new rollers and two new curve treadmills.

With the new equipment, Crete High School strength and

conditioning teacher Makayla Westphal said class sizes should be able to increase next year.

“I think the plan is to have class sizes up to close to 54 kids,” she said.

Overall, Westphal said students have seemed to enjoy the new equipment. She said the leg machines were the ones students were most excited about.

“They have been asking for these for a long time,” she said. “We had some older ones before. They were at least 25 years old and the padding was really worn, so we took those over to the middle school.”

Westphal mentioned that the school matched the booster club’s \$60,000 to help make the improvements.

Doty retires, Dierks takes over at Precision Dental

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

After one of the people he knew recommended he check out Precision Dental during dental school, Nick Dierks took over the business after former owner Dr. Howard Doty retired.

Dierks, originally from Lincoln, attended Nebraska Wesleyan University for his undergraduate degree and the University of Nebraska Medical Center for dental school.

While in dental school, one of his sisters’ friends who

worked at Precision Dental told him that Doty would be retiring.

“She asked me if I would be interested,” he said. “I was honestly interested right away.”

From there, Dierks started visiting the clinic in October 2021. In August 2022, Dierks signed a contract to take over.

One of the reasons Dierks decided to become a dentist was his family’s ties to the healthcare field.

“I have a lot of family that works in the medical field,” he said. “A lot of them work in the hospital setting, so I decided to do some-

thing a little different.”

He got into dentistry when he shadowed a dentist and worked at a dental office.

Another reason Dierks decided to go the dental route was that it is rewarding work.

“I get to work with people and establish relationships,” he said. “I also get to work with patients that aren’t quite comfortable and make them feel better.”

On July 2, it will be 50 years since Doty first opened his office.

Dierks said taking over for Doty was a big deal.

“Definitely massive shoes to fill,” he



Nick Dierks

said. “One hundred percent of the patients I’ve talked to always have good things to say about him.”

Although Doty retired, Dierks said he’s still around to help.

“We’ve formed a good relationship and he’s been a good mentor for me,” he said. “It made the transition really easy for me.”

Dierks said Doty still stops in the clinic every week.

“It makes it easy for me and the girls still here,” he said. “Patients also still love to see him.”

Even though Dierks hasn’t had the clinic for quite a year, he said he’s really enjoyed it. He said the success goes to Doty and the other employees.

“His and the girls’ help here is great,” he said. “They are very energetic and are always willing to go above and beyond. It’s helped a lot in the transition.”

Dierks said he’s also really enjoyed the community of Crete. He described Crete as a tight-knit community.

“Everyone is familiar with each other and everyone is very genuine,” he said.

“This community is really wholesome and I’ve met some really cool people.”

Dierks also said he appreciates the trust people have put in him at the clinic.

We Print Vinyl Banners

THE PRINTSHOP

SEWARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT

THE CRETE NEWS

129 S. 6th St. | Seward, NE
402-643-3676

1201 Linden Ave. | Crete, NE
402-826-2147



KEVIN ZADINA

Superintendent Joshua McDowell, Principal Lisa Fye and Assistant Principal Shannon Cole surprised the staff of Crete Intermediate School with a presentation informing them the school is being recognized as a National ESEA Distinguished School for excellence in serving special populations of students. Crete Intermediate is the first school in NE to receive this designation.

Crete Intermediate receives national award

Crete Intermediate School is one of only 100 schools in the nation to be honored this year as a National ESEA Distinguished School.

The award, presented by the National Association of ESEA State Program Administrators, recognizes Crete Intermediate for exceptional student achievement in 2022. Crete Intermediate was honored in Category 3, excellence in serving special populations of students.

"It is an honor to be recognized as a Distinguished School serving special populations," Principal Lisa Fye said. "Our staff works relentlessly to carry out our school's vision: Where students want to be, staff choose to work and families want to connect."

Dr. Josh McDowell, Crete Public Schools superintendent, said this honor is a recognition of the work put

in by everyone at the school.

"The entire Crete Intermediate School staff has bought into the process and has been dedicated to each student," McDowell said. "We are so proud of this staff for their hard work on behalf of students and their families."

Crete Intermediate serves 414 students in third through fifth grades.

Fye said the school ensures that students feel safe and ready to learn. The school uses a system that allows students to communicate what they need to be successful throughout the day.

Students who receive English language and special education services are supported through Tier 1 instruction, she said.

"Anyone walking through our halls can see, hear and feel the collaboration of our staff as they embrace

challenges with positivity and determination," Fye said. "The community recognizes the supportive environment we've worked so hard to establish. It's what makes our school special."

Established in 1996, the National ESEA Distinguished Schools Program recognizes qualifying federally funded schools for the outstanding academic achievements of their students.

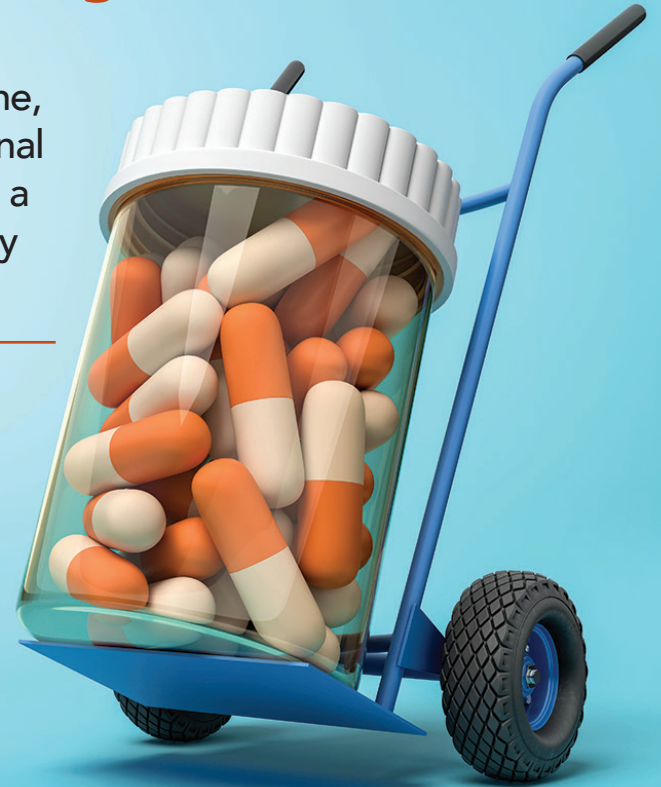
The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) provides additional resources for vulnerable students and federal grants to state educational agencies to improve the quality of public elementary and secondary schools.

For more information about Crete Intermediate or the award, contact Principal Lisa Fye at 402-826-5833 or lisaf@creteschools.org.

Now Offering

Prescription Delivery

In store, by phone or online, get the personal attention only a local pharmacy can deliver!



- Prescriptions Filled
- Flu Shots & Immunizations
- Medication Management
- Over-the-Counter Medications
- Vitamins, Supplements & More

Safe & Confidential Home Delivery Service

Get your prescriptions delivered in person or by mail.

Inquire for details by phone, online or in store.

Insurance Questions?
We're happy to help!



1302 Linden Ave. • Crete • 402-826-3784

Kenneth L. Marvin, Pharm.D., R.P.

Kari Maly, Pharm.D., R.P.

Drive Thru • Free Local Delivery

ANNOUNCE

your special events, anniversaries, graduations, birthdays, etc. in

The Crete News

Call us at

402-826-2147

cretenewsonline.com



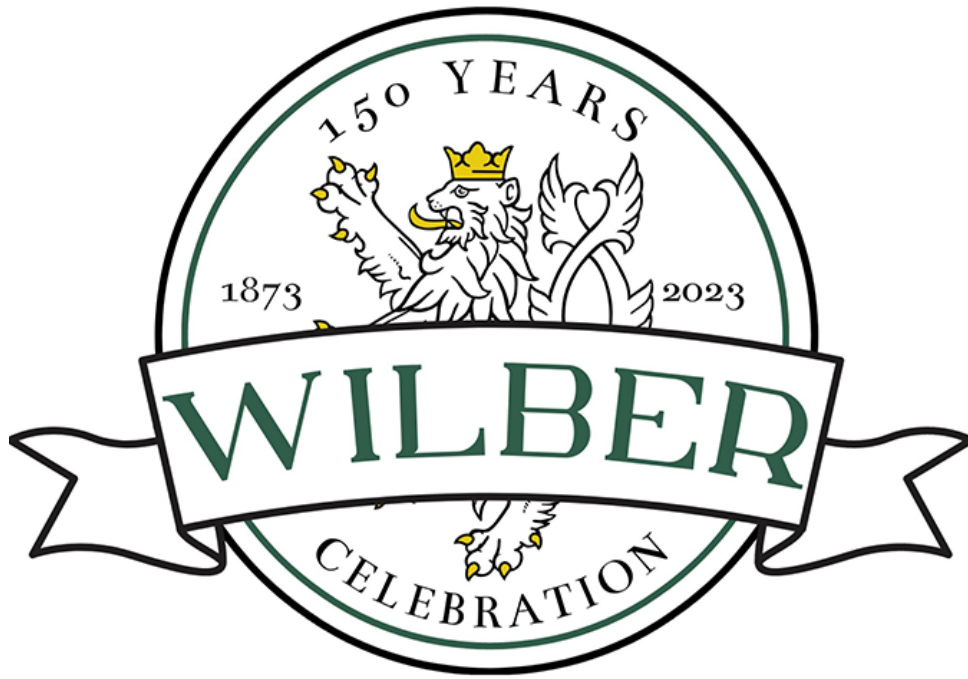
Wilber 150th anniversary logo created by local artist

BY AMY HAUSMAN
amy@friendsentinel.com

The City of Wilber celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. To support and market the events that are occurring throughout the year the planning committee held a contest to create an original logo for the event.

The graphic designed by Abbi Coffey was selected as the winner.

Entries from local artists were judged on their visual appeal, quality of design and ease of reproduction. Although there was no cash prize for the winning entry, Coffey will be acknowledged during the conference, on the website and printed program, and receive a commemorative item from the event with her logo



Local artist Abbi Coffey created the 150th logo contest. The logo will be used to promote all of the activities celebrating the history of Wilber throughout the year.

IMAGE BY ABBI COFFEY



AMY HAUSMAN

Exeter-Milligan Superintendent Paul Sheffield and Friend Superintendent Derek Anderson co-presented at the joint special session school board meeting on Aug. 31 regarding a potential co-op of activities between the two school districts.

Friend and Exeter-Milligan set to co-op

BY AMY HAUSMAN
amy@friendsentinel.com

Friend Public School and Exeter-Milligan school boards agreed to co-op for sports and activities beginning with the 2023-2024. The agreement to form the EMF Bobcats came after multiple meetings for both boards in the fall of

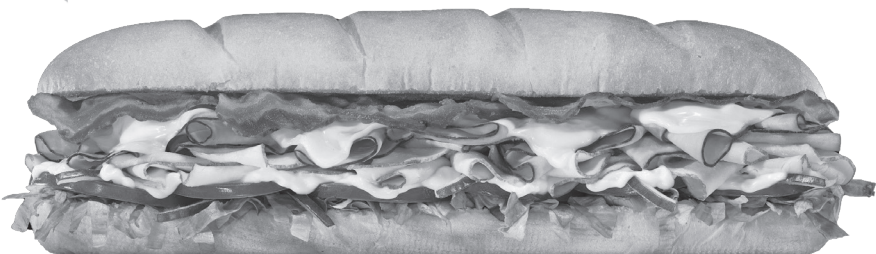
2022. Friend superintendent Derek Anderson and Exeter-Milligan superintendent Paul Sheffield quickly got to work after the vote to make the necessary changes for the coming school year and share a unified voice of doing what is best for their students.

(CONTINUED ON 15)

Crete FOODMART



SUBWAY



925 Main Ave., Crete
402-826-5099

511 S. Main St., Wilber
402-821-2002

CRETE LUMBER AND FARM SUPPLY

Your Local Agriculture, Commercial & Industrial Equipment Supplier



M-F 7:30-5:30 • SAT 7:30-4 • SUN 1-4

402-826-2197 • cretelumberandfarm.com
W. Hwy 33 • Crete, NE 68333

New youth services librarian familiar with Crete Public Library

BY STEPHANIE CROSTON
scroston@sewardindependent.com

Maridza Vasquez may be relatively new to the staff of Crete Public Library, but she's not new to the library.

She was born in Lincoln and raised in Crete. As a child, she said, she spent lots of time in the library.

"I remember sitting in the library's old children's section, and they would forget I was there," she said with a smile.

She earned a degree in graphic design and is working on her master's degree in library

science. She worked at the library in 2017 and then at Crete Public Schools as the after-school coordinator for three years.

"I missed the library setting," she said. "I wanted to do more with a larger audience."

She said the library today offers more resources than just books. Among them is a heat press that allows people to print their own t-shirts.

One of her goals as the youth services librarian at CPL is to improve the nonfiction section.

Vasquez described herself as a lifelong reader. Two books that

made the biggest impact on her are "A Dog Called Kitty" by Bill Wallace and "Alice in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll. Her current favorite is "Are You a Cheeseburger?" by Monica Arnaldo.

"I love picking out children's books," she said, adding that she enjoys talking about books with the library's patrons. "If people ask, I'll recommend books."

She likes the challenge of finding books for kids who say they don't like to read.

It makes her happy when patrons leave with books and giant smiles.



STEPHANIE CROSTON

Maridza Vasquez, youth services librarian, shows one of her favorite books, "Are You a Cheeseburger?" She and the Crete Library staff are finalizing plans for the 2023 summer reading program.



AMY HAUSMAN

Rico's Mexican Restaurant joined the Friend Community Club with a ribbon cutting ceremony in June 2022. Their first anniversary in Friend is May 25.

Rico's Mexican Restaurant approaches anniversary in Friend

BY AMY HAUSMAN
amy@friendsentinel.com

May 25 will mark the one year anniversary of Rico's Mexican Restaurant, owned by Dorchester couple Elpido "Rico" and Vanessa Perez, in downtown Friend. In less than a year the business has brought much more than mouthwatering burritos to Friend.

In February 2019 they bought the building that was previously the Topsy Cow bar. The next 15 months were spent gutting and remodeling the main floor.

"The only thing that was left from the Topsy Cow was the original handcrafted, mirrored bar. Everything else from the front door to the back, including everything in the kitchen, was replaced," Vanessa said.

Following the lengthy renovations, the Community Redevelopment Authority of the City of Friend approved a \$20,000 grant from the Occupation Tax funds after reviewing receipts for work the Perez family did to the restaurant.

The location included an apartment space above the former bar, also needing extensive repairs. Rico's has meet with city officials

and gained permission to begin the process of improvements to make it a usable space, but it will take time.

Since opening, the other Friend organizations have shown a tremendous amount of support to the new business including a ribbon cutting ceremony with the Friend Community Club and accolades at city council meetings for bringing commerce and working to revitalize downtown.

Nothing, however, beats the support of patrons. The food and atmosphere keep friends near Friend coming back. It is not uncommon for the restaurant to be a meeting place to enjoy fresh food and cold drinks, with daily specials.

"People come in here and are amazed with how full the street is with cars, how clean and beautiful the restaurant is, and of course how delicious the food is," Rico said proudly.

Rico's also employs local community members offering a local employment opportunity, which is significant after the closing of Dollar General.

Downtown revitalization, job opportunities, patrons from neighboring communities and tacos are all worth celebrating.



NEBRASKA TITLE COMPANY

SERVICE BEYOND EXPECTATION

BUY WITH CONFIDENCE,



GET OWNER'S TITLE INSURANCE FROM THE TRUSTED EXPERTS!

Lot & New Construction Closings | Title Insurance
Title Reports | Purchase & Refinance Closings
1031 Exchanges | Escrow



Jane Bartlett
Director of Branch
Operations



Kristi Doiel
Title Support
Searcher/Examiner



Dianne Zimmerman
Examiner



Niki Henkel
Title Manager/Searcher

nebtileco.com | 402-826-2007
1124 Main Street, Crete, NE 68333

Chamber hosts first annual Cinco de Mayo event in Crete

BY AMY HAUSMAN
amy@friendsentinel.com

The Crete Chamber of Commerce held its first Cinco de Mayo celebration May 8, 2022, and the community has been looking forward to the next one since May 9.

The driving force behind the chamber event, board of directors member Veronica Ortiz, started receiving phone calls the very next day from vendors making sure they were on the list for 2023.

“Community leaders that could not make it last year have made it a point to be there this year after learning how successful it was,” Ortiz said.

Following the event, Vice President of the Crete Chamber Board of Directors Samantha Barley said they had a great community turnout for being the first year. Dave Bauer, mayor of Crete, shared following the 2022 event his hope to have the celebration become an annual affair and the importance of bringing

together the Crete community.

“I think it was important for the community to have something like that. We have a big Hispanic community in Crete,” Bauer said. “We want to make sure they are feeling welcome in the community.”

And that is exactly Ortiz and the Chamber’s plan for the 2023 celebration on May 7 at the City Park. The family-friendly event will feature bounce houses, pinatas, craft and food vendors from noon to 6 p.m.

“This year we will have two musical performances,” Ortiz said. “The first is Alfredo Herrera who will be performing traditional crooning in a sombrero, and the second is a group called Grupo Uno who is sure to get people dancing in the streets.”

In the community known for celebrations, Ortiz wanted to see something else for the Hispanic community when she shared her idea in September 2021.

“I was nervous to share my idea with the

Chamber,” Ortiz said. “But everyone was so supportive. Like me, they want to see all of us together. We want this to be something that everyone can attend as a family.”

Spanish-speaking business owner, Edith Cabrera, owner of Paraiso, is supporting the event for the second year.

“Cinco de Mayo is part of the history of Mexican people,” Cabrera said. “And we celebrate with food and family a day that is still very special in the U.S.

Traditionally I serve pozole, a thick corn soup, we play table games and the kids run around outside.”

Like many American celebrations who end up with families in the kitchen, Cinco de Mayo is much the same. This year all are invited to celebrate with their extended family of Crete.

A full schedule of the Chamber’s 2023 Cinco de Mayo is available on their Facebook page.



Here are a selection of photos from last year’s Cinco de Mayo event.

Avel eCare enhances patient care at FCHS

Better technology leads to better patient outcomes

BY AMY HAUSMAN
amy@friendsentinel.com

Avel eCare, a telemedicine program, has revolutionized the emergency suite of Friend Community Healthcare Systems with a virtual hospital system that has a 360-degree view of each emergency room.

Avel eCare was implemented into patient care when FCHS made several updates to the hospital including their laboratory, drive-thru emergency entrance and suites and nursing station.

The emergency rooms are equipped with high definition video and audio equip-

ment. Anything spoken aloud by onsite medical staff is transcribed virtually by Avel, allowing hospital staff to focus on patient care more efficiently. Staff use this for documenting vitals, medications and seeking second opinions or referrals to specialists.

"Prior to this system being in place, a patient transfer could take hours," Michael Karel, PA-C, said. "With support staff seeing and hearing in real time what is happening in the room, our patients are receiving better care experience and bedside support."

In the event a provider needs emergency assistance, a button connects them im-

mediately to a 24/7 emergency physician and critical care nurse to support care with as much or little help as is requested by the FCHS provider.

"All of these little things add up to saving time in critical care moments," Karel said. "It is the concierge of medicine."

Avel eCare also provides FCHS with 24-hour-a-day access to e-pharmacists, behavioral health assessments, language interpretation specialists and respiratory therapists. The virtual team has a complete itemized list of supplies in the room and can help direct on-call staff in locating supplies.



AMY HAUSMAN

Members of Friend's volunteer fire and rescue department receive a tour of Friend Community Healthcare System's emergency suite equipped with Avel eCare.



Community Driven. **Future Focused.**

Proud Past. Bright Future.

Citizens State Bank is over 130 years strong. We have a solid background with small-town, Nebraska values.

We're here to help you create success for yourself, your family, and your community. Visit us today!

150 Maple Street • Friend, NE 68359
(402) 947-2211 • citstatebank.com



Member FDIC

CRETE'S Great Pumpkin FESTIVAL

Sat., Oct. 7 – Sun., Oct. 8

- Food Vendors
- Demonstrations
- Carnival Games
- Farmyard Petting Zoo
- Car Show N Shine
- Kid & Pet Parade
- Craft Show
- Farmers Market



Activities All Weekend!



Paid for in part by the Saline County Tourism Fund

PUBLIC NOTICES STAY CONNECTED... IT'S YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW.

Crete High to introduce Cardinal Academies

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

Crete High School will add part of a new program starting in the fall of 2023 to help students be more prepared after graduation.

Superintendent of Crete Public Schools Dr. Josh McDowell said Crete High will introduce part of the Cardinal Academies starting with the freshmen.

Cardinal Academies has been under development for quite some time.

"The high school has been really looking into this for three years now," McDowell said.

The Cardinal Academies will feature three different academies where students will start their freshman year and continue until graduation.

The Freshman Exploration Academy will be introduced in the fall of 2023 while the Cardinal Business and Human Sciences Academy and the Cardinal Technical Sciences Academy will come into play in future years.

Every incoming freshman will be part

of the Freshman Exploration Academy. Students will still take the base courses such as math, science, English, etc., but they will also take a course called freshman seminar.

McDowell said freshman seminar is all about setting kids up to be successful high school students.

"In that course, students will look at study skills and will also take a deep dive into the other academies, which they will start their sophomore year," he said. "They will also start building their resumes, start college essays, ACT prep, go on a college visit and attend a career fair."

McDowell said the freshman seminar is designed to give students a chance to see what their options are so they can start to think about those interests.

Around the start of the second semester, freshmen in the academy will get to choose which academy they want to be in starting sophomore year.

McDowell said each academy has four pathways. The Cardinal

Business and Human Sciences Academy's pathways are business, health sciences, education and agriculture business/logistics. The Cardinal Technical Sciences Academy's pathways are construction, welding, automotive and engineering/robotics.

"A student that has worked through the freshman academy will have learned about all of these pathways," McDowell said. "Then they'll have to make a choice on which one they want to go into for their sophomore through senior year."

When going about choosing the pathways, McDowell said they selected ones that they felt that most students would find something that they're interested in.

"We're not choosing their career," he said. "We're trying to find what they're interested in and passionate about."

McDowell said they also identified the pathways using the Nebraska Department of Labor's H3 report.

"It's called high skill, high wage and

high demand. Within a 50-mile radius of Crete, kids can find high skill, high wage and high demand jobs in those pathways," he said.

No matter which pathway they choose, McDowell said students will be getting prepared for post-graduation.

McDowell said that no matter what pathway students choose, they will still be prepared to go to college if they want.

McDowell mentioned that if students get into a pathway and aren't enjoying it, they can change to a different one at the end of the year.

Along with the academies and pathways, McDowell said the school has designed a certain set of experiences that each student will get each year. He said it goes from very broad their freshman year to more focused on certain things as they get older.

"Freshman year, they're going on a college visit just to learn about what college is about, what does it to apply and all of those things," he said. "As

they get into their pathway, their college visits are much more focused on what they're interested in at that point."

During senior year, McDowell said the academy program ends with a capstone experience where every student will have a work-based learning experience.

"They'll have a job shadow or an internship that will be built into their schedule," he said. "Their capstone isn't only the work-based learning experience, but it's also a real-life problem project that they're trying to solve in an area that they're the most interested in."

McDowell said the advisory boards are made up of business and industry professionals.

"We will be looking for people who serve in these areas to come to sit on the advisory board to help guide what we should be teaching," he said. "If we're teaching something in business and we have local business owners around the table saying that nobody does that any-



more, we're going to stop teaching that. We want our kids to have real experiences with people who are really doing the work.

Although it might not be easy for each student to find a certain academy or pathway they're interested in right away, McDowell said a counselor will be assigned to each academy.

Along with Har-rifield, McDowell said a teacher design team and a student ambassador team have helped a lot with getting things ready.

"It's been a really collaborative process and I'm thankful for everybody's time, effort and energy they put into making this happen," he said. "It's been a three-year process, and to make it a reality next school year is awesome."



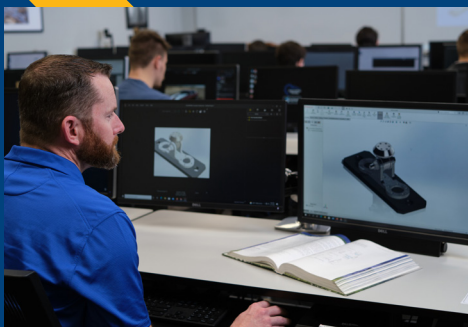
Biotechnology



Computer Information



Sandhills Global Technology Center - Lincoln Campus
Opening Fall 2024



Design & Drafting

Discover Your Path to Possible at SCC!



Electronic Systems

southeast.edu/visitscc

Get Ready for Summer Entertaining



Shop our
inventory
of grills,
mowers &
Yeti
coolers!

CRETE
ACE
The helpful place.

1025 Main Ave.
Crete, NE

402-826-3397
creteacehardware.com



Work continues on Doane residence hall

Work continues on the new residence hall currently built at Doane University, which is supposed to be competed in late 2023.

The new residence hall is being built on the northwest corner of campus, between Smith Hall and the Chab Weyers Education & Hixson Lied Art Building.

In a press release put out by the university, Dr. Roger Hughes, Doane University president, said "This is the first step in our capital improvement plans. This new residence hall is designed to enhance the experience of our students and will include many state-of-the-art amenities."

The building's design incorporates more collaborative, communal space for studying and socializing, with lounges on each floor, a designated game room, kitchen and laundry facilities. It's designed so students can flow in and out of outdoor spaces, as well, with several patios overlooking greenspace and an outdoor amphitheater for events.

The building is designed to have walk-out lower level and three stories. There are two patios and communal green space for students to use for events, studying and socializing.

"It's a living community, it's a learning community, it's a place where students grow together," Dr. Judy Kawamoto, vice

president of student affairs, said. "Some of my best memories of college came from my experiences in the residence hall, and our professional staff are dedicated to making each Doane students' experience just as transformational as mine."

Students wanted to keep some of the features of the two previous residence halls, Burrage and Colonial Halls (colloquially known as the Quads), which were demolished along with existing parking lots and a basketball court to make way for the new construction

A beloved feature of the Quads was that they offered suites for up to eight students to live together, a setup echoed in the new hall. Plans for the new residence hall include suites for four up to eight students, with a total of 128 beds.

A new basketball court will be constructed just east of Smith Hall as well.

Much of the lower level of the residence hall will initially be left empty for storage, but can accommodate additional suites as needed. The building is also much more accessible for students with ADA needs — there are ground-level entrances in the lower level and first floor, in addition to an elevator.

Sampson Construction is working on the project. The university hopes to have full occupancy by January 2024.



DOUG CARROLL

Work continues on the new residence hall currently built at Doane University, which is supposed to be competed in late 2023.



DOUG CARROLL

Sampson Construction is working on the project for the new buildings on Doane's campus. The university hopes to have full occupancy by January of 2024.

Ballfield gets makeover



COURTESY PHOTO

The Dorchester Community Foundation has completed the first phase of their ballfield project. Forty-nine yards of concrete were poured by Jorge Reaol of Dorchester. "We are continuing to work towards adding shade structures to six sections of bleachers," Dale Hayek, chairman, said. "We are still in need of funding to make that happen." Donations may be mailed to the Dorchester Community Foundation c/o Peg Bergmeyer, 101 Washington St., Dorchester 68343.



HIT THE BULLSEYE WITH
TARGETED ADVERTISING

Advertise in the Friend Sentinel

Resurrection of the Goddess: ISIS theater update

BY AMY HAUSMAN
amy@friendsentinel.com

Resurrecting the goddess, the iconic logo of the ISIS theater, is an ongoing project in the heart of Saline County spearheaded by Blue River Arts Council. BRAC, formed in 2018, operates in a non-profit format of volunteers.

BRAC's first major project was taking on renovations of the theater located in downtown Crete after the building built in 1926 was purchased by the City of Crete. At the time theater was considered so technologically advanced it quickly became a Saline County landmark.

BRAC's goal is to bring movies back to the county and offer a gathering place for live entertainment, performances and concerts. But resurrection is no easy task.

As a non-profit organization the ISIS theater depends entirely on grant funding and donations.

Unknown obstacles presented themselves with renovations to major components with

the heating and air conditioning system, roof and water lines during COVID. Materials delays and inflated prices caused expenses to outgrow funding available to BRAC to continue with a project that was originally thought to take a year.

On April 4 the city council took a huge step in support of the ISIS theater and approved a municipal economic development application for economic development funding for phase three of the Isis Theater renovation in the amount of \$351,158.54.

City Administrator Tom Ourada explained that BRAC followed the LB840 process with this application and a recommendation was made to the Legislative and Economic Development Committee.

Ourada said there was a lengthy discussion with Shaylene Smith of BRAC, and that he thinks there is apprehension but we all know we need to go forward with this project with the stipulations laid out.

There are stipula-



COURTESY PHOTO

This is a mock up of the proposed marquee for the ISIS theater in Crete that is being funded by the LB840 grant from the City of Crete. Renovations continue for the BRAC project and they continue to exploring funding opportunities, including grants and donations.

tions in case of default by BRAC, in that the property, all inclusive, would return to the city so they can control the destiny of that building; BRAC would also recognize the city's contributions to the project and will actively support the renewal of the LB840 program when it ends.

Improvements to the ISIS theater will likely

include the movie screen and sound system, marquee, heating and air conditioning.

"I do applaud the committee for all they have done," Mayor Dave Bauer said. "I am happy to know it is (ISIS project) coming close to the end. I think that there is a lot that can happen in this space for Crete. Thank you to the BRAC com-

mittee that has worked so hard on this."

Although the grant from the city is significant, it will not cover all the remaining expenses for the theater.

"This is a huge kick off for the beginning of the last fundraising push," Smith said. "Because of things outside of our control, there are still expenses that we will need to

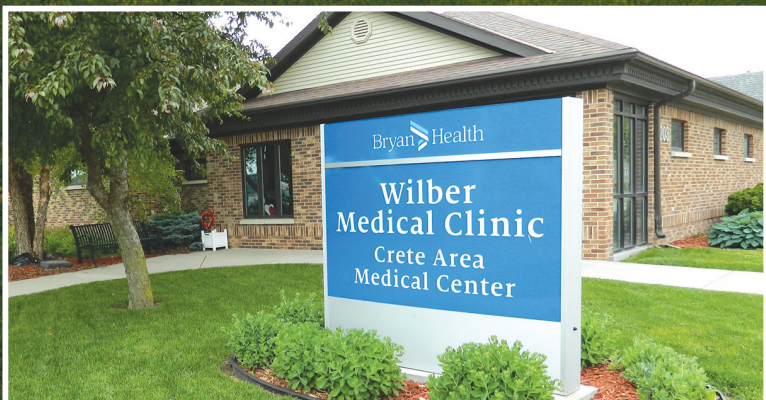
pay. Knowing we have the support of the City helps us (BRAC) to seek additional funding from sources outside of Crete. These resources need to see we are all on the same page."

To make a donation to BRAC go to <https://blueriverartscouncil.networkforgood.com/projects/134669-resurrect-the-isis>.

Three Convenient Locations For You

Bryan  **CRETE AREA MEDICAL CENTER**

CRETE • WILBER • FRIEND



CRETE
402-826-2102
2910 Betten Dr.

WILBER
402-821-3293
203 W. 4th St.

FRIEND
402-947-2021
1210 2nd St.

Wilber lake becomes arboretum after grant, plants commemorative tree

BY AMY HAUSMAN
amy@friendsentinel.com

Wilber Lake became a Nebraska Affiliated Arboretum on Nov. 2. The event was celebrated with a tree planting and came just months after Wilber Pathways to Progress received a grant for the lake.

Randy Pryor, emeritus Nebraska extension educator, and Bob Hendrickson, University of Nebraska Lincoln Horticulture Program Coordinator, worked together to select the commemorative tree to be planted at Wilber Lake. They selected a male, non-fruit bearing hardy tree: the Osage Orange.

"This is a very unique tree," Pryor said. "It will be unique to Wilber Lake."

The Nebraska Academy of Sciences Executive Committee approved funding of a Public Information and Education mini-grant

for the Wilber Community Lake in the maximum amount of \$3,000.

The grant was used to bring pollinators to the lake. Despite the need for pollinators to provide a reliable food supply for humans, pollinator habitats are in jeopardy because of reduced food sources and chemically-dependent pristine landscapes.

"We are making the commitment to protect pollinators in the future at the park by providing a diversity of native plant material essential to them," Pryor said.

Pryor said that their work at Wilber Lake is never done. He expressed a tremendous amount of gratitude for the extension office, Hendrickson, Lower Big Blue NRD, the City of Wilber and Sheryl Kastanek for transforming the local eye sore into a thriving sanctuary.



AMY HAUSMAN

Wilber Lake was officially recognized as an arboretum on Nov. 2 and celebrated with a tree planting.

Hanson, Hroch & Kuntz Attorneys At Law

1331 Main Ave. • Crete, NE
(402) 826-4354

302 South Wilson • Wilber, NE
(402) 821-2221

Western United Mutual Insurance Association

116 W. 3rd St. • Wilber, NE 68465 • 402-821-2370
www.westernunited.net



Since 1879

See an agent near you for all your farm, town, and liability insurance needs!

- Scott Bartels, Western 402-433-2401
- Bruce Freese, Beatrice 402-223-5971
- Irvin Stouffer, Fairmont 402-268-7201
- Doug Brummels, Kearney 308-234-2436
- Mike Cave, Silver Creek 308-773-2254
- Rick Homolka, Wilber 402-821-7162
- Kenny Zoubek, Milligan 402-629-4448
- Duane Wollenburg, DeWitt 402-683-5950
- Lonny Niewohner, Scribner 402-664-3454
- Haley Webber, Nelson 402-225-4300
- Jamie Calkins, Deshler 402-365-4120

HOTWORX®

Self-care is more than just putting yourself first; it's about pushing yourself to the limit!

Unleash your Inner Warrior at HOTWORX Crete!

Schedule a FREE session today!



402-418-7260
1236 Main Ave.
Crete, NE 68333



PEOPLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

bringing you the local news

Where You Work, Play & Live



KEVIN ZADINA
Publisher/Owner



NICHOLE JAVORSKY
General Manager Advertising



AMY HAUSMAN
Editor



STEPHANIE CROSTON
Sports Editor



EMILY HEMPHILL
Reporter



KEATON BURGESS
Reporter



DOUG CARROLL
Reporter



CRAIG JONES
Reporter



BEN LAMPMANN
Reporter



HANNA CHRISTENSEN
Reporter



KAITLYN DALLMANN
Advertising Representative



JEANETTE BENNETT
Bookkeeping Circulation



Pam Callahan
Crete Office Manager



HAYLI FROSHEISER
Graphic Designer



JULIE SULZBACH
Graphic Designer



BILL GADBERRY
Distribution

Catch up on news, sports, events, shopping deals, new businesses, politics, job openings, homes for sale and more with your local newspaper!

Librarians enjoy work at DeWitt library

BY DOUG CARROLL
doug@sewardindependent.com

DeWitt has a long, storied history of having a library in town. The cornerstone of the original library, called the Carnegie Library, was laid more than a hundred years ago, back on Sept. 24, 1907.

When that first building suffered a collapsed wall, the town library even spent some time in the former railroad depot while the new building was being built, on the site of the current American Legion.

The current building was built in 1998 and is named the Bob and Wauneta Burkley Library and Resource Center after its major benefactors. It's a large, beautifully landscaped building located in the downtown area.

The library has had to adapt to the changing times, going from hardbound books, to paperbacks, to digital offerings and doing things on computers.

Gerry Powers of DeWitt, who served as the town librarian for 23 years after working at Tri County for 27 years, saw a lot of those changes before retiring last fall.

Powers said she's been an avid reader for about as long as she can remember.

"My first grade teacher said I was easy to teach to read, and I've been reading ever since," she said.

After retiring from Tri County Elementary

in 1998, she started working at the library a year later when the librarian job came open.

When she first took the job, the library had a lot more children coming in the read and work on school projects. She said she also used to deliver a lot of books to people who couldn't come to the library for health or other reasons.

"After a while you just kind of knew what they liked," she said.

"In all, between the school and my work at the library, I had 50 years of being around people - that's why it was hard to retire."

Luckily, she said, there was a good person to fill her shoes.

Joan Tietjen of DeWitt grew up in Lincoln and attended college at Nebraska Wesleyan, where she met Kim Tietjen, now her husband. After they married in 1980, they moved to his hometown of DeWitt, where she eventually took a job at the Farm Service Agency in Wilber.

"It's been a good little town - it was a little bit of an adjustment from Lincoln, but it was a safe town to raise our kids," she said.

In 2020 Tietjen retired from the Farm Service, and last November she took over the library duties from Powers. She said she had been on the library board beforehand, "so I had a little familiarity with the goings on."

"I've always been a



DOUG CARROLL

Changing of the guard - Gerry Powers, left, was the head librarian at DeWitt's Bob and Wauneta Burkley Library and Resource Center, which is now being run by Joan Tietjen, right.

public service type of person, and I was tired of being at home."

Powers stayed on for a while when Tietjen first took over and helped with the transition.

"She's been there whenever I've needed help," Tietjen said. "She's been kind of a mentor - she's been really good to work with. She always says to call

if I have questions."

Tietjen now spends 15-20 hours a week at the library, keeping track of 7,500 to 8,000 books currently in stock and always trying to improve the selection for patrons.

"Joan has done a lot already," Powers said.

At this time the library hours are Mondays from 1:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., Thursdays from

1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

and Saturday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., but Tietjen is looking for input on what might work better for people.

"We'll have to see if summer brings more people in," she said. "Saturdays are the only mornings we're open."

Powers hopes Tietjen enjoys her time at the library.

"I miss it - I miss the people. Getting to learn the people and what they like. And I still like to read, although my eyes make that hard to do anymore. We've always had a lot of good helpers and assistants during my time as librarian, and the village and library boards were always supportive," Powers said.

Co-op

(CONTINUED FROM 5)

Some of those steps included creating a co-op handbook, selecting new coaching staff, evaluating activities to be offered, and updating equipment to reflect the Bobcat mascot.

In April 2023, Friend's board voted to accept proposals for the gym floors and wrestling mats.

"Gym work for Friend will begin on July 7 and take roughly a week to complete," Anderson said. "We are increasing our parking area for games and will be looking at how best to change our scorer's table. Next summer we will be replacing wall pads and moving the bleachers to all black in the new gym."

Work to the gym will include sanding, repainting lines and incorporating the Bobcat

mascot. Anderson said Friend is also considering updates to the scoreboards.

Changes are coming in Exeter as well.

"Facility wise, the summer of 2023 E-M is planning to sand and repaint the Exeter site gym floor as well as painting, replacing the front of the scorer's table with a Bobcat logo and some other ancillary items that arise," Sheffield said. "The summer of 2024 Exeter-Milligan plans to replace wall mats and anything else we missed (or discovered) that needed to be done."

Both superintendents are excited about the opportunities for students and look forward to working together.

"As with any new venture, things will come up and plans may have to change," Ander-

son said. "As we move forward, being flexible and adaptable is necessary."

Coaches for next year's teams are as follows:

Junior High Football - Brian Murphy and Sean Gray

High School Football - Kory Kahlandt, Brian Arp, Jordan Pella and Jim Pfeifer

Junior High Volleyball - Darcy White and Steph Svehla

High School Volleyball - Madalynn Fousek, Keeley Kroeker and Taylor Erdkamp

Girls' Golf - Lori Klooz and Matt Nicholas

Softball - Lorie Sliefert (continuing co-op with Fillmore Central)

Cross Country - Lisa Kanode

Junior High Girls' Basketball - Preston Meints, Allison Meints and Darcy White

High School Girls' Basketball - Jackson Krejci, Nicole White and Sara Pella

Junior High Boys' Basketball - Paul Martin and Paul Segner

High School Boys' Basketball - Brian Arp, Travis Kotas and Nathan Derr

Wrestling - Nathan Baber and Kory Kahlandt

Junior High Track - Keeley Kroeker, Nicole White and Lisa Kanode

High School Track - Brian Murphy, John Clouse, Madalynn



Fousek, Lori Klooz

Boys' Golf - Matt Nicholas and Jordan Marr

Cheer - Brandi Perez

Dance - Lori Vyhalek

Speech - Brian Murphy, Khristyne Elsberry and Kara Myers

One-Act Play - Khristyne Elsberry, Kara Myers and Denice Kovanda

e-Sports - Phyllis Severson

SACK LUMBER

125 East 11th Street
Crete, NE
402-826-2104

**Custom Remodels
& Builds With Local
Attention to Details.**



SERVICES

- New Construction
- Decks
- Remodels
- Garage Doors
- Siding
- Windows
- Doors
- Stonework
- & More