



Tom Parker, Carry Christ and Isaiah Christ are shown with the model train exhibit they help operate in the Crete Ace Hardware each December.

PHOTOS BY SAM COBB/CN

Annual model train exhibit has become staple of Crete store's holiday season

BY SAM COBB
For the Crete News

Some of Crete's longest-running trains operate in the local Ace Hardware.

A model train exhibit is on display in the store for its 11th year throughout this December. The 192-square-feet of table is full of miniature people, cars, buildings and, of course, constantly moving trains.

It is located in the back left of the store for locals to visit throughout the holiday season. Children can almost always be seen peering over the scale-model hills to view every detail, from a replica of Ace Hardware to a drive-in theater that uses an iPad as its screen.

"It is just fun to see other's excitement about it," Tom Parker, who has set up the display each year since 2012 and built much of what it is now, said. "There are kids that have come now that are 18 years old that used to come 11 years ago."

Each December, the display tables are brought out from the storage area in the Ace Hardware to be filled with model trains and more. Many of the models are owned by Parker, some of which date back as far as 1950, and some



Two American Flyer model trains pass each other on the upper tracks of the model train display set up at the Crete Ace Hardware

of which he even remembers playing with as a kid himself.

Though Parker has only been involved for 11 years, the exhibit originated in the 1980s. A lesser-scale version of what it is now was owned and operated by Crete residents Harold Jones, Richard Dudley, Larry Christ and Ed Howard, and was often displayed at the Crete Chamber of Commerce running some of the same trains that can be seen on its tracks now.

It was Parker's idea to start it up at Ace Hardware in 2012 and to build a sturdier foundation for it in 2016.

Parker is often assisting in supervising and maintaining the display by Carry Christ, whose father, Larry, was involved in the original exhibit and passed his hobby down to his son. He grew up around all kinds of model railroads and machines, and loves helping other children and families enjoy it as much as he always has, he said.

"They just keep adding to it every year," Christ said. "You don't realize how important it is to the kids that don't get to see some of this stuff very often. It's neat seeing everyone else enjoy it."

Christ is keeping the hobby in the family still, as his son Isaiah can often be seen helping by loading plastic pieces of wood into the miniature saw mill underneath one of the display's many bridges.

But as the exhibit moves past its decade anniversary in the location, they are just one of the many families that typically surround the detailed village in the store come December.

The display will remain up throughout the rest of the month and can be found at the Crete Ace Hardware on 1025 Main Ave.

Apacé carols bring holiday cheer, tears

BY AMY HAUSMAN
amy@friendsentinel.com

Editor's note: I had the pleasure of attending the Apacé Choir's performance on Dec. 6 at the Crete Public Library. I wish I could bottle the pure, unfiltered joy of the choir members' when they saw a friend or loved one in the audience to hear them perform. They would wave, beam and turn to their neighbor bragging about their guest. And then... they sang. A couple of verses into the first song, I was so moved tears streamed down my face. The spirit of Christmas is about togetherness, taking stock of what is important and becoming the best version of ourselves. This group is a shining example of that and blessed the City of Crete with their talent. If you have the opportunity to see them perform, take it.

Apacé Choir of Crete performed a holiday collection of songs on Dec. 6 in the Crete Carrier Room of the Crete Public Library under the direction of Dr. Jay Gilbert, retired music professor for Doane University, and was accompanied by Judy Vrbka.

The 45-minute performance featured 11 traditional Christmas songs such as Happy Holidays, Angels We Have Heard on High, Feliz Navidad, I'll Be Home for Christmas and Silent Night.

Apacé is formerly known as Region V services, an organization that supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They have 15 locations across the region, including one in Crete at 1951 E. 13th St.

The choral group formed the summer of

2022 after receiving a grant from the Region V Foundation which made it possible to purchase a piano, music and other supplies for the group.

This is the second year that Larry Synovec has performed as a choir member. This year he felt more comfortable.

"This year we had some different songs but we always end with Silent Night," Synovec said.

Gilbert explains the history and background of the song selections to choir members, helping them to connect.

"I want them to learn the music and experience as many songs as they can," Gilbert said.

Choir member Mary Vrbka has been in the choir for two years and at this year's performance gave the introduction to Silver Bells.

"I was nervous but Diane held the mic, and I looked down and focused on what I was reading," Vrbka said.

Last year, Vrbka was so nervous she pretended to sing to her cat, Mittens.

Apacé members who are non-verbal are also important members of the choir and keep time with percussion instruments, like bells.

"The mind is capable of processing knowledge in several ways with multiple intelligences," Gilbert said. "Two things define music: pitch and rhythm. That is the very basic act of making music."

"We work really hard at practices so we can do a good job at the concerts," Vrbka said. "Thank you Jay for leading us and Judy for playing the piano."



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Obituaries

James E. Vernon
Nov. 12, 1938 – Dec. 16, 2023

Retired Major James Ellsworth Vernon was born Nov. 12, 1938, on a farmstead in Crab Orchard and died Dec. 16, 2023, at Tabitha's Martha House in Lincoln.

James was the oldest of eight children born to Virgil and Violet (Berry) Vernon. He grew up and attended school in Crete, graduating from Crete High School in 1957 despite running away from his kindergarten classes and hiding out at the Tiger Inn on the Doane College campus. Immediately following graduating, he enlisted in the Nebraska National Guard, where he led the clean-up efforts of the fatal anhydrous ammonia spill in Crete on Feb. 18, 1969, when a train derailed traveling through town.

He attended Officer Cadet School, graduating as Second Lieutenant. After serving in Korea, the Vietnam War, Stuttgart, Germany, and numerous military bases in the United States, he retired May 1, 1987, as a Major with 30 years of service to our country. He was the recipient of the Bronze Star and other numerous medals, awards and accommodations.

He is preceded in death by his parents Virgil and Violet (Berry); brothers, Eldon, Robert and John; sister-in-law, Marsha Vernon; and brother-in-law Daryl Blue. He is survived by sons, Mark (Colleen) of Lincoln, Brent (Janell) of Wilber, Neil (Jody) of Reno, Nevada, Wade (Kim) of Fairbury; and daughter, Michelle (Michael) Kliment of Dorchester.

Besides his military career, James was most proud of his grand and great-grandchildren. Grandchildren, Dawn (Nick) Havlat of Lincoln, Derek Vernon of Lincoln, Heather (Chad) Woods of Huntington, West Virginia, Josh (Amy) Vernon of Napoleon, Ohio, Zach (LaTonya) Vernon of Somerset, Kentucky, Ethan (Hope) Vernon of Dunwoody, Grorgia, Sam (Jessica) Vernon of Fayetteville, Grorgia, Landon Vernon of Fayetteville, Danielle (Landon) Stewart of Louisville, Elliot Vernon of Lincoln, Nicholle (Arik) Todd of Ashland, Meghan Kliment of Crete, Michael Kliment, II, of Crete and Tanner Kliment of Dorchester.

Surviving great-grandchildren are Preston, Liam, Stella, Aibreanne, Tristyn, Bladan, Nicholas, Lexie, Sierra, Kenli, Zoey, Norah, Cooper, Zander, Waker, Basil, Violet, Skye, Ellie and August. James is also survived by brothers Fritz (Marsha) Vernon of Pleasant Dale, William Vernon and Donald Vernon of Crete; and sister extraordinary, Debra Hammond of Lincoln and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family of James would like to also recognize special people in his life. The staff and nurses at Tabitha (Martha House), Tabitha hospice care nurses, Pastor Kyu Lee, caregiver Nondo Merano and Deb Cole.

James was a member of the VFW and American Legion and longtime member of the Havelock Methodist Church.

A memorial service will be Friday Jan. 5, 2024, at 2 p.m. at Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home. Memorial contributions are suggested to the family for future designation, can be made out to the James Vernon Memorial and sent to Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home. Arrangements by Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home.

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Rosemary K. (Hier) Bartak
Dec. 2, 1929 – Dec. 16, 2023

Rosemary Kathryn (Hier) Bartak, age 94, of Crete, passed away peacefully at the Emerald Nursing & Rehab Center in Lincoln on Dec. 16, 2023.

She was born Dec. 2, 1929, in Crete, to Henry and Anna (Hanzel) Hier. She attended school in Sterling and Douglas and graduated high school. On Nov. 24, 1949, she was united in marriage to Robert Lee Bartak. To this union, eight children were born: Michael, Elizabeth, Renee, David, Patricia, Lawrence, Tony and Thomas. She worked at the Crete Hospital as a laundry supervisor for 17 years until her retirement.

Her interests were nature, Czech Days, family events, word search, polka dancing and traveling. Her faith in her religion was very important to her. She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Crete and served on the Alter Society.

Rosemary was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Robert; sons, Michael, David and Thomas; and daughter, Renee Edelmaier. She is survived by sons, Tony and Lawrence of Crete; daughters and son-in-law, Elizabeth Eckert of Seattle, Washington and Patti and Carl Ensor of Crete; 15 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

The funeral service was Dec. 21 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Crete. Memorial contributions are in care of the family. Arrangements by Kuncel Funeral Home in Crete.



Traffic

Information taken from records filed with the Saline County court.

Mitchell C. Katochvil, 21, Crete, speeding, 16-20 mph county/state, \$125 fine.

Daysi Barrientos De Ruiz, 43, Crete, no operator's license/waivable, \$75 fine.

Raul Ernesto Flores, 30, Crete, no operator's license/waivable, \$75 fine.

Ofelia Jacinto Perez, 35, Crete, no operator's license/waivable, \$75 fine.

Rodrigo Puentes Gutierrez, 35, Lincoln, speeding 6-10 mph county/state, \$25 fine, and no operator's license/waivable, \$75 fine.

Manuela Xorxe Quino, 26, Crete, no operator's license/waivable, \$75 fine.

Lane C. Strate, 38, Exeter, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.

Mitchel S. Vostrez, 29, Austin, Texas, speeding 6-10 mph county/state, \$25 fine.

Christopher W. Lau-er, 29, Lincoln, speed- ing 11-15 mph county/ state, \$75 fine.

Landon T. Scott, 33, Dorchester, no valid registration/truck – 51+ days, \$200 fine.

Aliuska Hidalgo Torres, 41, Crete, expired in-transit decal, \$50 fine, and no operator's license/waivable, \$75 fine.

Randall B. McEwen, 22, Lincoln, no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine.

Bobby T. Carnes, 32, DeWitt, no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine.

Natasha L. Holly, 32, Lincoln, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.

Mariano Marin Urbano, 26, Waterloo, Iowa, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine, and no operator's license/waivable, \$75 fine.

Hau T. Huynh, 51, Crete, speeding 11-15 mph municipal, \$75 fine.

County court

Information taken from records filed with the Saline County court.

Pascual Lucas Escobar, 37, Wilber, DUI .15+, \$500 fine, two days jail, one year probation, revoked license one year and ignition interlock device ordered.

Juan Loarca Bautista, 31, Fremont, DUI-alcohol first offense, \$500 fine, one year probation, revoked license 60 days, three days jail and ignition interlock device ordered, and possess/consume open alcohol container, \$50 fine and one year probation.

Reinier Rivaflacha Rosales, 39, Crete, no proof of insurance, \$100 fine; no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine; speeding 16-20 mph county/state, \$125 fine; and driving under suspension before reinstated, \$100 fine.

Aaron Dixon, 32, Wilber, trespass-second degree defy order to leave, three days jail.

Alex J. Domingo Ramos, 22, Crete, procure/sell alcohol to a minor/incompetent, \$100 fine.

Karen N. Hernandez, 22, Lincoln, speeding 6-10 mph county/state, \$25 fine, and possess marijuana one ounce or less first offense, \$300 fine.

Claudia J. Torres, 31, Wilber, disobey traffic control device, \$25 fine; driving under suspension before reinstated, \$100 fine; and fail to use child passenger restraint, \$25 fine.

Steven V. Vicente Vasquez, no proof of insurance, \$50 fine, and speeding 16-20 mph county/state, \$125 fine.

Yitzzy Hernandez Afonso, 40, Crete, driving under suspension before reinstated, \$100 fine.

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Gynecology/Women's Health	Dr. G. Heidrick	January 4, 9, 18, 23
	L. Hanseling, APRN	January 4, 9, 18, 23
Nerve Conduction Studies, EMGs	Dr. A. Kafka	January 18
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	Dr. J. Tilford	January 25
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	C. Scholtes, PA-C	Wednesdays
	Dr. M. Bokemper	January 10
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Podiatry	Dr. M. Williamson	January 2, 16
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	T. Lang, LIMHP	Thursdays & Fridays
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Memory lane ...

No depression is apparent at the Crete Mills, as passing by Friday, we noted several cars spotted for loading and upon inquiry learned that 15 solid car lot shipments had been loaded that day. One car was billed to a firm in Mobile, Alabama, with the consignment consisting principally of “Creole” meal.

Information taken from archived files of the Crete News for the first week of January.

1924
Coach Klein has twenty-five men reporting for basketball every night. Only two letter men have donned suits. Captain Parker is back on the job at forward and Carl Warkow is back at guard. The Camp fire girls of Crete will sell tags on the streets of the city, Saturday, Jan. 5th, to raise money for the Near East Relief.

1934
No depression is apparent at the Crete Mills, as passing by Friday, we noted several cars spotted for loading and upon inquiry learned that 15 solid car lot shipments had been loaded that day. One car was billed to a firm in Mobile, Alabama, with the consignment consisting principally of “Creole” meal.

1944
The new balcony in Butler Gym, Doane College, which has just been completed, is appropriately enough,

to named in memory of 1st Lient. Don Kristufek, '38, an outstanding Doane-Crete athlete who lost his life in war service March 22, 1943. Grain market quotations included wheat, \$1.55; white corn, \$1.17; yellow corn, \$1.02; oats, \$0.74; and soybeans, \$1.80.

1954
A photo caption read: Otto Sanders, manager of the Safeway Store in Crete, is shown presenting a very happy Art Steuber, a junior high school student here, with a brand new bicycle. Young Steuber won the bicycle in a slogan contest sponsored by Skylark bread. (The slogan was not mentioned in the caption). Seaman Robert Sysel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sysel of Crete, is currently spending a 30-day leave at the family home here. He arrived here from San Diego, Calif.

1964
New house construction in Crete surpassed the combined totals of the two previous years, according to building permits filed at the

City Clerk's office. Permits for new dwellings totalled 35, compared to 14 last year and 20 in 1961. As most residents suspected, the December temperatures were well below normal. Records from the Doane College observatory show that the average temperature last month was 20.2 degrees, well below the 29.5 average. Eleven days had readings of zero or below.

1974
Mrs. Jerry Graul was the lucky winner of the new Pinto automobile given away at the end of a project to raise money to send the Crete high band to the Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas. Mrs. Graul's name was picked from the bin which included in excess of 7,000 tickets. Construction of new homes, plus home improvements, were up in Crete during 1973. Building permits issued by the city for construction, both private and commercial, totaled \$583,425 in 1973, an increase over the \$481, 080 in 1972.

1984
A 60 x 120 foot storage shed belonging to DeWitt Lumber Company collapsed about 3 p.m. Tuesday afternoon, completely destroying the building. Manager Eldon Stokebrand said the weight of snow on the roof was a cause in the collapse, but blamed a tornado last summer as being a prime contributing factor. After the bleakest year since the early sixties, building activity skyrocketed in 1983 to \$1,316, 679, up 274 per cent over the previous year.

1994
The final figure on donations to the 1993 Crete Cares Campaign is \$8,950 – almost \$2,000 over the \$7,000 goal. Longtime Crete businessman Tom Aron died Dec. 22, 1993, in Crete. He was 91 years old and had been a banker in Crete for 66 years, from 1925 until his retirement in 1991.

2004
Reports of discolored water coming out of Crete faucets are likely to be a more common sight from nor on, but

the situation presents no cause for alarm from a health standpoint, Crete Public Works Director Tom Ourada said Monday. The opening of the new Crete Area Medical Center topped the 2003 stories of the year, as selected by Crete News editors and management. The Medical Center opened May 30 and was a \$15.8 million partnership between BryanLGH and Crete's hospital and medical clinic.

2014
The Doane College Athletic Department recently announced that former volleyball coach Cindy Meyer will be joined by Andrea Gall Baack '00 (volleyball), Ed Hubbs '76 (tennis), Plucker Butler '99 (basketball) and Frank Theiler '90 (Baseball) in the college's 2014 Athletic Hall of Fame class.

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Diann Nettifee

Saline County Clerk

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Changes coming for newspapers

BY KEVIN L. ZADINA
kevin@sewardindependent.com

First off, I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and secondly, I hope everyone has a Happy New Year.

After being in the newspaper business for many years, both as a writer and advertising marketing salesperson, I have seen a lot of change.

Maybe the biggest change for myself came at the beginning of 2022 when my wife Angie and I purchased a group of five newspapers in Seward and Saline counties. They operate under the parent name of Sweet Tea Media.

A quick explanation of the name, the slang meaning of tea is gossip - not that we are spreading gossip. It also means insider information. The Sweet Tea name also comes from my dislike of sweet tea and a friend of mine calls me sweet tea, but probably not as a compliment.

Change is coming next week



Kevin Zadina

as our newspapers will be doing a redesign for the first time in years. I'm sure some readers will like it and some may not. Change is part of our lives and we have to adapt to it.

The new year is bringing a new look to our newspapers. Many of the changes you won't notice, however the front page will have a more modern feel with new flags at the top of page.

It is refreshing to see our newspapers moving forward and providing our communities with accurate and informational news and sports. We will also be adding more digital components to our news delivery to readers.

We understand that the digital world is evolving and changing quickly. And to stay on top we have a new startup marketing firm called Sweet Tea Marketing. We will be working with businesses building websites, digital management, branding, specialty promotional items and printing.

We have invested in staff and software to make this happen. We want our local and area businesses to have a local option in the ever changing marketing world.

Our local news and new marketing businesses wouldn't be possible without a dedicated staff who work many odd hours to bring local news to our communities.

We also have employees who are not out on the streets or in gyms and boardrooms who do a great job behind the scenes.

We want to bring you the news and fun stories in our communities with the experience, expertise and truthfulness that is expected from newspapers.

And by adding Sweet Tea Marketing to our brand, we want to help customers with their needs to reach their customers and potential customers.

Again, I have seen many changes in our industry and the marketing industry, and we are here to provide news and marketing in the years to come.

The past year has been good for our business and our communities, and now we are looking toward the future. Things are always great to remember and look back on, but we can really only move forward.

So, cheers to the New Year and the exciting adventures the future will bring us.

Don't miss the true message of Christmas

BY PASTOR DAN SAFARIK
St. Mark's United Methodist Church,
Lincoln

In recent years, I have begun to appreciate some of the traditions of the Eastern Churches.



Dan Safarik

One of the main celebrations for some churches is Epiphany, which is on Jan. 6. It's defined as, "A church festival in commemoration of the coming of the Magi as the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles or in the Eastern Church in commemoration of the baptism of Christ."

It seems in our country, everything is focused on the one day of Christmas. I like the idea of other celebrations that make it a longer time period. I'm sure the coming of Christ was not a "one an' done" type experience.

The coming of Christ is so huge that we can't confine it to one day. We can't accept it and understand it in one lesson. I'm sure the magi didn't understand everything in one visit. Most people didn't get the message at all.

On Dec. 17, 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright kept their hand-built airplane in the air for 59 seconds. They sent a telegram to their sister in Dayton, Ohio: "First sustained flight today fifty-nine seconds. Hope to be home by Christmas." Their sister was so excited that she took the telegram with its big news to the newspaper editor.

The next morning the newspaper head-

line stated in big bold letters, "Popular Local Bicycle Merchants To Be Home For Holidays."

The biggest news of the time passed Dayton by that day - all because the editor misunderstood what the telegram was saying. It's easy to see how he could have gotten the wrong meaning. After all, no one had ever flown an airplane before. But if the editor had asked the Wright brothers' sister, who knew what the telegram meant, he would have discovered its true meaning.

I'm sure you could excuse most people for missing or misunderstanding the coming of the Christ Child. After all, no one had ever expected to see a Messiah in the flesh. And Jesus didn't come the way most people expected.

I'm sure if there was a newspaper in Bethlehem at the time, the editor would have misunderstood. They probably would have a small headline, "Mary And Joseph Have Visitors From The East." They served lamb and lentils.

People back then may have missed the message because they never heard the details before. In modern times, we may miss the message because we have heard it so many times we take it for granted. It's so common, we don't appreciate what a wondrous thing it was for God to come to us.

It sure wouldn't hurt to take more time to let the message settle in our hearts.

Prayer: Our Lord, help us to be more receptive and sensitive to the meaning in the manger. Amen

Letter to the editor

Everyone can be a philanthropist in some fashion

I am sitting here at the end of the year thinking about the city's comprehensive plan and contemplating the word philanthropy in light of Christmas and thoughts of year-end giving.

At its root, philanthropy is the desire to promote the welfare of others. Wealthy people have been using their money to benefit others throughout time. Characters like Andrew Carnegie and John Rockefeller are met in the present by Warren Buffett and MacKenzie Scott.

Clearly, giving millions of dollars to charity should entitle a person to be recognized as a philanthropist. But those who don't have millions of dollars can, and should, be philanthropists too. EVERY

ONE OF US can give of our time, our talent, or our treasure at whatever level and in whatever manner promotes the welfare of others.

Crete just lost a dear philanthropist - Ann Howard. Ann was always giving, literally. It was hard to stop for a visit and not leave with some trinket she thought you would enjoy. She gave decades of service to the Friends of the Crete Public Library, supporting the effort to build a new library with her time, her talent, and her treasure.

She didn't stop giving there. She gave to her family, her sorority, our schools and every other cause she thought might improve our town. In fact, Ann was willing to make a gift for the Isis Theatre before we received IRS recognition.

She believed in the mission of the Arts Council and she wanted that movie theatre reopened downtown. I

was blessed to give her a tour this fall and I am smiling because she decided that I needed her popcorn bowls.

But what does Ann's philanthropy have to do with the Comprehensive Plan?

The Plan aspires to make Crete a place where residents live, work and grow in a forward-thinking manner. It asks Crete, through its government, its schools, its businesses and its residents, to live for others - those next door and those who don't live here yet. We can't expect any one facet of the community to build a future alone.

The Theatre won't reopen without the support of most of the city. The Pumpkin Festival may not celebrate its 10th Anniversary without new volunteers stepping up. Even Santa and Christmas programs were made possible by volunteers.

Philanthropy is a

long game - one the plan is inviting us to play. If we create a culture of giving in Crete, then we can achieve the plan's goals. If you are considering a year-end gift, I happen to know that the Isis Theatre and the Crete Youth Cabin need financial support.

If you want to volunteer, reach out to the Chamber or the Crete Public Library. They need your time and your talent. And if those things are more than you can consider right now, just smile at the person you meet in the grocery store. You might improve their day.

When we put the needs of others first, our community improves. Philanthropy really is that simple.

Shaylene Smith
Executive Director
of Blue River Arts
Council and attorney
at Kalkwarf & Smith
Law Offices

Remembering the infamous Acapulco Five

BY GENE STEINMEYER
For the Crete News

I am lucky enough to be part of the Doane University's women's basketball program. Head coach Ryan Baumgartner hired me as his assistant coach in 2020. You might remember, that was the year of the pandemic.

Ryan makes sure his team has a special holiday travel experience every two years. It requires fundraising and a lot of planning. It's not only fun for the players but the travel is educational, too.

The team just returned from six days and five nights in Palm Beach, Florida. That's where we played in the West Palm Beach Classic. The games are played on the Keiser University campus. The court is named for Rollie Massimino, the famous Villanova coach that took down Patrick Ewing and Georgetown in the famous NCAA finals in 1985.

Rollie's last coaching job was at Keiser University. As he was



Gene Steinmeyer

dying of cancer, they named the court after him. It was nostalgic for me. I'll never forget that game.

The players were terrific. They scored 90 and 99 points in the two games, both wins. Their behavior was just as good as their play. Mak Hatcliff scored 40 in one game and Rylee Rice had seven threes in a game. No one got in trouble during the time they had to be on their own.

That wasn't always true of the trips I set up for my Doane teams in the 1980s and 1990s. The worst behavior on any trip my teams took was on a Thanksgiving adventure to Mexico. We started the trip in Acapulco before playing our games. It was a money saver. Prices were lower in the resort than after Thanksgiving.

That was a big mistake on my part.

Five upperclassmen, all of whom will go un-named, decided to skip curfew for a little extra fun. They enlisted a freshman to come to me and declare a bed check wasn't necessary. The freshman claimed they had retired for the evening early.

What turnip truck did they think I fell off of? I found them in a night club adjacent to the hotel.

They didn't see me. I let them have their fun but when they got to their rooms, this is what they found.

I listed the five names, then wrote on a note, "Be at my door at 8 AM or you'll never play for Doane again!"

I meant to scare them and it worked. They showed up on time, but what they found was a very grumpy and angry coach who had lost a lot of sleep. I suspended them for a game. The freshman who lied for them had to do the bed checks the rest of the trip.

That event was over 30 years ago. Those five became famously known as the Acapulco Five. They also turned out to be the players that ultimately turned the Doane program into a winner in those first years.

A couple of the Acapulco Five have sent their children back to Doane. Thankfully, they are much better behaved than their parents. I also heard that one of the Acapulco Five still has that note that I put on their door all these years later.

Christmas reminds me of basketball trips, Santa Shakes (another story), and the Acapulco Five. Merry Christmas.



Letters to the editor

The Crete News welcomes your letters to the editor. Letters should be 500 words or less and must be submitted before noon Friday. All letters may be edited for content and should be free of libelous statements.

All letters must be signed and include a phone number to verify authenticity.

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Brexley Willcoxon, center, gets help carrying some of her gifts by Saline County Sheriff Alan Moore, left, Emma Semrad, right, and county dispatcher Kris Hyde.

PHOTOS BY DOUG CARROLL/CN

Shopping with the sheriff

Five area students get to participate in gift program

BY DOUG CARROLL
doug@sewardindependent.com

Five Saline County students recently took part in the “Shop with a Sheriff” program, sponsored by the Saline County Sheriff’s Office.

On Dec. 20, one student chosen from the Tri-County, Wilber-Cla-tonia, Crete, Dorchester and Friend elementary schools was brought to Walmart in Crete and allowed to buy presents for themselves and their family with money donated for the program by local businesses and private individuals.

“I think the day went well,” said Saline County Deputy Jen Warning, who was in charge of the program this year.

Warning said 13 deputies, three members of the sheriff departments correctional staff and one dispatcher were able to help the kids shop and pick out gifts for their family members at the store.

“We were able to



Saline County Sheriff Alan Moore, right, and deputy Dillon Semrad load packages being delivered as part of the “Shop with a Sheriff” program.

have fun shopping with the kids and then bring them back to the courthouse where staff members from various offices throughout the courthouse helped wrap the gifts we bought,” said Warning.

All the participants then were able to relax for a while and enjoy pop, pizza and desert before the students were taken home with gifts ready to be placed

under the tree. They were each also sent home with a ham and side dishes to enjoy as a Christmas meal.

Shop with a Sheriff has been a program in Saline County since 2015, said Warning. The program is made possible by tax-deductible donations made to the sheriff’s office by Saline County businesses and local people.

Students

University of Nebraska

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln conferred 1,172 degrees during commencement exercises Dec. 15 and 16 at Pinnacle Bank Arena. Graduates from this area include:

Crete

Ebben Blake, Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts

Jennifer Cardona, College of Education and Human Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Education and Human Sciences

Elijah Clarke, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Bachelor of Science in Mechanized Systems Management

Vanesa Lopez Franco, College of Education and Human Sciences, Bachelor of Science in Education and Human Sciences with distinction

Cesar Lopez Herrejon, College of Engineering, Bachelor of Science in Construction Management

Angie Rodriguez, College of Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Arts


Martell

Skylar Lienemann, College of Business, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

University of Nebraska at Omaha


The University of Nebraska at Omaha alumni network is growing. More than 1,100 Mavericks graduated this December, including Patricia Terrazas Vargas of Crete with a BS in Criminology and Criminal Justice.

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Cardinals pick up pace in second half, sink Vikings

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

After the Crete boys' basketball team struggled to score in the second quarter, the Cardinals picked up the pace with 40 points in the second half to defeat Waverly 66-42 on Dec. 19.

After a hot start in the first quarter for the Cardinals including 10 points for Trace Egge, Crete got shut down in the second quarter but still held a 26-22 lead at halftime.

"Waverly is a very physical team who executes well on the offensive end," Coach Tony Siske said. "They threw some different looks at us defensively that we had to adjust to. It was a great game for us as we had to adjust on the fly."

After some adjustments, Crete was able to be more efficient on offense and pull away in the second half.

"We got tested in the first half and were able to get separation in the second half," Siske said.

After being up 43-37 in the fourth quarter, Crete went on a 16-0 run to put the game away.

Crete shot 43% from the field and 44% from



KEATON BURGESS/CN

Kenner Svitek of Crete attempts to pump fake a Waverly defender as he looks for a shot on Dec. 19.

three. The Cardinals also shot 81% from the

free-throw line and had eight steals.

Crete (7-0) is off until Thursday, Dec. 28, when

they will compete in the Doane Holiday Tournament.



KEATON BURGESS/CN

Camry Draeger of Crete keeps the ball out of reach of Anastyn Harms of Waverly as she pushes down the court on Dec. 19.

Cardinals drop game to Waverly, defeat Platteview before break

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Crete girls' basketball team started off the week with a game against Waverly on Dec. 19 and couldn't hang with the Vikings, losing 57-40.

Waverly jumped out to a fast start, leading 34-17 at the half.

Coach Britt Ehlers said the game came down to three runs by Waverly.

"They had a run in the first quarter, at the end of the second quarter and at the end of the third quarter," he said. "Otherwise we played them really even

if not ahead."

After being down 17 at the half, the Cardinals brought the game within 10 in the third quarter, but Waverly went on a run to put the game out of reach.

"When those runs came, we didn't get the key stops like we needed to," Ehlers said.

Marin Rasgorshek led the Cardinals with 13 points and 10 total rebounds. Anna Hohlen scored nine points and Amelia Hohlen scored eight. Both of the sisters had three steals each.

Crete then hosted Platteview in its last game before the moratorium and defeated the Trojans 49-45 on Dec. 21.

Crete started up by six at the end of the first quarter, but Platteview scored 20 points to Crete's 11 in the second to take a 26-23 lead at the half.

After halftime, Crete outscored the Trojans 26-19, which led to the four-point victory.

Crete (5-3) is off until Thursday, Dec. 28, when they will play in the Doane holiday tournament. Ehlers said they will continue to dial in and gain confidence over the break.

"We just need to continue to work on those things and continue to build confidence on the things we work on every day," he said.

Opinion

The shot clock has been great for basketball

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

Implementing a shot clock during the 2023-24 season has been great for Class B basketball.

One of my least favorite things, before the shot clock was implemented, was when teams would hold the ball for minutes at a time. It didn't happen super often, but when it did, it was honestly annoying and not fun to watch.

When this happens, it causes teams who are behind to constantly foul, extending the game. When teams start fouling to get the ball back and it takes away real action from the game and just

makes the game boring for the time being.

Now with the shot clock, teams have the opportunity to get the ball back and force the other team to actually play the game and take a shot.

So far, it hasn't mattered much for Crete since they are usually ahead at the end of the game, but I like how teams can't hold the ball for minutes at a time.

I'm enjoying seeing teams have to make something work within the time limit and not take minutes to set up a shot. I love the fast-paced offense and it has made these games a ton of fun to watch.

I really hope in the future that Classes C and D find a way to add a shot clock because I feel it could make for a lot of great games.



Keaton Burgess

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Around the area



KEATON BURGESS/CN
Justus Gardiner of Crete drives the lane and looks for a opportunity to shoot a layup against Waverly on Dec. 19.



STEPHANIE CROSTON/CN
Dorchester's Addison Lehr stretches for the ball on a rebound attempt against Cedar Bluffs Dec. 19.



DOUG CARROLL/CN
Tri County's Kenzi Scherling, center, and Ella Clark pressure a Pawnee City ball handler during the Trojans home victory Dec. 21.



LEESA K. BARTU/CN
Avery Tuttle fights the East Butler press on Dec. 19 in Friend.

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SIDELINE SUMMARY

This week in sports...

CRETE

Boys' Basketball
After the Crete boys' basketball team struggled to score in the second quarter, the Cardinals picked up the pace with 40 points in the second half to defeat Waverly 66-42 on Dec. 19.

Girls' Basketball
The Crete girls' basketball dropped its first game of the week 57-40 to Waverly on Dec. 19, but bounced back nicely with a 49-45 win over Plattview on Dec. 21. Marin Rasgorshek scored 13 against Waverly.

Boys' Wrestling
The Crete boys' wrestling team hosted a triangular with Raymond Central and Malcolm on Dec. 22. Crete lost to Raymond Central 43-36 and defeated Malcolm 71-12.

DORCHESTER

Boys' Basketball
After falling behind early against Cedar Bluffs and losing 57-31, the Dorchester boys' basketball team played hard until the very end and played well in the second half on Dec. 19. Dorchester then played Heartland Lutheran and the Red Hornets won its second game of the year, defeating Dorchester 46-33 on Dec. 21.

Girls' Basketball
After suffering a close loss in last week's final game against Osceola, the Dorchester girls' basketball team blew out both of its opponents on the week, defeating Cedar Bluffs 57-17 on Dec. 19 and Heartland Lutheran 67-22 on Dec. 21. Gabby Theis set a new school record in three point shots made in a game, making eight against Cedar Bluffs.

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EXETER-MILLIGAN-FRIEND

Boys' Basketball
The Exeter-Milligan/Friend boys' basketball team finished its December schedule with a 60-29 win over East Butler Dec. 19. Grady Bresson recorded a double double with 14 points and 14 rebounds. Mason Vossler added 10 points.

Girls' Basketball
The EMF girls' basketball team picked up its third win of the year, defeating East Butler 51-45 on Dec. 19. Savana Krupicka scored 20 points, collected nine rebounds and had four steals.

Wrestling
The Bobcats were at Sutton Dec. 19 for a dual tournament and while they didn't win any duals, Dayton Kremer was 5-0 at 165 pounds with three pins.

WILBER-CLATONIA

Boys' Basketball
The Wilber-Clatonia boys' basketball team picked up a 47-44 win over Thayer Central Dec. 19 but then lost to Central City 57-43 Dec. 21 in the opening round of Central City's holiday tournament. In the win over Thayer Central, Grant Kuhlmann and Carter Skleba each reached double figures at 16 and 10, respectively. Against Central City, Cooper Palmer finished with 11.

Girls' Basketball
The Wilber-Clatonia girls' basketball team battled Thayer Central and Central City Dec. 19 and 21, falling short in both contests. Against Thayer Central, WCHS fell 44-15. Central City picked up a 42-25 win, despite 14 points from WC's Kelsey Kotas.

TRI COUNTY

Boys' Basketball
Tri County got back in the win column with a pair of victories last week. The Trojans defeated Falls City Sacred Heart 63-26 Dec. 19 and Pawnee City 58-34 Dec. 21. Three Trojans reached double figures in scoring – Caden Bales with 18, Drew Siems with 14 and Tayden Gronemeyer with 10 – against FCSH. Bales finished the double double with 11 rebounds.

Girls' Basketball
The Tri County girls' basketball team split its two games last week, falling to Falls City Sacred Heart 38-31 Dec. 19 and beating Pawnee City 33-21 Dec. 21. TCHS held PC to just six points in the second half.





STEPHANIE CROSTON/CN
Gabrielle Theis of Dorchester gets a steal against Cedar Bluffs Dec. 19. Theis broke the school record for three-pointers in a game with eight.

Longhorns dominate Wildcats, Red Hornets

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

After suffering a close loss in last week’s final game against Osceola, the Dorchester girls’ basketball team blew out both of its opponents on the week, defeating Cedar Bluffs 57-17 on Dec. 19 and Heartland Lutheran 67-22 on Dec. 21.

Against Cedar Bluffs, the Longhorns jumped out to an early 16-5 lead at the end of the first quarter. After holding a 24-8 lead at halftime, Dorchester turned on the jets outscoring the Wildcats 22-3 in the third quarter.

In the high-scoring game, Gabby Theis broke the school record for three-point shots in a game, draining eight shots. The previous record was seven. She finished with 26 points. Baylor Behrens and Madison Theis both had three steals.

Against Heartland Lutheran, the Red Hornets were outmatched the entire game as the Longhorn offense went off, outscoring Heartland Lutheran 34-10 in the first half and 33-12 in the second half.

Because of an early print deadline, individual stats were unavailable at press time.

Dorchester (5-3) is scheduled to travel to Lewiston on Thursday, Dec. 28, for a 6 p.m. start time.



STEPHANIE CROSTON/CN
Owen Vyhnaelek of Dorchester looks for an open teammate in the Longhorns’ battle against Cedar Bluffs Dec. 19.

Longhorns compete well, drop two before break

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

After falling behind early against Cedar Bluffs and losing 57-31, the Dorchester boys’ basketball team played hard until the very end and played well in the second half on Dec. 19.

The Longhorns trailed 19-2 at the end of the first quarter and 35-9 at halftime but tied the Wildcats 22-22 in the second half.

Down 50-23, the Longhorns continued to fight and went on an eight-point run in the fourth quarter.

Andy Drake scored all nine first half points

and finished with 16.

Dorchester shot 29% from the field, 23% from three and 44% from the free throw line. The Longhorns also had 12 steals.

Dorchester then played Heartland Lutheran and the Red Hornets won its second game of the year, defeating Dorchester 46-33 on Dec. 21.

Because of an early print deadline, score by quarter and stats were unavailable at press time.

Dorchester (0-7) is scheduled to travel to Lewiston on Thursday, Dec. 28, starting at 7:30 p.m.



Crete’s Ricardo Vicente pinned Jake Walters of Malcolm in 4:44 of their match at 144 pounds.

Cardinals host Raymond Central, Malcolm in triangular before break

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Crete wrestling team hosted Raymond Central and Malcolm for a triangular right before the moratorium on Dec. 22 and lost to Raymond Central 43-36 and defeated Malcolm 71-12.

Crete went 6-9 against Raymond Central with the lighter weights getting the Cardinals out to a good start. Crete took a 30-3 lead after a pin each from Wyatt Clarke at 120, Lesnier Gomez at 126 and Jamie Ramos at 138.

Raymond Central dominated the heavy weights with only Ashton Sundling at 157 picking up a pin over Phillip Karpov in 3:03.

With the final contested match and Crete up 36-31, Raymond Central’s Lennox Starr at 215 pinned Crete’s Ranger Dwehus in 1:13. Crete was then open at 285.

Against Malcolm, Crete had four pins and one technical fall.

Pins on the night came from Clarke at 120, Gomez at 126, Ramos at 132 and Ricardo Vicente at 144.

Crete will wrestle next at Shelby-Rising City on Saturday, Dec. 30, starting at 9 a.m.

Five Doane players selected to CSC Academic All-District for football

The College Sports Communicators (CSC) Academic All-District teams for football have been announced for 2023 and Doane placed five players on this year's list. To be eligible for the honor, a student-athlete must have at least a 3.50 grade point average	and meet the participation requirements set for the sport.	This year's honorees for the Tigers all come from the defensive side of the ball: Luke Collison, Ty Martinsen, Marcus Randazzo, Jackson Seward, and Reece Zutavern.	Collison posted 13	tackles, seven solo, for the Tigers this year in 10 games. Martinsen finished with 62 tackles, 34 solo, in 10 games while earning honorable mention All-GPAC honors as well as the NAIA National Defensive Player of the Week honor in the final game of the season. Randa-	zzo posted 27 tackles, 16 solo, in 10 games. Seward collected 32 tackles, 21 solo, in 11 games while Zutavern finished with 36 tackles, 17 solo, in 11 games. Seward and Zutavern tied for team-high honors with two fumble recoveries apiece.
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Hatcliff, Rice roll as women’s basketball goes 2-0 in Florida

The Doane women’s basketball team had a short turnaround on Dec. 18, starting day two of the West Palm Beach Classic about 17 hours after they concluded action on Dec. 17. The Tiger offense stayed hot as they reached the 90-point mark for the second straight game as they defeated their host, Keiser University, 99-82.	Hot shooting from behind the arc keyed the Doane offensive attack early on. There were four ties and four lead changes in the first 10 minutes. With 3:50 to play in the first quarter, Keiser led 14-11. The Tigers tied the game on a Mak Hatcliff 3-point basket and went in front on a Rylie Rice 3-point basket. Keiser tied the game at 17-all with a 3-point shot only to see Maddie Portwine put Doane back in front with a 3-point basket and Libby Trausch extend the lead with a 3-point basket. Keiser hit a 3-point basket to close the quarter with Doane in front, 23-20. The Tigers hit 5-of-7 3-point attempts in the quarter.	The second quarter belonged to Hatcliff and Rice as the Tigers extended their lead. Hatcliff posted 12 points while Rice added 10 points to combine for 22 of the team’s 30 points in the quarter. Doane’s largest lead of the quarter was 12 points, 51-39, and they led 53-43 at the break.	The Tigers pushed their lead to 16 points, 66-50, following a Rice 3-point basket and a Kaylee Klover layup. However, Doane would have a short cold spell spanning four minutes in which Keiser went on a 13-2 to pull within five points, 68-63. Macy Holtz scored twice in the final 64 seconds to push the lead to nine points at the quarter break.	Hatcliff dominated the fourth quarter for the Tigers. After one basket in the previous quarter, she went on to score 18 points in the final 10 minutes of play to hold off any Seahawk hopes of a rally. Rice added a pair of 3-point baskets in the quarter, finishing with seven in the game which is tied for 7th-most in program history.	As a team, the Tigers shot 54.9% (39-of-71) from the floor	and 54.2% (13-of-24) from behind the arc. At the free throw line, they shot 72.7-percent (8-of-11). Keiser finished 47.1-percent (32-of-68) from the field, 37.5-percent (9-of-24) from behind the arc, and 90-percent (9-of-10) at the charity stripe.	Hatcliff led all scorers with 40 points (20 in each half), shooting 15-of-27 from the floor including 3-of-7 from 3-point range. Rice scored a career-high 25 points on 9-of-14 shooting, going 7-of-11 from beyond the arc.	Klover led the team with nine rebounds as the Tigers held a 39-30 team edge in rebounds. Megan Chambers added eight rebounds and two blocked shots. Macy Holtz dished out six assists, tying her career-high, and picked up four steals. Doane had eight steals on the Seahawks’ 10 turnovers.	The Tigers will take a short break before returning to action on Saturday, December 30, as they play host to York at 2:00 p.m. in Crete. Doane defeated the Panthers in a meeting in November at York.
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The All-Class Reunion Planning Committee members are, from left: (front row) Jane Fahrnbruch, Teresa Hunt, Phyllis Niebuhr, Susan Weber and Jo Lisec Stehlik; and (back row) Marilea Thiem, Jack Cochnar, Josh McDowell, Ron Sack, Marvin Kemper and Mike Wolverton. Not pictured is Rose Ann Steer.

Crete Cardinal Weekend planned next spring

Plans are underway for the first annual Crete Cardinal Weekend at Tuxedo Park Ag Hall on Friday, May 31, 2024, and the Saturday events that are scheduled for June 1. Committees are actively working to further plan the events and activities for the weekend. Classes ending in 4 or 9 will be honored and recognized, however, all CHS graduates, those who have attended CPS and friends are welcome.

To follow progress of Cardinal Weekend planning, “like” the Crete Public Schools Foundation Facebook page or call Marilea Thiem, CPS Foundation Director, at (402) 826-5588.



Luke Meduna, center, big game program manager for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, gives a presentation at the big game meeting held at College Heights Country Club in Crete Dec. 12.

Big game meeting discusses lower doe harvest

BY DOUG CARROLL
doug@sewardindependent.com

Luke Meduna, big game program manager for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, said he felt the commission’s big game meeting that was held at the College Heights Country Club in Crete on Dec. 12 went well.

“There were lots of good questions and conversations about everything,” said Meduna. “

Meduna said the buck harvest in the southeast part of the state during this year’s firearm deer season was about the same as last year, and about where the commission expected it to be.

The doe harvest, during the firearm season, however was a little lower than expected, he said, but he attributed that to higher-than-normal temperatures during this year’s firearm season.

“I do think the warm weather played into that,”

he said. “Hunters didn’t have the opportunity to hang a deer right after harvesting it, so they were likely a little reluctant to take a doe as it would interrupt their hunt more so than in cooler years. Days during the season were 8-20 degrees warmer than average and I really think that had to have an impact.

“The results of the nine-day firearm are just a snapshot of the overall picture, so we’ll know more after the conclusion of all of our deer seasons in January.”

The meeting was just one of several across the state by the commission to gain input from hunters before the commission meets to establish next year’s deer seasons.

“I actually enjoy going to all of these meetings and talking with hunters from across the state,” Meduna said. “It’s time consuming, but well worth the effort.”



The 2023 Christmas Recital was Dec. 10 at the Cultural Center in Wilber. Participants were, from left: (front row) Amelia Pracheil – piano, Madelynn Nicholson – piano, Tessa Lytle – piano, Slate Thelen - guitar and Spencer Morrissey – piano; (middle row) Judy Vrbka – teacher, Stella Morrissey - piano; Mila Eschiti - piano, Jessica Freeman - guitar; and Ranae Ward – piano; and (back row) Aaron Panning - voice and piano, Caleb Panning - voice; Khegan Smisek - piano and Cody DeJong – piano.

Students

Chadron State College

Chadron State College has announced its Dean’s list, including Minh Duc Le of Crete. A cumulative grade point average of at least 3.5 is required for the academic honor. To qualify for the honor, students must be enrolled in 12 credit hours of coursework, be seeking their first bachelor’s degree and have no incomplete grades during the semester.

University of Nebraska at Kearney

The University of Nebraska at Kearney announced students who earned a place on the Dean’s list for the fall 2023 semester. Students who are on the Dean’s list must have completed 12 credit hours or more of classes with a 3.5 grade-point average or better on a 4.0 scale. Students earn a 4.0 for an “A,” 3.0 for a “B” and 2.0 for a “C.” Students on the list from this area include Rommell Miranda of Crete and Stacie Thompson of Denton.

EMF pep band alumni return to the basketball court

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN
scireporter@sewardindependent.com

Graduates from Exeter-Milligan and Friend bands relived the old days by coming back to play with current band students at the EMF basketball games against East Butler on Dec. 19.

As usual, the EMF pep band, this time joined by the Alumni/Community Pep Band, played before both the girls’ and boys’ games. Exeter-Milligan music teacher and band director Mark Perez said any alumni band member was welcome to participate, and those who do not have an instrument could reach out to him.

In the past, only a few alumni band members typically came to this annual event. However, Perez upped the advertising this year and estimates there was about 10 to 20. He said he enjoyed seeing the different generations and age groups play alongside the current students.

“I think it goes a long way for the community and the alumni to show their continued support for the band,” he said.

Braden Capek, who graduated from Exeter-Milligan in 2022, played at the event. He said he also comes to help the EMF band every once in a while when they need an extra percussionist.

“It’s just nice to see everyone I don’t get to see. They’re all back home, and I’m in Lincoln so it’s nice to catch up,” he said. “But, also it’s just really fun to play.”

Although the alumni band did not practice with the current students beforehand, Perez said they were given sheet music and many of the songs they played were similar to ones they played in the past.

“We just want them to show up and do their best and really just show that they’re supporting the kids,” he said.

Capek said although he doesn’t get to play as much now that he is in college, he still loves it and senses rhythms everywhere. He said he was looking forward to jumping back into percussion with EMF at this week’s basketball game and seeing how the younger players have progressed.

“I want to see how the band has come along because it was always a big part of when I was in high school,” he said. “It was always one of the more prestigious things.”

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Listen to the music

Childcare grants open for facilities, tech

Two new childcare grants are available from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. The Restoration and Enchancement Program grant and the Technology Access Program grant will accept applications from licensed childcare providers through Feb. 9, 2024. The REP grant program will assist Nebraska's licensed childcare providers with improving facilities, investing in new equipment, and enhancing the quality of childcare homes and centers.

It will use \$7.5 million dollars of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. Funding may be used for minor remodeling and for upgrading childcare facilities to ensure that providers meet state and local licensing standards, including applicable health and safety requirements. Funding may also be used to purchase items related to playground equipment, cognitive development, transportation safety and more. Award amounts are based on license type:

- The cap for Child-

care Centers is \$250,000.

- The cap for Family Childcare Home I & II facilities is \$25,000.
- The cap for School Aged-Only and Pre-school facilities is \$10,000.

Awards will be made following the close of the application period. The TAP grant program will facilitate the ease of service delivery, encourage higher personal security and protection of Nebraska's children and further the educational programs of childcare providers. It will also use \$7.5 million of ARPA funding to support the improvement of childcare operations by procuring desktops, laptops, tablets, printers and Wi-Fi routers/modems. TAP awards to qualifying applicants will be made on a rolling basis until all funds are expended, which may occur prior to Feb. 9. Applications for both grants are due by 11:59 p.m. (CT) on Feb. 9, 2024. Applications and more information are available at dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Child-Care-and-Development-Fund-Grant-Opportunities.aspx.

Two members sought for Extension board

Nebraska Extension in Saline County is seeking candidates to fill two Extension Board positions through an open nomination process to serve a three-year term starting in 2024, until Dec. 31, 2026. The first position is for Saline County residents living in one of the four northeast townships (Dorchester, Crete, Pleasant Hill and Big Blue) and the second is an at-large position.

Complete a short application if you are interested in serving that can be found online at go.unl.edu/salineco-extboard or picked up as the Saline County Extension office at 306 W. Third St. in Wilber. Return applications to the Saline County Extension office by Jan. 23 or via email to ilindalchavarria2@unl.edu. For additional information, contact Nebraska Extension in Saline County at (402) 821-2151.

PUBLIC NOTICES

MEETINGS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING JANUARY 8, 2024 CRETE BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Crete Board of Education will meet in regular session Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:00 pm at the Cardinal Welcome Center, located at 930 Main Ave. The agenda kept current and available for inspection at the Cardinal Welcome Center, is subject to emergency modifications at the meeting. Justin Kuntz, President
Crete Board of Education
CR — December 27, 2023
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING JANUARY 2, 2024 CITY OF CRETE, NEBRASKA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Crete, Nebraska, will meet on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers, 243 East 13th Street, Crete, Nebraska. The agenda for the meeting is on file at the City Clerk's Office. Said meeting will be open to the public. The City of Crete assures that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, age, disability, handicap or sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity of the City receiving Federal financial assistance. To report discrimination, contact the City Clerk's office. Jerry Wilcox
City Clerk
CR — December 27, 2023
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING JANUARY 10, 2024 SALINE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Saline County Agricultural Society will meet in regular session on Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Exhibition Building at the Saline County Fairgrounds, Tuxedo Park, Crete, Nebraska. An agenda for said meeting is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Saline County Extension Office in Wilber. Wess Kohout
Secretary
CR — December 27, 2023
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Education of Saline County School District No. 76-0044, a.k.a. Dorchester Public School will hold the Regular Board Meeting on Monday, January 8 at 7: 00 P.M. or as soon thereafter at the Dorchester Public School Library. The agenda for such meeting is being kept continuously current and is available for inspection at the office of the Superintendent, Dorchester Public School. Steve Vyhnalek
President of the Board
CR — December 27, 2023
ZNEZ

VILLAGE OF DORCHESTER NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024, 6:30 P.M.

Notice is hereby given that the Village of Dorchester Board of Trustees meeting will be held on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Farmers Cooperative Meeting Room (607 Franklin Ave., Entrance #2). The meeting is open to the public. An agenda for said meeting is available for public inspection at the office of the Village Clerk. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be enlarged later than twenty-four hours before scheduled commencement of the meeting. Jennifer M. Kasl
Village Clerk – Treasurer
CR — December 27, 2023
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING JANUARY 10, 2024 CRETE HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the Housing Authority of the City of Crete will hold its regular meeting Wednesday, January 10, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in the Centennial Terrace Community Room located at 1600 Grove Avenue. The meeting will be open to the public. An agenda for this meeting may be reviewed at the office of the Housing Authority. Dwayne Bennett
Secretary
CR — December 27, 2023
ZNEZ

PROPERTY SALES

NOTICE OF SUIT IN THE COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA CIVIL DEPARTMENT

Truist Bank, successor by merger to SunTrust Bank Plaintiff, vs. Megan Foree; Christopher Maxson; Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka; United States of America; John Doe aka Unknown Occupant; Mary Doe aka Unknown Occupant, Defendants.
Case No. D22C1230000154
THE STATE OF NEBRASKA, to the above-named defendants and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors and assigns of any deceased defendants; the unknown spouses of any defendants; the unknown officers, successors, trustees, creditors and assigns of any defendants that are existing, dissolved or dormant corporations; the unknown executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors, successors and assigns of any defendants that are or were partners or in partnership; the unknown guardians, conservators and trustees of any defendants that are minors or are under any legal disability; and the unknown heirs, executors, administrators, devisees, trustees, creditors and assigns of any person alleged to be deceased, and all other persons who are or may be concerned. You are notified that a Petition has been filed in the District Court of Saline County, Nebraska, praying to foreclose a real estate mortgage on the following described real estate: LOT SEVENTEEN (17) IN R.S. BENTLEY'S FIRST ADDITION TO FRIEND, SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA AND PART OF LOT SIXTEEN (16) IN R.S. BENTLEY'S FIRST ADDITION TO FRIEND, SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 16, THENCE RUNNING NORTH ALONG THE EAST BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID LOT 16 A DISTANCE OF 54 FEET; THENCE RUNNING WEST 22 FEET, THENCE RUNNING SOUTH 54 FEET, AND THENCE RUNNING EAST 22 FEET IN THE POINT OF THE BEGINNING, commonly known as 718 2nd St, Friend, NE 68359 (the "Property") and all those defendants who have not otherwise been served are required to plead to the Petition on or before the 9th day of February, 2024, in the District Court of Saline County, Nebraska. If you fail to plead, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition. NOTICE Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692c(b), no information concerning the collection of this debt may be given without the prior consent of the consumer given directly to the debt collector or the express permission of a court of competent jurisdiction. The debt collector is attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Prepared By: SouthLaw, P.C. Liliانا Shannon (NE # 22854) 13160 Foster, Suite 100 Overland Park, KS 66213-2660 (913) 663-7600 (913) 663-7899 (Fax) Liliانا.Shannon@southlaw.com Attorneys for Plaintiff (241676)
CR — December 20, 27, 2023, January 03, 2024
ZNEZ

GENERAL NOTICES

KALKWARF & SMITH LAW OFFICES, L.L.C.

NOTICE OF DIVORCE ACTION IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA TO: ANA FRANCISCO PABLO, whose whereabouts are unknown and upon whom personal service of summons cannot be had, and who is the Defendant in said proceedings: You are hereby notified that on or about December 13, 2023, Antonio Ramirez Marcos filed a Complaint for Dissolution of Marriage against you in the District Court of Saline County, Nebraska, at Case No. CI 23-166, the object of which is to obtain a dissolution of your marriage. You are required to answer said Complaint on or before January 26, 2024, or said Complaint will be taken as true.
CR — December 20, 27, 2023, January 03, 2024
ZNEZ

ORDINANCES

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE 2192 IN PAMPHLET FORM

Public Notice is hereby given that at a meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Crete, Nebraska (the "City") held at 6:00 p.m. on December 19, 2023 there was passed and adopted Ordinance 2192 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CRETE, NEBRASKA RELATING TO SIDEWALKS; TO AMEND SECTION 8-2074 OF THE CRETE MUNICIPAL CODE TO REQUIRE WHERE POSSIBLE, ALL NEW SIDEWALKS BE BUILT ACCORDING TO CURRENT SIDEWALK WITH STANDARDS IN THE CITY OF CRETE, NEBRASKA.
CR — December 27, 2023
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE 2191 IN PAMPHLET FORM

Public Notice is hereby given that at a meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Crete, Nebraska (the "City") held at 6:00 p.m. on December 19, 2023 there was passed and adopted Ordinance 2191 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CRETE, NEBRASKA RELATING TO SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION; TO AMEND SECTIONS 8-208, 11-304, AND 11-307 OF THE CRETE MUNICIPAL CODE; TO MANDATE ALL SIDEWALKS BE CONSTRUCTED FIVE FEET WIDE.
CR — December 27, 2023
ZNEZ

ORGANIZATION

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

Notice is hereby given that VASQUEZ WELDZ LLC has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The address of the designated office of the Company is 535 E 2ND ST, APT A CRETE, NE 68333. The initial agent for service of process is LUIS ENRIQUE VASQUEZ CALDERON 535 E 2ND ST, APT A CRETE, NE 68333. The general nature of the business will be to engage in the transaction of any or all lawful business, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The Company commenced its existence on October 16, 2023, and its duration shall be perpetual. Organizer Name: LUIS VASQUEZ
CR — December 20, 27, 2023, January 03, 2024
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

Notice is hereby given that Wildlife Habitat Services LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the state of Nebraska, with its initial designated office at 931 State Hwy. 41, Western, Nebraska 68464. The initial agent for service of process of the company is Adam Kotas, 931 State Hwy. 41, Western, Nebraska 68464.
CR — December 13, 20, 27, 2023
ZNEZ

MINUTES

VILLAGE OF DORCHESTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES DECEMBER 11, 2023

The regular meeting of the Village of Dorchester Board of Trustees was held Monday, December 11, 2023, at the Dorchester Community Hall, and was called to order at 6:58 p.m. Chairperson Miller advised those present of the Open Meetings Act. Answering Roll Call were board members Matt Shaw, Nancy Tellez, Tammie Lang, and Chairperson Roger Miller. Sarah Wenz was excused. Also in attendance were Jen Kasl, Clerk-Treasurer; Dawn Zoubek, Deputy Clerk; Trent Roesler, Assistant Utilities Superintendent; Brent Kasl, Assistant Utilities Superintendent; and Connor Madsen, Hoffschneider Law, PC. Advance Notice of the meeting was posted at the Dorchester US Post Office; First State Bank, NE; Village of Dorchester office and in The Crete News. Motion by Lang, seconded by Tellez, to approve Consent Agenda Items #1-#4. Motion carried (4-0-1). No sheriff's report. Brent Kasl gave the Fire report. Remodel is coming along. No code compliance report. Unfinished business: Discussion was held on the vehicle storage building updates. There was damage to one of the doors from pouring concrete, so that will be repaired. Workers will be back once the overhead doors are installed to finish up. Electric is out 2 weeks and sprinklers are 2-3 weeks out. Clerk Kasl will check on Black Hills and the timeline with Crete for the pole. BZ Construction will be finishing off the walls for the rooms with some of the extra tin. Consideration of BC Builders Pay App #5. Motion by Tellez, seconded by Shaw to approve the pay app. Motion carried (4-0-1). Consideration of the LARM Invoice to add the building to our existing coverage. Motion by Shaw, seconded by Lang to approve the invoice. Motion carried (4-0-1). Consideration of bollard sleeves for the posts in front of the building. Motion by Miller, seconded by Shaw to order 6 of the bollard sleeves. Motion carried (4-0-1). New business: Consideration and discussion of CD/Investment options. Motion by Shaw, seconded by Lang to put the highway allocation bonds into four 6-month CDs at \$300,000 each, look at 6-month CDs for all current CDs, and to put \$200,000 of the city sales tax into a 6-month CD. Motion carried (4-0-1). Discussion was held on employee code of conduct. Clerk Kasl will check with the clerk's group to see what other municipalities are doing. The handbook review will be put on the January Agenda. Consideration and discussion of proposed updates to fee schedule. Motion by Shaw, seconded by Miller to increase the Open/Close Grave fee to \$600 weekdays/\$700 weekends, decrease the Community Hall Rental Fee to \$100 rent/\$100 deposit, and eliminate the Lot Space rental fee. Motion carried (4-0-1). Deputy arrived and gave the Sheriff's report. No issues to discuss. Miller would like to go back to unfinished business to discuss floor sealant for the new building. Motion by Tellez, seconded by Shaw to have Trent & Brent do it with the understanding there may be overtime and to purchase materials from Crete Lumber or Ace Hardware. Motion carried (4-0-1). Discussion of community hall updates. Miller has a microwave he will donate. A bigger dumpster will be secured for legion/shop use. Discussion of downtown business window decorating. Students can check with each business. Discussion of regular board meeting time/location change. Motion by Shaw, seconded by Lang to move the time up to 6:30 pm, and location to the meeting room at Farmers Cooperative for all regularly scheduled meetings. Motion carried (4-0-1). Motion by Miller, seconded by Lang to enter closed session for a period of no more than 15 minutes for the evaluation of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if such

person has not requested a public meeting. Motion carried at 7:57 p.m. (4-0-1). Motion by Miller, seconded by Shaw to resume open session at 8:01 p.m. (4-0-1). Motion carried. No formal action was taken during closed session. Motion by Lang, seconded by Shaw, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried (4-0-1). Meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m. Next regular meeting will be Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the meeting room at Dorchester Farmers Cooperative. Signed Chairman
Clerk – Treasurer
CR — December 27, 2023
ZNEZ

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023 7:00 PM PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARY 506 W. 9TH STREET DORCHESTER, NE 68343-0007

Notice of the time and place of the Dorchester Board of Education meeting was published in a newspaper of general circulation within the district. Newspapers of general circulation in the district include, but are not necessarily limited to, the Crete News, the Lincoln Journal Star, or the Omaha World-Herald. Notice is also posted in at least three prominent places within the school district which may include the following: Dorchester Public Schools, Farmers Coop, First State Bank, and the Village Office. Individual board members received in advance the meeting agenda and meeting materials. Pursuant to Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Statutes, the public is hereby informed that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted in the Board meeting boardroom. Matthew Hansen: Present
Mike Hatfield: Present
Shelly Lehr: Present
Carol Schnell: Absent
Kelli Schweitzer: Present
Steve Vyhnalek: Present
1. Call to Order and Announce Open Meetings Act Verification
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by President Steve Vyhnalek. President Vyhnalek confirmed the advance notice to the public of the meeting and agenda. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Roll Call
Also, present were Superintendent, Curt Cogswell, Principal, Jake Wiese, and Jen Feeken.
3. Receive Visitors and Announce Open Forum for Public Comment
No visitors were present.
4. Request for Change of Agenda
No request for a change of agenda.
5. Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting
Mr. Cogswell reviewed the minutes from the regular November Board Meeting. Motion to approve the reading of the last meeting minutes passed with a motion by Kelli Schweitzer and a second by Mike Hatfield.
Matthew Hansen: Yea, Mike Hatfield: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Kelli Schweitzer: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea
6. Financial Report
Mr. Cogswell presented the financial report. Motion to approve the financial report passed with a motion by Matthew Hansen and a second by Shelly Lehr.
Matthew Hansen: Yea, Mike Hatfield: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Kelli Schweitzer: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea
7. Reports
7.1. Principal's Report
Mr. Wiese reported that PD this last month included EL information & MTSS meetings. The Dorchester Volunteer Fire Department came for Fire Prevention activities on November 15th. He has attended NCSA events and the State Principal's Conference. Sessions included staff mental health, NDE digital parent academy, and a KSB session on Student Discipline Act changes. The wrestling and basketball seasons are in full swing. District Play Production was November 28th. Upcoming events include the high school Christmas Concert, end of 1st semester, and the elementary excellence rally/
7.2. Superintendent's Report
Mr. Cogswell reported that he had attended the All-State Concert at the LIED Center and a luncheon

at the Cornhusker honoring Mr. Wiese as Nebraska New Principal of the Year. He attended the English Language meeting at ESU 6 to hear updates and learn more about Rule 15. December's focus includes 2024-2025 course and program planning and personnel planning.
8. Discussion Items
8.1. Review Board Policies - 5062, 5065, 5067, 6001, 6002, and 6003
The board reviewed policy #5062, #5065, #5067, #6001, #6002, and #6003. Policy #5062 is Lice and Nits. This policy states that a student must be treated before they can return to school. Policy #5065 is Bed Bugs. The school will exclude a student if a bed bug is found on their person while at school. Policy #5067 is Student Assistance Team or Comparable Problem-Solving Team. In compliance with the Nebraska Department of Education, each school must maintain a Student Assistance Team. Policy #6001 is School Organization. This policy states how the school shall be organized. Policy #6002 is School Calendar. The superintendent will present a calendar to the Board for approval each year. Policy #6003 is Instructional Program. This policy states that our instructional program must comply with instructional hours, establish special programs for individual students, schedule NSAA activities outside the instructional day as often as possible, and the school come up with a balance between academic and extra-curricular.
8.2. Donations
The school received a few donations from organizations and individuals.
8.3. Gym Floor Covering
Another school district is interested in buying our gym floor covering from us.
9. Action Items
9.1. Consider Approving the 2022-2023 Audit by Porter & Company
Motion to approve the 2022-2023 audit by Porter and Company passed with a motion by Matthew Hansen and a second by Mike Hatfield.
Matthew Hansen: Yea, Mike Hatfield: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Kelli Schweitzer: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea
9.2. Consider approving 2024-2025 Negotiated Agreement
Motion to approve the 2024-2025 negotiated agreement passed with a motion by Shelly Lehr and a second by Kelli Schweitzer.
Matthew Hansen: Yea, Mike Hatfield: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Kelli Schweitzer: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea
9.3. Closed Session to Discuss Superintendent Evaluation
Motion to move into closed session to discuss the evaluation of the superintendent at 7:57 pm passed with a motion by Matthew Hansen and a second by Shelly Lehr.
Matthew Hansen: Yea, Mike Hatfield: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Kelli Schweitzer: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea
The meeting moves into closed session for personnel and the evaluation of job performance clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual in compliance with the law.
10. Board Committee Report(s)
No Board Committee Reports this month.
11. Closed Session (as necessary per statute)
Motion to move back into regular session at 8:40 pm passed with a motion by Kelli Schweitzer and a second by Mike Hatfield.
Matthew Hansen: Yea, Mike Hatfield: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Kelli Schweitzer: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea
12. Establish Future Board of Education Meeting Date(s) and Time(s)
The next scheduled board meeting is Monday, January 8 at 7:00 pm.
13. Adjourn
Motion to adjourn at 8:42 pm passed with a motion by Mike Hatfield and a second by Matthew Hansen.
Matthew Hansen: Yea, Mike Hatfield: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Kelli Schweitzer: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea
Kelli Schweitzer, Treasurer of the Board of Education
CR — December 27, 2023
ZNEZ

PUBLIC NOTICES

ESTATES

NOTICE IN THE COUNTY COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF RONALD H BRUDER Deceased Estate Number PR23-70 Date of Death: November 12, 2023

Notice is hereby given that on December 19, 2023, in the County Court of Saline County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said Decedent and that Mark E. Bruder, whose address is 129 County Rd 2500, Denton, NE 68339, 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 27, 2024, or be forever barred.

/s/ Joshua K. McDougall
Clerk of the County Court
Gregory A. Greder, #19302
Attorney for Personal Representative
819 "O" Street
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 423-9020
CR — December 27, 2023,
January 03, 10, 2024
ZNEZ

NOTICE IN THE COUNTY COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA ESTATE OF ROBERT C. KRUPICKA, Deceased

Estate Number PR 23-67
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition for Probate of Will of said Deceased, Determination of Heirs, and Appointment of David C. Solheim as Personal Representative has been filed and is set for hearing in the County Court of Saline County, Nebraska located at 204 S High Street, Wilber Nebraska 68465, on January 2, 2024, at or after 9:00 o'clock a.m.

/s/ Joshua K. McDougall
Clerk of the County Court
Cole A. Bodfield, #27296
Lepant Law Office, PC, LLO
119 N 5th Street
Beatrice NE 68310
(402) 223-4071
lawoffice@leplantlaw.com
Attorney for Applicant
CR — December 13, 20, 27, 2023
ZNEZ

MINUTES

MINUTES-DECEMBER 19, 2023 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING CITY HALL 243 East 13th St., Crete, Nebraska 68333

December 19th, 2023 (Condensed, entire copy available at the office of the City Clerk).

Mayor Dave Bauer called the meeting of the City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. Answering roll call were the following Council Members: Crisman, Frans, Newmyer, Papik, Strehle, and Fitzgerald.

The following actions were taken at the meeting:

Approved the Consent Agenda items: Unanimous

Meeting Minutes

City Council December 5, 2023

Leg.Econ.Development December 5, 2023

Park and Rec December 5, 2023

Personnel December 5, 2023

Public Safety December 5, 2023

Public Works December 5, 2023

Treasurer's Report

Claims against the City \$324,329.75

Caitlin Bolte with Confluence provided a presentation on the Crete Comprehensive Plan.

Held Public Hearing to hear testimony in favor of and in opposition to and to answer questions in relation to the purchase of Real Property at 1209 and 1211 Main Ave, Crete, Nebraska. Unanimous

Adopted Resolution No. 2023-33 to purchase the property located at South ½ of Lot 5 & Pt of North ½ of Lot 6 Block 1 Crete, Saline County, Nebraska. Unanimous

Held Public Hearing to hear testimony in favor of and in opposition to and to answer questions in relation to the expansion and purchase of park facilities south Crete, Nebraska. Unanimous

Adopted Resolution 2023-34 Approving the purchase 34 0 0 Crete Precinct Pt S 1/2 SE 1/4 Section 34-8-4 39.02 Acres Crete, Saline County, Nebraska And 3 0 0 Big Blue Precinct Pt N 1/2 NE 1/4 Section 3-7-4 78.86 Acres Crete, Saline County, Nebraska. Unanimous

Approved payment of claims to Crete Ace Hardware in the amount of \$1,190.99. Aye: Crisman, Frans, Newmyer, Strehle, and Fitzgerald. Abstained: Papik

Enacted Ordinance 2191 to mandate all sidewalks be constructed five feet wide. Unanimous

Enacted Ordinance 2192 for sidewalks to be built according to current standards. Unanimous

Voted not to have the Public Hearing to hear testimony in favor of and in opposition to and to answer questions in relation to Resolution No. 2023-30 To Levy Special Assessments Against Certain Real Property As Crete City North 34 Feet of Lot 11 and all of Lot 12 Block 43, City of Crete, Saline County, Nebraska. Unanimous

Voted not to adopt Resolution No. 2023-30 To Levy Special Assessments Against Certain Real Property As Crete City North 34 Feet of Lot 11 and all of Lot 12 Block 43, City of Crete, Saline County, Nebraska. Unanimous

Held Public Hearing to hear testimony in favor of and in opposition to and to answer questions in relation to Resolution No. 2023-31 To Levy Special Assessments Against Certain Real Property As Crete City Lots 7, 8, And 9 Block 159, City Of Crete, Saline County, Nebraska. Unanimous

Adopted Resolution No. 2023-31 To Levy Special Assessments Against Certain Real Property As Crete City Lots 7, 8, And 9 Block 159, City Of Crete, Saline County, Nebraska. Unanimous

Held Public Hearing to hear testimony in favor of and in opposition to and to answer questions in relation to Resolution No. 2023-32 To Levy Special Assessments

Against Certain Real Property Described As Crete City Sacks's Addition Lot 7 Block 2, City of Crete, Saline County, Nebraska. Unanimous

Adopted Resolution No. 2023-32 To Levy Special Assessments Against Certain Real Property Described As Crete City Sack's Addition Lot 7 Block 2, City of Crete, Saline County, Nebraska. Unanimous

Approved the amended Non-DOT Anti-Drug Plan. Unanimous

Approved the Change Request -COR 014 from Kingery Construction Co. in the amount of \$3,203.00 for the Crete Isis Theatre Phase 1. Unanimous

Approved the Change Order No. 001 from Kingery Construction Co. for the Crete Isis theater renovation- Phase 2 in the amount of \$100,000. Unanimous

Approved the Application for special event permit SE23-10. Unanimous

Approved Olsson s as the Airport Engineer. Unanimous

Approved the LB840 application for funds from the City of Crete. Unanimous

Approved the Crete Public Library applying for the Penguin Random House grant for small and rural libraries to help support a community-oriented project. Unanimous

Petitions-Communications-Citizen Concerns:

Shaylene Smith with the Blue River Arts Council stated that conversations for a creative district will start in February with the Nebraska Arts Council. There would need to be a written agreement with the City, local arts council and with businesses. Smith stated she has visited 4 creative districts.

Officer's Reports-

Liz Cody, Parks and Recreation Director stated the following:

Thanked Caitlin Bolte and City Administrator Tom Ourada for the work on the Comprehensive plan and emphasizing parks.

Working on fence, picnic tables, and signage repairs throughout the parks and fence relocation at City Park.

There was a large tree that was removed from Tuxedo Park that was over the swinging playground. Worked with the electric department to take it down.

Foodbank of Lincoln distribution on Thursday, December, 28th 2023. They will be bringing extra blue barrels. They have about 170 spare to donate to organizations that may need them.

Staff working on arborist certification and water safety instructor certification.

Police Chief, Gary Young stated the following:

Helped over 700 children and 150 families at the toy distribution at the Crete High School. Proud of the help of volunteers throughout the community.

Met with High School students from the Grassroots Leadership Program. They met with Mayor Bauer at City Hall, Chief Allen at the Fire Station, and Chief Young at the Police Station.

Radio change over increasing the capacity happened today. Captain Pucket

The Fire Department has not changed over until they can directly program or improve the speed.

City Council member Tom Crisman asked about street maintenance if the city is tarring cracks and City Administrator Tom Ourada stated he would find out.

Council member Dale Strehle wished everyone a Merry Christmas and safe travels.

Council member Anthony Fitzgerald asked if there were still issues with the street sweeper. City Administrator Tom Ourada stated that it has been corrected as far as he knows.

City Administrator Tom Ourada stated the following:

Our small company is investing in an other workforce housing project of townhomes in Ron Sacks subdivision. Giving equal time to two of the local developers. There are more than two local developers.

Contributed to the success of Casey's opening on time with City Inspector Brad Bailey and utility people.

Talking to JEO about creating a paving district on 15th street. They are putting some things together on what it would cost to design it and to do paving assessments.

Received an email that the northside gap paving project has been declared substantially complete.

Currently having Police Officer interviews

Mayor Bauer wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays and safe travels.

Adjourned: 7:06 p.m.

DECEMBER 2023

Claims Paid

CITY REVENUE FUND SALES TAX \$9.56; ACE HARDWARE TOMCAT BAIT CHX PAIL 4LB \$42.28; CULLIGAN WATER SERVICE WATER \$48.00; KIDWELL FIREWALL REPLCMNT \$506.85; LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR RFQ \$256.59; MICHAEL TODD INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY SHOE \$125.26; NAPA AUTO PARTS SUPPLIES \$611.84; NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT UTILITY \$756.96; SAPP BROS SALES TAX \$330.72; UNION BANK & TRUST HSA FEES \$6.00; VERIZON WIRELESS UTILITY \$42.87; WASTE CONNECTIONS OF NEBRASKA UTILITY \$77.53; WINDSTREAM UTILITY \$157.58; AIRPORT FUNDS SUBTOTAL \$2,972.04; BOONE CORPORATION CONSUMER DEPOSIT REFUND \$110.00; CITY REVENUE FUND CONSUMER DEPOSIT APPLIED \$270.00; CONSUMER DEPOSIT FUNDS SUBTOTAL \$380.00; NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT 2023 FACILITIES TRANSFORMER \$11,552.83; AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES RADON DETECTOR \$241.52; BEATRICE CONCRETE CO SALES TAX \$2,257.24; CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC CONTRACT \$61.72; CASELLE CONTRACT \$1,682.61; CITY REVENUE FUND SUPPLIES \$32.57; CORE & MAIN LP SUPPLIES \$25,808.19; ACE HARDWARE SUPPLIES \$400.45; CRETE LUMBER & FARM SUPPLY SUPPLIES \$211.71; DITCH WITCH UNDERCON SUPPLIES \$1,835.87; EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS SUPPLIES \$1,483.03; EGAN SUPPLY SUPPLIES \$566.63; EXECUTIVE ANSWERING SERVICE \$80.40; FASTENAL COMPANY SUPPLIES \$115.04; HAROLD K SCHOLZ BEYERS SUBSTATION \$2,200.00; JAY'S OIL MAINTENANCE \$30.00; JEO CONSULTING GROUP INC. R222218.00 SOLAR FARM ASSISTANCE \$2,355.00; KIDWELL FIREWALL REPLCMNT \$5,973.25; LINCOLN WINWATER WORKS SUPPLIES \$658.98; MAX I WALKER UNIFORM & APPAREL UNIFORMS \$162.66; MIDWEST LABORATORIES LABS \$2,534.17; MUNICIPAL SUPPLY INC OF OMAHA SUPPLIES \$405.40; NAPA AUTO PARTS MAINTENANCE \$622.87; NE PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL LABORATOR LAB \$168.00; NICKY ZALESKY UTILITY OVERPAYMENT 1008404 \$92.94; OLSSON #015-08260 CRETE CORE INGREDIENTS \$2,226.03; SALINE COUNTY TREASURER R.E. TAXES PARCEL #0760146943 \$5,981.64; SID DILLON FORD MAINTENANCE \$47.56; UNION BANK & TRUST HSA FEES \$90.00; UNITE PRIVATE NETWORKS ETHERNET INTERNET ACCESS \$726.00; UPS POSTAGE \$10.05; VERIZON WIRELESS TABLET \$453.88; WACKEL'S MACHINE SHOP MAN HOLE COVER \$339.30; WASTE CONNECTIONS OF NEBRASKA INC UTILITY \$213.29; WASTE CONNECTIONS OF NEBRASKA INC UTILITY \$42,360.79; WINDSTREAM UTILITY \$402.09; WINDSTREAM UTILITY \$93.90; NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT ELECTRICITY \$8,381.39; DEPT OF ENERGY W.A.P.A. PURCHASED POWER WAPA \$27,475.72; NE DEPT OF REVENUE SALES TAX \$46,645.03; UTILITY FUNDS SUBTOTAL \$196,979.75; AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES BOOKS \$676.43; ART ON DISPLAY GRAPHIC FOR NEW POLICE SUV \$848.00; BADGER BODY & TRUCK EQUIPMENT EQUIPMENT \$314.98; BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS \$569.28; BEATRICE CONCRETE SALT/ SAND MIXTURE \$2,848.31; BIZCO TECHNOLOGIES

LAPTOP-POLICE UNITS \$7,596.88; CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC SERVICE \$572.16; CASELLE, INC. SERVICE \$933.39; CENGAGE LEARNING BOOKS \$99.96; CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT BOOKS \$167.19; CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS CASE #2023-3538 \$50.00; CITY REVENUE FUND SUPPLIES \$4,398.96; CITY REVENUE FUND SALES TAX \$27.91; CLINE WILLIAMS LLP GEN BUSINESS \$1,812.00; CNA SURETY BOND #70456248 2-9-24 To 2-9-25 \$506.00; CONCRETE DOCTOR INC RAISED WALKWAY \$750.00; CRETE ACE HARDWARE SUPPLIES \$748.26; CRETE FOODMART SUPPLIES \$36.51; CRETE LODGING LLC SEMI ANNUAL PMT \$55,752.85; CRETE LUMBER & FARM SUPPLY PINE BOARDS \$124.14; CRETE POSTMASTER POSTAGE \$82.00; CRETE VETERINARY CLINIC VETERINARY \$210.78; CULLIGAN WATER SERVICE SERVICE \$40.75; DANA POINT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION SEMI ANNUAL PAYMENT \$4,413.77; DEMCO SUPPLIES \$325.30; DIAMOND VOGEL INC SUPPLIES \$129.00; EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS SUPPLIES \$534.16; EGAN SUPPLY SUPPLIES \$1,228.40; EMERGENCY MEDICAL PRODUCTS SUPPLIES \$944.80; ENGINEERED CONTROLS INC MAINTENANCE \$70.00; EXECUTIVE ANSWERING SERVICE SERVICE \$26.80; FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA CHAD CC, INTEREST \$1,594.35; GRAHAM TIRE LIN. NORTH MAINTENANCE \$795.00; GRAINGER SUPPLIES \$36.50; HAMILTON EQUIPMENT EQUIPMENT \$89.63; HAVLAT REPAIR MAINTENANCE \$300.00; JEO CONSULTING GROUP INC. R220169.00 CRETE 2022 STREET IMPR \$1,758.00; KAMAKE INC SEMI ANNUAL PMT \$1,887.79; KIDWELL FIREWALL REPLCMNT \$10,664.90; MATHEMSON TRI-GAS INC OXYGEN \$147.60; MENARDS - LINCOLN SOUTH SUPPLIES \$74.54; MURPHY TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT SUPPLIES \$108.42; NAA/NNLABOOKS \$30.00; NAPA AUTO PARTS MAINTENANCE \$26.96; NEBRASKA STATE BAR ASSOCIATION #26858 ANNA J BURGE 2024 MEMBER DUES \$360.00; NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT UTILITIES \$10.09; PRESTO-X SERVICE \$76.89; QUALITY SOUND & COMMUNICATIONS INC QTRLY WATER CONTRACT \$147.00; SALINE COUNTY TREASURER R.E. TAXES PARCEL \$5,518.36; SAPP BROS, INC - LINCOLN FUEL \$832.80; SEWARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT ADVERTISEMENT \$475.65; SID DILLON FORD MAINTENANCE \$69.00; SIGN SOLUTIONS USA STREET SIGNS \$571.87; SPECTRUM UTILITY \$106.18; SPRINGSHARE LIBCAL-10 \$1,146.00; U.S. BANK SUPPLIES \$645.02; ULINE REFLECTIVE BOLLARD SLEEVE \$463.38; UNION BANK & TRUST HSA FEES \$222.00; UNITE PRIVATE NETWORKS SUPPLIES \$374.00; VERIZON WIRELESS UTILITY \$867.52; WASTE CONNECTIONS OF NEBRASKA UTILITY \$687.83; WILBER PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR SUPPLIES \$447.99; WINDSTREAM UTILITY \$1,920.52; ONE BILLING SOLUTIONS CRETE AMB SERV \$3,581.13; QUADIENT FINANCE USA POSTAGE \$1,103.61; SPECTRUM UTILITY \$18.46;

Tax Funds

Subtotal - \$123,997.96

All Funds Total - \$324,329.75

CR — December 27, 2023
ZNEZ

VILLAGE OF DORCHESTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES DECEMBER 1, 2023

The regular meeting of the Village of Dorchester Board of Trustees was held Friday, December 1, 2023, at the Dorchester Community Hall, and was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Chairperson Pro tem Miller advised those present of the Open Meetings Act. Answering Roll Call were board members Sarah Wenz, Matt Shaw, Tammie Lang, and Chairperson Pro tem Roger Miller. Nancy Tellez was excused. Also in attendance were Jen Kasl, Clerk-Treasurer; Trent Roessler, Assistant Utilities Superintendent; Brent Kasl, Assistant Utilities Superintendent; and Alison Janecek Borer, Cline Williams. Advance Notice of the meeting was posted at the Dorchester US Post Office; First State Bank, NE; Village of Dorchester office and in The Crete News.

Motion by Shaw, seconded by Miller to open the public hearing for the TIF Workforce Housing Incentive Plan. Motion carried (4-0-1). Alison Janecek Borer provided information about the incentive plan. No public discussion. Motion by Shaw, seconded by Miller to close the hearing. Motion carried (4-0-1). Resolution 2023-07 was presented as follows:

VILLAGE OF DORCHESTER, NEBRASKA
RESOLUTION #2023-07
(Workforce Housing Incentive Plan)
A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF DORCHESTER, NEBRASKA, ADOPTING AND APPROVING A WORKFORCE HOUSING INCENTIVE PLAN, PURSUANT TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LAW. RECITALS
A. Pursuant to the Nebraska Community Development Law, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 18-2101 et seq., as amended (the "Act"), the Village of Dorchester, Nebraska ("Village"), declared certain areas of the Village as blighted and substandard and in need of redevelopment under the Act (the "Redevelopment Area").
B. The redevelopment of the Redevelopment Area will result in the elimination and prevention of blight and substandard conditions, and aligns with the purposes of the Act and the Village of Dorchester Comprehensive Plan, as amended.
C. The Village has, within the prior sixty (60) months of this Resolution, received a housing study detailing the current conditions and future needs of the Village in relation to housing.
D. The housing study identifies a need for additional workforce housing.
E. Pursuant to the Act, the Village may authorize the administration of certain heightened tax increment financing incentives to promote and facilitate the construction of workforce housing ("Workforce Housing TIF").
F. Prior to such authorization, the Village must adopt an "incentive plan", pursuant to Section 18-2141.05 of the Act.
G. In accordance with the foregoing, the Village has prepared an incentive plan, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by this reference (the "Incentive Plan"), which authorizes the use of Workforce Housing TIF for eligible redevelopment projects, and sets forth the criteria and guidelines related thereto.
H. On December 1, 2023, the Village Board held a duly noticed public hearing on the Incentive Plan, in conformance with the Act.
I. After the public hearing and review of the Incentive Plan, the Village Board has determined that the Incentive Plan complies with the requirements of the Act and will result in the elimination and prevention of blight.
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Dorchester, Nebraska, as follows:

1. The Incentive Plan complies with, and furthers the objectives of, the Act, and addresses the needs of the Village related to the construction of workforce housing for both existing and new workers.

2. The Village has received a housing study within the prior sixty (60) months from the date hereof.

3. Based on the substantial evidence in the record of this proceeding, the Village Board finds as follows:

(a) The Incentive Plan is necessary to prevent the spread of blight and substandard conditions within the Village;

(b) The Incentive Plan will promote additional safe and suitable housing for individuals and families employed in the Village; and

(c) The Incentive Plan and/or the use of Workforce Housing TIF will not result in the unjust enrichment of any individual or company.

4. Based on the foregoing and substantial evidence in the record of this proceeding, the Incentive Plan is hereby adopted and approved by the Village Board as the governing body for the Village of Dorchester; and therefore, the Village and/or the Community Development Agency of the Village may administer and approve the use of Workforce Housing TIF for eligible redevelopment projects, in accordance with the terms of the Incentive Plan and the Act. Dated this 1st day of December, 2023.

VILLAGE OF DORCHESTER, NEBRASKA
By: Chairperson
ATTENTION: Village Clerk
Motion by Shaw, seconded by Miller to approve Resolution 2023-07. Motion carried (4-0-1).
Motion by Wenz, seconded by Lang, to approve Consent Agenda Items #1-#4. Motion carried (4-0-1). No sheriff's report. No fire report. Code compliance report in packet.
Unfinished business: Resolution 2023-05 for the One-and-Six Year Street Improvement Plan was discussed:
RESOLUTION 2023-05
WHEREAS, The Village of Dorchester, Nebraska, has

conducted a public hearing in accordance with the requirements of the Board of Public Roads Classification and Standards, NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Chairperson and Village Board that the One and Six Year Plan for streets as presented at said public hearing has been accepted and approved. Motion by Miller, seconded by Shaw to approve Resolution 2023-05. Motion carried (4-0-1). The open house for street paving attendance was around 20 people. Info is posted at the office and a few people have picked up surveys, which must be returned by December 13. Survey results will be discussed in January. Discussion was held on the vehicle storage building updates. Consideration of quote from BZ construction to frame the offices and bathroom inside the building. Motion by Wenz, seconded by Lang to approve the quote. Motion carried (4-0-1). Discussion was held on the bid by Klein for the paving at the new building and N. Depot. Motion by Shaw, seconded by Lang to approve paving whatever can be done now and waiting to finish the rest until spring. Motion carried (4-0-1).

Reorganization Meeting
Clerk Kasl called the meeting to order. The Oath of Office will be recited by all board members at the January meeting when the notary is present, and answering roll call were Miller, Wenz, Shaw, and Lang. Tellez was excused. Nominations were opened to the clerk for Board Chairperson. Motion by Wenz, seconded by Shaw to name Roger Miller as Chairperson. Miller accepted. Nominations for Chairperson were closed. Unanimous vote by secret ballot to name Miller as Chairperson. (4-0-1) Meeting was turned back over to Miller. Shaw nominated Tammie Lang to be named as Chairperson Pro-Tem, seconded by Miller. Lang accepted. Nominations for Chairperson Pro-Tem were closed. Vote by secret ballot to elect Lang as Chairperson Pro-Tem (3-0-1-1). Chairperson Miller appointed officers as follows: Parks - Sarah Wenz; Streets - Roger Miller; Sewer - Matt Shaw; Cemetery - Nancy Tellez; Water - Tammie Lang; Electricity - Matt Shaw; Buildings - Nancy Tellez; Safety - Sarah Wenz; Seward/Saline Waste Management board member - Roger Miller.

Motion made by Lang, seconded by Shaw to retain Marvin Kasl named as Utility Superintendent. Motion carried (4-0-1). Motion made by Shaw, seconded by Lang to retain Jennifer M. Kasl named as Clerk-Treasurer. Motion carried (4-0-1).

Motion made by Lang, seconded by Shaw to retain Kelly R. Hoffschneider, Hoffschneider Law, PC, LLO, as Village Attorney. Motion carried (3-1-1. Voting no was Wenz.) Motion made by Lang, seconded by Shaw that Olsson be named as Village Engineer. Motion carried (3-1-1. Voting no was Wenz.) Motion made by Lang, seconded by Shaw that Justin Stark, PE, Olsson be named as Street Commissioner. Motion carried (3-1-1. Voting no was Wenz.) Motion made by Shaw, seconded by Lang that First State Bank, NE - Dorchester Branch be named as Bank Depository. Motion carried (4-0-1).

New business: Consideration and discussion of Olsson Master Agreement Work Order for General Engineering Consulting Services. Motion by Miller, seconded by Shaw to approve the Work Order. Motion carried (3-1-1. Voting no was Wenz.) Consideration and discussion of Olsson Master Agreement Work Order for Street Superintendent Services. Motion by Shaw, seconded by Miller to approve the Work Order. Motion carried (3-1-1. Voting no was Wenz.) Discussion was held on the Code Compliance Officer contract. Motion by Miller, seconded by Lang to approve the contract. Motion carried (4-0-1). Discussion held on the village rental agreements for Donna's Hair Creations and the archery property. Motion by Lang, seconded by Shaw to approve the agreement for Donna's. Motion carried. (4-0-1). Motion by Miller, seconded by Lang to approve the Landscaping contract. Motion carried. (4-0-1). Discussion was held on potential time and location change for future board meetings. Clerk Kasl will check into it. Clothing allotment will remain the same. Employee Christmas was discussed. Shaw will get hams from Farmland for the six employees and five board members.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Wenz, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m. Next regular meeting will be Monday, December 11, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Dorchester Community Hall.
Signed Chairman
Clerk - Treasurer
CR — December 27, 2023
ZNEZ

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December 27, 2023

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Extension faces forward with drone-focused workshop

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN
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The use of drones in agriculture has been on the rise, and Nebraska hosted its first Drones in Ag workshop on Dec. 12.

The event, which was held in Grant, featured presentations geared toward farmers and ranchers using or interested in drones.

Samantha Daniel, the Water and Crops Extension educator at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, said it is difficult to estimate how many people are using drones in Nebraska but the technology is fast-moving. UNL extension educator of digital agriculture Dirk Charlson said he is excited about drone education because the number of applications of drone technology for agriculture has been significantly increasing over the past few years.

Speakers at the workshop presented about how drones can be used in agriculture, what different companies produce them, what different models are there and how imaging and spray drones work. People who stayed after lunch also got to practice flying small drones, and a bigger drone was on display.

In addition to Daniel,



COURTESY PHOTO

Participants at Nebraska Extension's Drones in Ag workshop got to learn about and practice flying drones.

speakers included a graduate student from UNL, Luzviminda Ann Sazon, who presented about how she has used her drone for imaging for her graduate research and Charlson, who presented about the licensing requirements for various drone uses.

Bryan Kopriva from Frenchman Valley Coop and Jaythan Schneideler from Country Partners Coop discussed spraying with drones and various imaging software.

Imaging with drones can assist in detect-

ing plant density and stress, conducting stand counts, scouting for insects, weeds and disease, monitoring cattle and inspecting pivots, fences and more.

On the product application side of things, drones can facilitate chemical spraying, the release of biological control agents and the seeding of cover crops.

Ag pilot Chad Hendricks, who owns Hendricks Flying Service, presented about drone safety. Ag pilots fly spray planes at elevations low enough to be

in the same air space as drones, so he presented a unique perspective on the importance of following the guidelines and regulations for operating drones.

"We can't just hang out in our homes and send a drone out to check on the cattle," Daniel said. "We need to be out there with the drone, make sure that we're paying attention to what the drone is doing and keep it in our line of sight."

Daniel said adding a drone to a farming operation can be more

complicated than many people think. She hopes learning about the limitations, licensing requirements and regulations regarding drones will help people make the best decisions possible.

She said it is often expensive and time-consuming for producers to begin incorporating drones, but it can lead to increased efficiency and a reduction in overall costs.

Benefits to drones can be precision applications, on demand data, savings on money and time, increased productivity, reduced number of workers needed, more efficient management practices and high resolution and multispectral imaging.

Daniel reported possible drawbacks in-

clude limited payloads and battery life, high startup costs, changing federal regulations and licensing requirements, weather and airspace conflicts and a time consuming software learning process.

Daniel said she always enjoys networking with growers in the industry and getting to share her knowledge with others while also listening to their experiences. About 25 people attended the event, which she thought was an especially good number for western Nebraska.

"It's really just kind of that mutual sharing of information and learning and growing together, basically serving the community," she said.

Nebraska Extension launching new management training program for meat processors

A new Meat Processing Management Training program offered by Nebraska Extension is designed to enhance the skills and knowledge of individuals in the meat processing industry over a yearlong intensive course that will begin in March.

The program is tailored for owners, managers and management-track employees of small meat processing plants, with custom-exempt and federally inspected plants encouraged to apply. It will offer a blend of virtual and in-person sessions to deepen participants' understanding of critical aspects of the industry and assist them with working toward a successful and profitable future.

Focus areas will include business operations, using data, retail strategies, regulatory compliance, human resources and more.

The course will consist of three in-person meetings, a site visit to each plant by course instructors and monthly online programs that will include typically recorded lectures, live review and a presentation with a producer.

The program is being produced by Nebraska Extension, the Center for Agricultural Profitability and the Department of Animal Science's Meat Science program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"This initiative represents a significant step in supporting and

advancing the meat processing sector, offering a platform for professionals to grow and excel in their field," said Elliott Dennis, assistant professor and livestock marketing specialist with the Center for Agricultural Profitability.

To ensure effective learning and personalized attention, Dennis said, there is a \$2,500 enrollment fee per processing plant, which includes a \$2,000 deposit that will be returned to those who complete the program without missing more than two activities or the site visit.

Up to two individuals per plant may participate.

More details, a program schedule and requirements are

posted on the Center for Agricultural Profitability's website, <https://cap.unl.edu/processors>. The application is open there until Jan. 20.



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