



Youth experiences
winter with livestock
on page 15.

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The Crete News



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024 CRETE, NE | WWW.CRETENEWSONLINE.COM VOL. 155, NO. 3

Library of Things debuts at Crete library

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN
scireporter@sewardindependent.com

The Crete Public Library is spicing up its options for borrowing with a Library of Things collection. Collection items are available for checkout starting this week.

Library of Things collections feature any items that are not book-related or thought of as what would typically be offered for checkout at a library. The Crete collection is sponsored by the Friends of the Crete Public Library nonprofit organization.

Library Director Joy Stevenson said LoT collections have become more popular in recent years, and each place that has one them puts its own spin on what its collection offers.

The library worked with the Friends of the Crete Public Library to determine what items it wants to offer in its collections. It put out a survey featuring possible LoT collection items, and about 100 respondents indicated how likely they would be to borrow each one.



Library patron Carol Vlasin, (right), checks out the mini donut maker from librarian Zoraida Ramos

COURTESY PHOTO

If more than half of the respondents said they would definitely or possibly be interested in borrowing an item, the library added it to the collection.

The collection currently includes a telescope, coffee urn, ice cream maker, electric knife sharpener, Kill-A-Watt monitor,

metal detector with headphones, mini donut maker, portable carpet cleaner, portable sewing machine, radon detector, roaster oven, warming server, thermal imaging camera, jigsaw puzzles, cake pans and beverage dispensers.

"I was very much looking forward to the electric

knife sharpener, because it's just the perfect item, I think, in the Library of Things," Stevenson said. "You only need to borrow it maybe once a year, and you only need it for a couple of days, otherwise it takes up space in your

See LIBRARY, page 3

\$48K CHS gym speakers paid for by booster club advertising

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

At the Jan. 23 Crete Board of Education meeting, the board approved a new speaker system for the Crete High School gym that will cost \$48,408.

Dr. Josh McDowell, Crete Public Schools Superintendent, said the current sound system is significantly under-engineered for the Crete gym.

"The gym gets used so frequently for classes, graduation and sporting events," McDowell said. "It's not functioning well, doesn't sound well and it's hard to understand talking and music. The board felt it was necessary."

Although the project is going to cost \$48,408, a lot of the project is going to be paid for by revenue made from the video boards.

"They will cover more than half of the expenses," McDowell said. "The other roughly 40% will come out of the building fund."

McDowell said some of the speakers in the gym are still usable, so those will go to the softball fields.

"We're really trying to create a great student and fan experience, and we're excited that the board wanted to move in that direction," he said.

The school will be going through Yandas Music and Pro Audio and is hoping the project will be done in February.

"We're on their list and we hope we can get it done ASAP," McDowell said.

McDowell said they really wanted to do the project because they wanted to give people the best experience after all the time and investments the community has put into CHS.

"When the community has invested in as much as they have into the facilities at Crete, we want the whole experience to be outstanding," he said. "We teach a lot in that gym and have phenomenal community support for our sporting events and graduation. It's a great investment and will provide the best experience possible."

Usher awarded for commitment to clients

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN
scireporter@sewardindependent.com

After 27 years of serving the company, Diane Usher, a direct support professional at Apace's Crete location, was honored with an Apace award at last year's annual Apace Symposium in York on Sept. 21.

The award honors someone who provides exemplary person-first support for Apace clients.

Apace, formerly known as Region V Services, supports clients with developmental and intellectual disabilities. It employs more than 800 people across 18 area programs and has been serving southeast Nebraska for almost 50 years. Usher said she did not know she was getting the award until the



COURTESY PHOTO

Diane Usher was honored with Apace's award for person-first service on Sept. 21.

moment her name was called.

"It felt wonderful to be recognized for years of service and helping folks and doing your job," she said.

Throughout her time at

See USHER, page 3



COURTESY PHOTO

We are the champions

The Crete boys' basketball team poses with its Central Conference championship plaque on Jan. 27. This is the second year in a row Crete has taken first in the conference. See sports on page 8.

District court rules BOA erred in Milligan 1 lawsuit

BY AMY HAUSMAN
amy@friendsentinel.com

After waiting since Nov. 1, 2023, the Saline County District Court Judge David J. A. Barga made a ruling in the Milligan 1 vs. Saline County lawsuit.

On Jan. 11, Barga ordered that the board of adjustment ruling on July 25, 2023, that imposed a sound limit on a Milligan 1 turbine be vacated.

The matter came before the district court on Nov. 1 when the plaintiff, Milligan 1 Wind, LLC, requested a judgment on the pleading or summary judgment be granted by the court.

Saline County admitted the adjustment board's July 25, 2023, decision imposing sound limits on the plaintiff's wind farm operation should be vacated.

After hearing the Milligan 1 and the county's arguments, admissions and considering the relevant pleadings, Barga found Milligan 1's motion for judgment on the pleadings should be granted.

"Milligan 1 had asked for a more expansive order (summary judgment) that would have required the board of adjustment to vote to rescind the order and prohibited the county from ever imposing any noise regulations on these wind turbines," said David Solheim, county attorney. "The county opposed such

an expansive order, and the court agreed."

Barga also noted Saline County answered Milligan's amended complaint on all defendants' behalf, which named the board of adjustments and Lyle Weber in his official capacity.

"The reason is that although any person aggrieved by any decision of the board of adjustment ... may present to the district court for the county a petition ... specifying the ground of the illegality" it is "the county board (that) shall file an answer to the petition which shall admit or deny the substantial averments of the petition and

See MILLIGAN 1, page 3

Residence Hall Ribbon Cutting

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PHOTOS BY SAM COBB/CN

This year’s Musicians Hall of Fame inductees and inductee family members and friends accepting a framed certificate noting their introduction are, from left, Tony Sydzvik, Frank Siedlik, Timothy Popsisl, Jim Kucera and Chuck Pekarek.

Steve and Patty Vavra of Beaver Crossing, who try to attend the Musicians Hall of Fame in Dorchester each year, dance to the accordion to jam that kicks off the afternoon.

Musicians Hall of Fame inductees recognized at all-day polka party

BY SAM COBB
For the Crete News

Polka rang out to the dirt roads surrounding Tabor Lodge on Jan. 27.

The 25th annual Musicians Hall of Fame took place at the Dorchester dance hall this weekend. The event celebrates polka music, kicking off with a three-hour accordion jam and closing with performances from two live bands.

In between the live music are the inductions into the Musicians Hall of Fame, an honor currently held by 144 current and former performers. Each fall, a committee comprised of past inductees votes on who will be introduced into the hall the next year.

Five people were inducted this year: Frank “Red” Jisa Jr. and Bruce “BJ” Fictum posthumously, as well as Frank Siedlik, Timothy Popsisl and Tony Sydzvik.

The induction came as an honor to the long-time musicians, invoking both humor and emotion in their acceptance speeches.



Organizers of the Musicians Hall of Fame annual event are, from left, Deb Polacek, Randy Korbek and Sue Placek.

“In playing the horn I tell people that all I do is blow hot air and push three buttons,” Popsisl said. “But I’m glad that everybody enjoys it so much. I am very honored and thankful for this. You folks sitting around here are the reason that I play.”

When accepting his award, Siedlik took the moment to think of those in the polka com-

munity that could not be there to see him inducted.

“I’ve been playing a long, long time,” Siedlik said. “I’ve loved every minute. I’ve met a lot of great musicians. I had the pleasure of sitting alongside and playing with a lot of them that are gone now. But I won’t forget them.”

The event was organized by Randy Korbek, Deb Polacek

and Sue Placek, all of whom are in the hall of fame. It all began back in 1997 when a polka music celebration was organized for the passing of Randy’s older brother, Ron, an accordion player in many bands and the hall’s first inductee.

“That went over pretty good,” Korbek said. “So, we decided to have another party and dance the second year, and

then the next year we started making it the Musicians Hall of Fame.”

Fans of the genre from towns across Nebraska make the drive out to Dorchester yearly to enjoy all the event has to offer. Couples shuffled across Tabor Hall’s dance floor for nearly the entire nine hours with moves that proved it was hardly anyone’s first time.

With a long history of Czech heritage in the area, it is also a way to keep a culture many attendees grew up with alive.

“We’ve all been around polka music most of our lives,” Polacek said. “This event is great because it brings so many people together and keeps that spirit of the Czech culture going.”

It is just the third year that Tabor Lodge has hosted the event, as Ron’s Tavern was the annual spot for its first 22 years. They allow the committee to use the hall for free and will continue to hold the celebration for years to come.

The night ended with polka performances from the Leo Lonnie Orchestra and the Little Tavern Band.



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CAMC receives Guardian of Excellence Award

Crete Area Medical Center announced Jan. 18 that it has been named a 2023 Human Experience (HX) Guardian of Excellence Award® winner by Press Ganey, the global leader in healthcare experience solutions and services.

As a winner of the Press Ganey HX Guardian of Excellence Award®, Crete Area Medical Center is in the top 5% of healthcare providers in delivering physician experience in the last year. Press Ganey works with more than 41,000 healthcare facilities.

“In prioritizing the well-being of both their patients and dedicated staff on a daily basis, Crete Area Medical Center exemplifies dedication to their workforce and the communities they impact,” Patrick T. Ryan, CEO and chairman at Press Ganey, said. “We applaud Crete



Crete Area Medical Center received the 2023 Press Ganey Human Experience Guardian of Excellence Award. Hospital representatives pictured are, from left, Dr. Jason Hesser, April Gaines, Chief Nursing Officer, Dr. Russ Ebke, Dr. Kate Hesser, Dr. Amy Vertin and Stephanie Boldt, president and CEO.

Area Medical Center’s compassion, empathetic approach, and the genuine human connections they forge within the clinical healthcare landscape. It’s a privilege for us to collaborate with them as we

applaud their remarkable accomplishments.”

“At CAMC, we take great pride in delivering outstanding clinical care as well as exceptional patient experiences,” Stephanie Boldt, CAMC president

and CEO, said. “We are honored to receive this award and are committed to continuing our patient focused, high quality care.”

COURTESY PHOTO

Milligan 1

Continued from 1

matters in dispute as disclosed by the petition,” Bargaen said in his order. “Thus, according to the statute, the county is the only legal entity statutorily authorized to answer the amended complaint.”

“It is exactly what I thought it would be,” Phil Hardenburger, district 2 county commissioner, said.

“Especially the point that they had no authority whatsoever,” said Marvin Kohout, district 3 county commissioner.

With the court ruling, the board of adjustment erred, so the board of commissioners is able to

take action on the possible removal of the board of adjustment members for cause. This matter was tabled on Sept. 5 pending the outcome of the lawsuit.

“With that ruling, we have every right to do that,” Hardenburger said.

The BOA was composed of five members: Chairperson Gary Veprovsky, Jeff Koll, Aron Ourecky, Mitch Fritz and Mark Strouf who are appointed by the BOC. Koll is no longer a member as his seat was tied to a position on the planning and zoning committee, which he is also no longer a member of.

Usher

Continued from 1

Apace, Usher has worked in a group home, in supervised apartments and as a relief filling in for others. She was then the assistant to the residential coordinator before coming into her current position.

As a DSP, she now takes Apace clients out to do activities in the community such as fishing, taking a boat ride, visiting museums and doing art projects. The clients may not get to experience such moments if it were not for people like Usher.

“It’s really, really cool,” she said. “We have a lot of freedom to broaden their horizons as well as our own.”

Brady Ellingson, the community support coordinator for Apace, said Usher has doubled as a CPR trainer and has experience in everything from giving people medications to helping them use the restroom to taking them to doctor appointments to bringing them to fun activities.

Before starting at Apace, Usher worked in the Alzheimer’s Unit at Crete Manor. She said Alzheimer’s kind of became a theme in her life, because she worked with

someone in the early stages of Alzheimer’s when she first came to Apace, and her mom ended up getting the disease.

She decided to come to Apace because she was ready to work a job with more positivity, and she saw an ad for it in the paper. She said the company has been great to work for, which she believes is evident by their retention of staff long term.

Usher said the thing about her job that has impacted her most has been the staff she has been friends with over the years and the clients she has gotten to know.

“(I enjoy) getting to know the people that we work with and getting them to experience new things that they maybe haven’t done before,” she said.

Ellingson said Usher exemplifies the spirit of the award, which was designed to celebrate someone who puts others’ desires and needs ahead of their own.

“She very much puts our people first in every way,” he said. “Instead of planning her day on what things she wants to get done, she plans it on what the people she works with want to do.”



Members of the Friend Fire Department that served a meal at the Saline Center Lodge included, from left, Brad Rick-enbaw, Josh Nickel, Stan Krause, John Clouse, Holly Kohout and Logan Milton

COURTESY PHOTO

Post high school scholarships available for Saline Center Lodge members

Saline Center members conducted the first meeting for the year on Jan. 15 at the lodge.

The Friend Fire Department served a meal at Saline Center Lodge following a performance by the fun Dueling Pianos Show on Jan. 20.

Saline Center Lodge has scholarship opportunities to lodge members in good standing who will graduate from high school

this spring. To be considered for a scholarship, applicants must be a lodge member, must complete an application form and must be enrolled full time in a post high school educational institution.

Applications must be completed in full by April 15. Contact Debra Polacek at (402) 469-6986 for more information.

The Saline Center hay sale will be Saturday, Feb. 3, selling big and

small bales of alfalfa, grass, straw, and corn stalks.

Several members have donated to the lodge for improvements.

Birthdays celebrated were for Doug Horak and Katie Zoubek. Marvin and Lorraine Kohout celebrated their 51st anniversary.

The next meeting will be Monday, Feb. 5, at 7 p.m.

Library

Continued from 1

kitchen.”

Stevenson said she is especially excited to offer a telescope the library received through the NASA@ My Library program in the collection.

“We’re the only library in Nebraska who got accepted into this program,” she said.

More items may be added to the LoT as time passes based on community requests and available funds. Stevenson said the library plans to get outdoor games, such as cornhole, to add to the

LoT in the spring.

Stevenson said borrowing from the LoT works the same way as borrowing a book from the library. Borrowers can reserve items in person or go online and log in

with their patron card and password. Pick ups and returns must be done in person.

To check out a LoT item, borrowers must sign a waiver, be at least 18 years old and have been

patrons of the library for at least six months. LoT items are due back to the

library one week after checkout. If there are no reservations on an item,

borrowers can have up to two renewals.

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Public Is Welcome

Thurs., Feb. 1 - *French Dip*

Fri., Feb. 2 - *Fish or Shrimp*

Sat., Feb. 3 - *Hamburger Steak*

The Crete Rotary Club would like to thank the Crete area community for their generous support of our club’s 12th annual Grocery Grab fundraising event this past fall.

Our Grand Prize (a five-minute grocery shopping spree at the Crete Foodmart) went to Owen Kuntz of Crete. We also drew tickets for 49 additional winners who received \$100, \$50 or \$25 Foodmart gift certificates.

All of the proceeds go to support many of our local projects which include four scholarships to Crete H.S. seniors every year and purchasing dictionaries for all 3rd graders in Crete and Dorchester.

Crete
Rotary

We also want to thank all of our local business partners for their support of the Grocery Grab!

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	S. Sveen, APRN	February 12	
	B. Behrens, PA-C.....	February 9	
Dermatology	Dr. N. Hejtmanek.....	February 13, 27	
	J. Zaruba PA-C.....	February 1	
Ear, Nose & Throat	Dr. S. Nagengast.....	February 8, 15, 22	
	Dr. G. Heidrick	February 1, 6, 15, 20	
General Surgery	L. Hanseling, APRN.....	February 1, 6, 15, 20	
	Dr. A. Kafka	February 15	
Gynecology/Women's Health	Dr. B. Bixenmann	February 2	
	S. Hirschbrunner	February 5, 14, 21, 28	
Nerve Conduction Studies, EMGs	Dr. C. Peterson	February 9	
	Dr. J. Tilford	February 22	
Neurology	Dr. B. Seifert	February 14, 28	
	C. Scholtes, PA-C.....	February 7, 14	
Nutrition	Dr. M. Bokemper	February 7	
	M. Koebnick, PA-C	February 28	
Oncology	Dr. A. Reilly	February 27	
	Dr. M. Williamson.....	February 6, 20	
Orthopedics	Dr. K. Otto	Tuesdays	
	A. Lovell, LIMHP	Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays	
Pain Management	T. Lang, LIMHP.....	Thursdays & Fridays	
	Dr. R. Martin	February 19	
Podiatry	Dr. R. Neamu	February 15	
	Dr. D. Henslee.....	February 28	
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Pulmonology			
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Juliet said it best: What’s in a name?

BY AMY HAUSMAN
amy@friendsentinel.com

For a few months now, I have tried to regularly write a personal column. With the redesign of our newspapers, I had the bright idea of having our staff members come up with a standing name for their personal columns for readers to look forward to and help to recognize our journalists.


Great idea, right? That is, until I had to do it, too! So for your amusement I am going to share with you my brainstorming.

10. Because I’m the editor, that’s why

Although this is true, this is so far from the way I work with my staff. I love collaborating, supporting each other, and having fun at work. On occasion, it does come down to asserting that it is my call but after a year in the role it has happened less times than I can count on one hand.

9. Editor: solving problems you never knew existed

Now in no way am I saying I catch them all (and there are a fair amount of times I cause the problems), but I think it would be kind of fun for people to see a first draft vs. the finished product. Of course when our newspapers come back from the press and I hold them in my hands, I always see things I wish I would have done differently. But I am pretty proud of all the things you never knew about.



I'm Extra, Extra
Amy Hausman
amy@friendsentinel.com

8. Careful or you'll end up here

This little warning, borderline threat made me giggle because I love bragging about people! There are so many people doing incredible things in our communities, and I love giving shout outs. I see the world through rose-colored rhinestone-studded glasses. For real, I can send you the Amazon link.

7. Headlines and deadlines

This was scratched immediately. Under no circumstances do I want my publisher to think I know what these are.

6. I break news, not hearts

As a single gal married to my gig, I clung to this one for a while. Coming soon to a hot pink t-shirt just in time for Valentine’s Day!

5. Let bylines be bylines

It is so easy to get hit with writer’s block or become passionate about an issue personally that you have to be neutral about profession-

ally. Similar to leaving the past in the past, this is all about moving on to the next great story.

4. Gimme a beat!

Although Janet Jackson said it much better, for a journalist, a beat is specialization in coverage such as board of education, county commissioners and city council. It allows the reporter to become a bit of an expert on a subject like, I don’t know, wind energy.

3. All write, all write, all write

Three words: Matthew - McHot - naughey. Meow. If that does not inspire creativity, I cannot help you.

2. Write on


Rock on and have some freaking fun with your community! I have been to a pigeon farm, spent a night shift with a K9 officer, flown in an airplane, done hot yoga with my staff, cooked live lobsters, ran a 5k dressed like workout Barbie, and strapped a broken stiletto heel to my ankle with packing tape after breaking it during a manhunt so I could get into the courthouse for a sentencing hearing. What did you do today?

1. I’m extra, extra

This is the one. This one shows my personality. My love for obnoxious accessories and thrill to get dolled up for, well ... anything. More obviously is that I also love local community journalism, where I live and work, and sharing that with you brings me incredible joy. Extra, extra! Read all about it!

Learn to ‘shut the gate’ on past

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



Seek the Lord
Rev. Dan Safarik
St. Mark’s UMC, Lincoln

I still miss the old cartoon of Calvin and Hobbes.

One day they were discussing the growing interest in angels. Calvin says, “I think angels are everywhere.” “You do?” says Hobbes. “Yes,” says Calvin. “They are on calendars, books, greeting cards, almost every product imaginable.”

And Hobbes responds, “My, what a spiritual age we live in!”

Many people claim to have an interest in spiritual concerns. Many people would say they have faith in God. The problem I see is folks who claim to have faith but they don’t put the teachings of the faith into practice. Many people would say they believe in forgiveness but they don’t forgive much.

Or they say they believe in God’s love but they don’t love much.

One of the spiritual principles that would be good to live out better is from Philippians 3:13-14, “...but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God.”

In other words, the Apostle Paul says we need to let go of the past so we can move forward into the future of God’s calling. I have to admit, I try to hold onto the past too tightly. After all, the future is scary. We think by hanging on to the past we might even be able to change it.

We need help to let go of the past so we can move on. One of the images I have found helpful is that of shutting the gate. Many of us have been out on a farm or ranch. Especially in western Nebraska, you might drive for miles through a pasture until you find a gate in the way.

You have to get out and open the gate, drive

through, and then get out and shut it again. This may happen many times.

Usually at every gate there is a sign – PLEASE SHUT THE GATE.

These four little words seem to me to sum up a very basic and fundamental wisdom about life. You and I have to learn to shut the gate on experiences in the past. It is not easy. It might be an old grief, which simply will not go away. The man or woman, who keeps going back to an old grief, will eventually be carrying an impossible burden.

Sometimes it is necessary to shut the gate on old grievances. It is hard to let go of an old wrong or a slight we have endured. Sometimes we must find a way to shut the gate on guilt.

The first thing we have to do is stop trying to change the past and start trying to accept it. There is a lot of second-guessing in life, but it is an exercise in futility. We know we cannot go back and change the past. The game of if only is way too popular.

We cannot keep playing it. God will help us find a deep joy and sense of release as we shut some gates on the past.

We are standing on the threshold of a new day. The future is full of wonderful possibilities and untold potential. We can enter God’s Promised Land when we find ways to shut the gate on problems in the past.

Prayer: *Our Lord, it’s difficult to let go and shut the gate but so necessary to be able to go forward. Give us strength. Amen.*

A book that tugged my heartstrings

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com



Keaton's Corner
Keaton Burgess
reporter@sewardindependent.com

Growing up and throughout my time in middle school, high school and college, I wasn’t much of a reader. I didn’t enjoy reading and I could think of a lot of other things I’d rather do.

Now, as an adult and someone who does a lot of driving to different sporting and news events, I’ve gotten into listening to audiobooks.

My favorite book so far that I’ve listened to is “What Made Maddy Run: The Secret Struggles and Tragic Death of an All-American Teen” by

transition to college and college cross country and track and field, which eventually led to her suicide.

When college started for Holleran, her parents noticed that her mood had changed and she wasn’t the same person. She started to become distant and wasn’t the same, go-getter and happy person she usually was.

The book also talks about many different lessons in psychology and struggles that athletes of all ages can go through.

Although I never struggled as much as Holleran did, I definitely had some periods as an athlete in

college where my mental health wasn’t where it needed to be. It’s actually why I didn’t participate my senior year.

This book definitely hit close to home for me because, as a former athlete, I think we need to have a bigger focus on mental health for athletes and be more aware of what is going on in our kids’ lives.

I would recommend this book to anyone is has kids participating in sports, students participating in sports, or just anyone interested in learning more about mental health and the effects athletics can have on an individual.

Committee hearings begin in the legislature

BY SEN. TOM BRANDT
Dist. 32



Legislative Update
Dist. 32 Sen. Tom Brandt
tbrandt@leg.ne.gov

The 108th Nebraska Legislature wrapped up day 17 of our 60-day session last week. We have completed bill introduction as well as the rules debate, and have begun having public hearings and full floor debate on legislation.

Last week, we advanced LB16, which is a bill aimed at removing obstacles and simplifying licensing processes for various professions facing significant workforce shortages. Additionally, LB461, designed to ensure responsible use of taxpayer dollars in government contracts by considering factors beyond just the lowest bid, advanced to the second round of debate.

The intention is to avoid instances where low-bidding contractors fail to deliver on promised services, such as what happened with St. Francis foster care program a few years ago.

We had our first two hearings this week regarding bills that make relatively simple changes. First, LB900 was heard in the Transportation and Telecommunications com-

mittee. What this will do is increase the maximum length of a truck from 40 feet to 45 feet, which brings us in line with all the surrounding states.

I would like to thank Geneva Mayor Cody Lightwine for bringing this legislation to us, and for coming up to the Capitol and testifying on the bill. He did a great job at explaining to the committee members how this affects Nebraskans like him.

Our second bill, LB938, would make some much-needed updates to the County Purchasing Act. This was held in the government committee, and would increase the thresholds relating to county

purchases and the selling of surplus property. This proposal outlines circumstances under which competitive bidding may be waived, ensuring flexibility in response to emergencies or when substantial cost savings can be realized through special purchases or auctions.

An example of this would be if a road grader was up for auction on Big Iron (an online auction site), a county board may pass a resolution stating that they can bid up to an agreed amount for the equipment and not have to take the time to put out a request for bids.

I would like to thank Jefferson County commissioners Mark Schoenrock and Gale Pohlmann, and Fillmore County Supervisor Wade Sluka for coming to testify and their online comments.

If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact me or my legislative staff at (402) 471-2711, or tbrandt@leg.ne.gov. You can also stay up to speed on all bills by subscribing to the Unicameral Update by sending an email to uio@leg.ne.gov or calling 402-471-2788. The Unicameral Update is free of charge.



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DOUG CARROLL/CN
Fred Kozak of Wilber accepts the January Saline County Veteran of the Month award from Saline County Veterans Service Officer Scott Davis as Veterans Service Committee members Alan Strouf, left, and Lyle Bartels look on.

Kozak named Saline County Veteran of the Month

BY DOUG CARROLL
doug@sewardindependent.com

Fred Kozak of Wilber was named the Saline County Veteran of the Month for January. “It was a surprise,” Kozak said. “I didn’t think I would get nominated. There are a lot of other veterans more deserving than I am.” Kozak was drafted into the military in 1964 and went to basic training at Ft. Leonardwood in Missouri before being shipped to Ft. Gordon in Georgia for advanced training. After that training while

in line at a movie theater on holdover status, he and two other soldiers were plucked from line and sent on their way to the Dominican Republic to help fight a revolution from spring to late fall. After a short trip home, he was then sent to Vietnam to serve. “I went from 10 below to more than 100 degrees in a matter of days,” he said, chuckling. Kozak said he still has night sweats thinking about his time in Vietnam, where he did foot patrols and aerial missions. After returning home,

Kozak said he no longer had a job at the local coop, so he went to work for Crete Mills, where he worked the next 42 years before retiring in 2007. One of his fondest memories of his military service was being asked to take part in an honor flight to Washington D.C., where he got to tour the capitol with other service members. “It was quite a deal,” he said. “We really had a nice welcoming event when we arrived, and it was quite an honor to be able to be there.”

Public Health Solutions extends a Valentine invitation to all

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN
scireporter@sewardindependent.com

Valentine’s Day is not just for couples, and Public Health Solutions is promoting the importance of friendship at its newest At Our Table... Everyone is Welcome event on Wednesday, Feb. 7, from 6 – 8 p.m. Johanna Pesante-Daniel, the health equity, diversity and inclusion program coordinator at PHS, said the event will be free, family friendly and open to everyone. “With Valentine’s Day, people believe it’s just for couples or your significant other. It’s not necessarily that,” she said. “You can celebrate your friendship with your neighbor, or whoever you want to.” Pesante-Daniel said the event, which will be held at PHS at 830 E. First St., does not have a strict agenda but promotes natural conversation and bonding over a shared meal. Attendees are welcome, but not required, to bring food to contribute. “People connect, people have the opportunity to meet new people in our community and learn

more about each other,” she said. “We try to bring always the concept of wellness into this conversation about mindfulness and about how to take care of yourself.” PHS holds a walking group, and Pesante-Daniel said group members expressed interest in having a community picnic last summer. PHS held two successful events and came up with the idea to continue promoting community bonding through this new venture: At Our Table... Everyone is Welcome. “It’s winter time, and we know that some people might suffer from the blues and feel more isolated, ‘What can we do to continue that connection and continue bringing people together?’” she said. “This is how this idea came up.” PHS held its first At Our Table... Everyone is Welcome event last December and had a surprise visit from Santa Claus. Pesante-Daniel said it was amazing to see the children run up to Santa and give him a hug as soon as he walked through the door.

“That just right there, to me, was worth it. All the coordination and everything, it was something that was very meaningful,” she said. “The parents enjoyed having Santa Claus visit us as much as their children.” PHS plans to hold At Our Table... Everyone is Welcome events every two or three months in tandem with holidays throughout the year. A Mother’s Day event is in the works for spring. Pesante-Daniel said she is most looking forward to bonding with people in the community and having new conversations at the Valentine’s Day celebration, especially after the recent cold weather that has kept people inside. “This event invites all residents in our community from diverse backgrounds, experience, history, neighborhoods and perspectives to come together over a meal and talk and make connections,” she said. “We’re going to try to explore ways to work together to make our communities stronger and healthy.”

Crete Public Library News

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY - MARCH 2024

CHILDRENS PROGRAMMING

TODDLER STORYTIME (AGES 0-2) - WEDNESDAYS AT 10 AM

PRESCHOOL STORYTIME (AGES 3-5) - THURSDAYS AT 10 AM

EXPLORATION STUDIO (AGES 5-11) 1ST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 4PM

ART LAB (AGES 5-11) 3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH AT 4 PM

TEEN NIGHTS

VALENTINE’S DAY CARD MAKING - 2/8 AT 5:30 PM

LIBRARY AFTER DARK - 2/29 AT 7 PM TO 11 PM

TRIVIA NIGHT - 3/21 AT 5:30 PM

ADULT EVENTS

CRAFT NIGHT: CERAMIC TILE COASTERS - 2/7 AT 6:30 PM

PUZZLE RACE PARTY - CRETE CARRIER ROOM 3/12 AT 6 PM

BOOK CLUBS

CODE YELLOW - FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT NOON

KALEIDOSCOPE - THIRD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT NOON

FLIGHTS OF FANTASY - 3/14 AT 5:30 PM

CRETE PUBLIC LIBRARY - 1515 FOREST AVE (402) 826-3809

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COURTESY PHOTO

On their way

New Czecherettes 4-H members, enrolling for the first time as 5-year-olds, attended their first official 4-H meeting on Jan. 21. They joined other club members ranging in age from 6-17 in making Valentines Day themed favors for the Wilber Care Center as a kick-off project for the year. The new members are, from left, Klancy Kunc of Wilber, Taiden Warta of Wilber, Freya Sand of Dorchester and Katelyn Wollenburg of DeWitt.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Your Right to Know

The family of **Jim County** would like to thank everyone for the food, cards, calls, flowers and memorials. Special thank you to Kunc Funeral Home, Pastor Jim Bendorf, and the VFW Military Guard.

All was greatly appreciated.

Karmen, Jeff, Chad, and Caleb County

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The Herndon family wishes to thank everyone for the outpouring of love, thoughts, and prayers in the death of

Douglas A. Herndon

Wife, Rieko; father, Chuck; siblings, Ron & Pat Herndon and family; and Barbara & Hani Shafai and family.

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OBITUARY

Alvin Witzke
March 19, 1936 – Jan. 18, 2024

Alvin Witzke, 87, of Crete was born into this world March 19, 1936, in Shafter, California, to Alvin and Helena Witzke.

He left this world and arrived in Heaven on Jan. 18, 2024.

He is survived by his wife, Joanne; son, Doug, and wife Glee, of Crete; daughter, Jan Sorensen, and son-in-law, Curt; and daughter, Kris Saylor and son-in-law, John. He is also survived by his brother, Ed, and sister-in-law, Judy; as well as six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; six nieces and three nephews.

Al declared his faith in Jesus Christ, and followed Jesus Christ from that point onward. He demonstrated that faith by living it out in his life at home, at work and at church.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 3, at Cornerstone Bible Church, 1430 Hickory Ave., in Crete.

BIRTHDAYS

Novak

Dwaine Novak, Sr., of Pleasant Dale will celebrate his 95th birthday early next month.

He was born Feb. 8, 1929, in rural Pleasant Dale.

To help him celebrate, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are requesting a card show-er. Greetings may be sent to him at 1792 Yankee Hill Road, Pleasant Dale, NE 68333.

Hier

Helen Hier of Crete will celebrate her 95th birthday early next month.

She was born Feb.10, 1929, in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania, in 1929.

She and her late husband, Robert, had three children, Rod (Pat), Greg (Debbie), and Bob (Terri).

To celebrate, her family is hosting a card show-er for her. Cards may be sent to her at 310 W. 17th St., Crete, NE 68333.



Helen Hier

STUDENTS

Iowa State University

Iowa State University (Ames, Iowa) students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the fall semester 2023 Dean's list, including Thomas Kracl of Crete, a senior pursuing an Architecture-Professional Degree. Students named to the Dean's List must earn a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

University of Nebraska at Kearney

Students from 95 high schools in Nebraska will participate in the annual Honor Band and Choral Clinic hosted by the University of Nebraska at Kearney's Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. The Jan. 29 event included 606 high school music students who will work with UNK faculty and guest instructors before performing two public concerts at UNK's Health and Sports Center. Students participating from Crete include Catarina Nicolas Francisco and Sierra Bond.

Harding University

Camilo Porto Ochoa of Crete is among students who received diplomas and were recognized as Harding University (Searcy, Arkansas) graduates for fall 2023 during a commencement ceremony on Dec. 16. Porto Ochoa received a Bachelor of Business Administration in international business.

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Students are recognized for their academic achievements during the fall 2023 semester at the University of Nebraska at Omaha with inclusion on the Chancellor's and/or Dean's List. Students who qualified for the Chancellor's list earned a grade point average of 4.0 for courses taken at UNO during the fall 2023 semester. Students on the list from this area include Kyra Creamer of Dorchester; Ariel Guerra-Salazar of Crete; and Bridget Nickman, Cecelia Nickman and Sidney Richards of Denton. Students who qualified for the Dean's list earned a GPA of 3.5 or better for courses taken at UNO during the fall 2023 semester. Students on the list from this area include Gustaf Blessen, Kathia Dimas, Izzy Etze and Ashley Rivas Martinez of Crete; Sidney Richards of Denton; Liv Ozenbaugh of Hallam; and Abby Plouzek of Dorchester.

Southeast Community College

Southeast Community College in Nebraska released its Dean's list for the term completed in December 2023 on the Beatrice, Lincoln and Milford campuses. To be recognized on SCC's Dean's List, a student must complete at least six semester credit hours of the term with a minimum grade-point average of 3.5. Students on the list from Crete include: Janysa Brewer, Medical Laboratory Technology; Emma Feeken, Radiologic Technology; Austin Lorenz, Precision Agriculture; and Anahi Terce-ro-Tercero, Early Childhood Education.

POLICE

Information provided by the Crete Police Dept.

Jan. 19

4:32 p.m.—A report was received of money stolen from a self checkout in the 1800 block of East 29th.

6:11 p.m.—Following a hit-and-run accident in the 2100 block of Linden, a driver was cited for having no operator's license.

7:26 p.m.—A person was arrested on a warrant in the 1900 block of Forest.

Jan. 20

10:33 a.m.—Citations for leaving the scene of an accident and having no operator's license were issued to a driver following an accident with injuries in the 1800 block of Parklane.

12:43 p.m.—A driver in the 2200 block of Dawn Drive was cited for having no operator's license following an accident with injuries.

Jan. 21

2:47 p.m.—A person was cited for theft by shoplifting in the 1800 block of East 29th.

5:03 p.m.—Two citations for shoplifting were issued to a person in the 1800 block of East 29th.

8:39 p.m.—A person was arrested for trespassing in the 1800 block of East 29th.

10:57 p.m.—A person was cited for theft by shoplifting in the 1800 block of East 29th.

Jan. 22

9:33 p.m.—A driver in the 1300 block of Oak was cited for having no operator's license.

Jan. 23

12:28 p.m.—A citation for speeding was issued to a driver in the 300 block of Main.

1:09 p.m.—A report was received of items stolen in the 1800 block of East 29th.

5:16 p.m.—A person was arrested of domestic assault and other charges in the 1100 block of East 16th.

6:30 p.m.—In the 1800 block of East 29th, a person was cited for theft by shoplifting.

6:31 p.m.—A report was received of items stolen in the 1800 block of East 29th.

6:32 p.m.—A report was received of items stolen in the 1800 block of East 29th.

Jan. 24

1:38 p.m.—A report was received of sexual assault.

2 p.m.—A report was received of child abuse.

4:15 p.m.—A citation for no registra-

tion was issued to a driver in the 1300 block of Redwood.

5:02 p.m.—A citation for theft by shoplifting was issued to a person in the 1800 block of East 29th.

7:29 p.m.—A citation for no registra-tion was issued to a driver in the 400 block of Boswell.

8:32 p.m.—A driver was cited for failing to stop at a railroad crossing in the 300 block of West 13th.

11:37 p.m.—A person was arrested on a warrant in the 1600 block of West 13th.

Jan. 25

1:35 a.m.—A person was arrested for driving under the influence and other charges in the 2300 block of East Highway 33.

10:59 a.m.—A person was arrested on a warrant in the 1000 block of East 20th.

12:21 p.m.—A business was issued a fraudulent check.

2:27 p.m.—A driver was arrested for driving under the influence and other charges following an injury accident in the 1700 block of Hawthorne.

10:13 p.m.—A driver was arrested for driving under the influence and other charges in the 1700 block of Main.

REAL ESTATE

Information taken from records filed with the Saline County clerk.

Jan. 18 – 24

Victor H. Alarcon and Concepcion Alarcon, trustees, to Edith M. Cabrera, part of Lot 7, Block 143 in Crete. DS \$225

Kevin J. Jones to Douglas A. Hayek and Hillary A. Hayek, and Daryl L. Hayek and Roxanne A. Hayek, SW1/4 34-7-3. DS \$1,620

Bernice Steuer to

Mayelaysis Maceo-Yero, part of Lots 4-6 in Crete. DS \$495

Paula J. Robles and Phillip R. Robles to Seth P. Keller, S1/2 SE1/4 35-6-3. DS \$659.25

Douglas A. Hayek and Hillary A. Hayek and Daryl L. Hayek and Roxy D. Hayek to Seth P. Keller and Zack Keller, W1/2 NW1/4 17-5-4. DS \$897.75

Paula J. Robles and Phillip R. Robles to Russell

D. Korinek, part of the N1/2 SE1/4 27-6-3. DS \$400.50

Paula J. Robles and Phillip R. Robles to Gary E. Veprovsky and Penny J. Veprovsky, SW1/4 SW1/4 36-6-3. DS \$256.50

Morgan D. Kovarik to Jorge Real and Andy Real Cisneros, a tract of land in the NE1/4 NE1/4 22-8-1. DS \$22.50

Paula Robles and Phillip R. Robles to PBS Rentals, LLC, SW1/4 24-6-3. DS

\$1,293.75

William W. Beckler and Tressa M. Beckler to Scott V. Spohn and Katherine J. Spohn, NE1/4 and the NW1/4 SE1/4 16-8-2 and part of the NE1/4 SE1/4 16-8-2 lying north of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway right-of-way. DS \$5,276.25

John Saltzman to JDKD, LLC, Lots 1,125, 1,126 and the N1/2 of Lot 1,127 in Dorchester. DS \$146.25

TRAFFIC

Information taken from records filed with the Saline County court.

Jose M. Martinez Ibarra, 22, Lincoln, no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Juan Garcia Gutierrez, 42, Crete, no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Alberto A. Lemus Vazquez, 25, Crete, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine; no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Jacqueline L. Dunaway, 43, Crete, driving on shoulder of highway, \$25 fine.

Edgar Mercado Figueroa, 18, Crete, no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Jessica L. Wendelin, 37, Crete, no

operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Jorge Calmo, 40, Grand Island, no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Merita Tiberke, 32, Crete, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine; two counts of fail to use child passenger restraint, \$25 fine for each count.

Edwin G. Jacinto Tercero, 18, Crete, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.

Felipe Esteban Marcos, 40, Crete, no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Dereck Morales, 37, Crete, no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Maykol Garcia Nunez, 25, Grand Island, overtaking/passing prohibited, \$25 fine; no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Ronald F. Clark, 68, McCool Junction, speeding 6-10 mph county/state, \$25 fine.

Jorge Colochio Banos, 55, Crete, no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Pavel A. Cera Pena, improper/defective vehicle lighting, \$25 fine; no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Brady Nosal, 17, Crete, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.

Alejandro Luis Perez, 26, Crete, no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Luis Gomez, 59, Grand Island, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.

Bryan Warner, 38, Friend, speeding 6-10 mph county/state, \$25 fine.

Have we gotten soft?

BY GENE STEINMEYER
For the Crete News

You would never know it now, but as a kid, the great outdoors dominated any time I had between playing baseball and mowing lawns for baseball card money.

There was hardly a day go by that I didn't fish or hunt, depending on the season. Now, my fishing pole is collecting dust.

We fished for anything that would bite on a worm or some worn-out lure. There were the bull-head ponds where you knew the fish would bite. The local lumberman had a club-member-only pond where you had to be patient and find the right spot for the bass to hit your lure.

A couple of friends and I even got caught skinny dipping by a couple of high school girls at the club pond.

We'd travel to Harlan County and fished the trees for crappie or troll the dam for walleye. Once a year, my family and my cousin, Mike Wenz's family, traveled to Valentine National Refuge. If we were tired of trying to catch perch, the kids would put a boat in a farmer's lake and catch bullhead two at a time.

During the week, my stepmother, Mae, would buy a six pack of Shiltz beer. Not for the taste but for the free Daredevil fishing lure. Then we'd find our way to a local pond where the farmer had stocked it with Northern Pike. If she felt sorry for the boys on a hot day, we'd get to sample the Schlitz.

The winter meant hunting. When I was 12 years old, Santa



brought me a single-shot 16-gauge shotgun. Dad took us out that Christmas Day. I shot and hit the first two rooster pheasants I scared up. I thought I was a terrific shot. My mistake. It took two more years before I rustled another feather on a bird.

The most memorable hunting we ever did was when my brother, Roger, our friend, Randy Sagehorn, and I would go hunting from sun-up to sunset. We were too young to drive, so we made sure we had plenty of shotgun shells. We would take off on foot to find those elusive rooster pheasants.

Here's where the story gets good. Randy had a black lab named Blacky. Real inventive, right. Blacky was a good hunting dog. We seldom lost a pheasant that we shot from the sky.

The problem with Blacky was he would run in corn fields when he sensed a pheasant. Back then, all the farmers picked their corn. There were lots of stalks and places pheasants could hide. It was a great place to find the hungry birds.

When Blacky would take off down a corn row, so would we. It

was impossible to train Blacky to slow down, so we adjusted. The three of us would sprint to the end of the field carrying our shotguns and running in heavy boots. I'm not sure how many pheasants we shot, but we were in great shape.

In the 1960s when I was growing up, you never heard of a snow alert or wind chill warning. If we had a free Saturday, the three of us would take off from Randy's house in search of pheasants, quail, rabbits or even jackrabbits.

The weather sometimes made us stop early, but we never backed away from getting into the field. The worst weather the three of us ever experienced was one Saturday when the temperature was minus five degrees with at least a 15 mile an hour wind.

We bundled up and headed south. No experienced hunter would face the wind until the temperature reached zero. It was about a mile into the hunt when the first pheasant flew up right in front of me.

My fingers were numb but it would be tough to miss this easy shot. However, the gun didn't make a sound. The safety had frozen on and I couldn't get it shoved forward. We did the only sensible thing experienced hunters would do. The three of us turned into that cold north wind and headed back to Randy's house.

The only reaction from our parents was surprise that we had come home so early. They certainly didn't voice any concern for our safety. If that went on today, our parents would have been hauled off to jail for child abuse.

That's proof we have gotten soft.

Second in a row

Crete dominates three games to win Central Conference

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Crete boys' basketball team had no trouble winning the Central Conference tournament for the second year in a row behind three dominating performances, a 77-22 win over Lexington on Jan. 23, a 76-40 win over York in the semifinal on Jan. 25, and a 73-32 win over Adams Central in the championship game on Jan. 27.

"We played really well in all three games of the conference tournament," Coach Tony Siske said. "Winning back-to-back tournament championships is a great accomplishment for our program."

Against Lexington, Crete scored two points before a second came off the clock because of a technical foul assessed to the Minutemen bench. Crete's Aidan McDowell nailed the two free throws assessed because of the technical.

McDowell continued to dominate early, scoring 11 points in the first few minutes of the game.

After taking a big lead with two minutes before halftime, Crete was able to rest its starters.

The second half was similar to the first, as the starters played for



Reece Vertin of Crete takes a steal for a layup against Lexington on Jan. 23.

KEATON BURGESS/CN

the first few minutes of the third quarter and then watched from the sidelines to rest for their semifinal matchup.

McDowell scored 23 points and was a perfect 8-8 from the floor.

Against York, Crete started fast again, leading 21-8 after the first quarter and 42-17 at halftime. The Cardinals continued to pour it on, scoring 20 points in the third quarter and winning 76-40 to move on to the championship game.

Against Adams Central, Crete led big at the half, boasting a 41-17 lead and never looked back. The Cardinals went on to outscore the Patriots 22-9 in the third quarter and 10-6 in the fourth to claim another Central Conference championship.

"In the championship game, we were really good defensively," Siske said. "We were able to keep Adams Central out of the paint and forced them into some tough shots. Offensively we moved and shared the ball well."

McDowell led the Cardinals with 19 points and Ben Ehlers and Theo Bohling each had 10.

Crete (16-0) was scheduled to travel to Schuyler on Jan. 30 and host Wahoo on Thursday, Feb. 1, for an 8 p.m. start time.



The Crete girls' wrestling team poses with its Central Conference runner up plaque on Jan. 26.

COURTESY PHOTO

Lady Cardinals earn silver at Central Conference meet, prepare for subdistricts

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Crete girls' wrestling team had 10 out of its 11 varsity wrestlers earn a fourth-place medal or higher at the Central Conference wrestling tournament to place second as a team on Jan. 26.

"We had a great conference tournament," Coach Jeff Steele said. "You could definitely see some girls taking it up a notch for the tournament in preparation for districts and state. Unfortunately, we left a few points on the mat and against a team like Schuyler, you just can't afford to do that. We

have a tough conference, probably one of the fullest conferences as far as a team's ability to fill weight

"We had a great conference tournament. You could definitely see some girls taking it up a notch for the tournament in preparation for districts and state."

Coach Jeff Steele

classes, so I think we gained a lot of confidence to carry us forward."

Four Cardinals won their weight classes, including Kelsey Talkington at 130, Ashaya Steele at 155, Alicia Lopez Alvis at 145 and Alexa Ramirez at 235.

Trinity Williamson took second at 125, Addison Woods and 105, Aileen Rueda at 170 and Stephanie DonJuan Mendoza at 190 all took third, and Ruby VanHorn at 110 and Le Nelson at 140 took fourth.

Crete was scheduled to wrestle at Nebraska City on Jan. 29 that was rescheduled due to a previous snow day and host subdistricts on Saturday, Feb. 3, starting at 9 a.m.



KEATON BURGESS/CN

Aidan McDowell of Crete draws the foul and makes the layup against Elkhorn on Jan. 20 McDowell etched his name in Crete High School history as he became the all-time leading scorer after reaching 1,220 points.

McDowell claims all-time scoring leader title

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

Senior Aidan McDowell etched his name in Crete High School history as he became the all-time leading scorer after reaching 1,220 points on Jan. 20 against Elkhorn.

"I've had my mind on that record kind of since the season started," McDowell said.

McDowell scored 32 points against Class B's third-ranked Elkhorn in an 85-63 win.

McDowell is excited that he broke the record.

"It feels great, but as a team, we have bigger goals that we want to accomplish to finish the season," he said.

McDowell's goals go further than personal achievements, including going deep in the postseason.

"The goal this year is to be playing our best basketball during district finals and state tournament time in order to go win a state championship," he said.

Crete has a tough schedule to end the season, still having to face second-ranked in Class C1 Wahoo on Feb. 1, seventh-ranked in Class C1 and one loss Ogallala on Feb. 10, and eighth-ranked in Class B Platteview on Feb. 16.

Around the area



AMY HAUSMAN/CN
Keila Ricenbaw of EMF goes up for a layup against Pawnee City on Jan. 26.



KEATON BURGESS/CN
Isabelle Peters of Tri County evades the full court pressure and beats the Lourdes Central Catholic defense on Jan. 26.



DOUG CARROLL/CN
Ryan Marsh of Wilber-Clatonia works for back points against Keyton Reck of Tri County during their 132-pound match.

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Crete News

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SIDELINE SUMMARY

This week in sports...

CRETE

Boys' Basketball

The Crete boys' basketball team won the Central Conference Tournament for the second year in a row behind three dominant performances, a 77-22 win over Lexington on Jan. 23, a 76-40 win over York in the semifinal on Jan. 25, and a 73-32 win over Adams Central.

Girls' Basketball

The Crete girls' basketball team went 2-1 during the Central Conference Tournament to place third. The Cardinals defeated Aurora 51-33, lost to Adams Central 53-46 in the semifinals and defeated York 38-36 for third place. Marin Rasgorshek led the Cardinals with 18 points against Aurora.

Boys' Wrestling

The Crete boys wrestling team started the week with a triangular at Wilber-Clatonia and went 1-1, defeating Tri County 53-28, but lost to WC 56-18 on Jan. 25. Crete then competed in the Central Conference tournament on Jan. 27 and placed eighth out of nine teams due to leaving multiple weights open.

Girls' Wrestling

The Crete girls' wrestling team placed second at the Central Conference Tournament on Jan. 26. Four Cardinals won their weight classes, including Kelsey Talkington at 130, Ashaya Steele at 155, Alicia Lopez Alvis at 145 and Alexa Ramirez at 235.

DORCHESTER

Boys' Basketball

The Dorchester boys' basketball team dropped its single game of the week to Hampton 50-35. Dorchester scored the first points of the game, a three-pointer from Chase Tachovsky, but struggled to keep up with the Hawks for the remainder of the game.

Girls' Basketball

The Dorchester girls' basketball team went 2-1 the rest of the way of the Crossroads Conference, upsetting third-seeded Osceola 49-25 on Jan. 22, losing to first-seeded McCool Junction 51-31 on Jan. 23, but defeating fifth-seeded High Plains 35-20 on Jan. 26.

Wrestling

The Dorchester boys' wrestling team competed at the Freeman Invite on Jan. 26 and placed 14th out of 15 teams and at Doniphan Trumbull on Jan. 27 and placed 10th out of 17 teams. Marcos Borrego placed second at 175 at DT. The Dorchester girls' team also competed at the DT Invite and Isabella Cornejo won two matches at 115 and placed third.

EMF

Boys' Basketball

The Exeter-Milligan/Friend boys' basketball team took down Heartland 65-46 Jan. 25. Zach Vossler scored 18 and Grady Bresson added 16 for the Bobcats. EMF had to come from behind against Pawnee City Jan. 26 to get the 64-61 win. PC scored 24 points in the third quarter to go up 49-43 at the end of the third quarter. Breckan Schluter led EMF with 22 points and seven assists. Vossler scored 16 and Bresson added 14.

Girls' Basketball

The EMF girls' basketball team went 2-0 on the week, defeating Heartland 44-38 and Pawnee City 48-26. Savana Krupicka scored 11 against Heartland.

Boys' Wrestling

Mason Semler brought home a silver medal from the Freeman Invite Jan. 26, going 3-1 on the day with three pins to lead the EMF wrestling team. Josiah Oceguela finished third, and Dayton Kremer was fourth.

Girls' Wrestling

Kyler Sladek of EMF finished third at the ECNC Invite Jan. 26, winning three matches by pin, with the quickest coming in 1:37.

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TRI COUNTY

Boys' Basketball

Tri County's boys had to come from behind Jan. 23 to beat Thayer Central but outscored the Titans 18-5 in the fourth quarter to get the 49-42 win. Caden Bales scored 20 to lead the Trojans. On Jan. 26, Tri County beat Nebraska City Lourdes 68-35 behind three in double figures – Braiden Strouf with 18, Bales with 16 and Cameron Reynolds with 10.

Girls' Basketball

The Tri County girls' basketball team fell short against Thayer Central 51-21 Jan. 23 and to Nebraska City Lourdes 56-33 Jan. 26. Isabelle Peters scored 14 for Tri County against Lourdes and grabbed five steals.

Wrestling

Tri County wrestling spent a lot of time competing last week. TCHS lost a pair of duals Jan. 25 to Wilber-Clatonia 56-21 and Crete 53-28. The team was at Central Valley Jan. 26 and saw three wrestlers medal – Cole Spahr first and Cooper Stokebrand and Cael Washburn each fourth. The Trojans were at the Doniphan-Trumbull Invite Jan. 27 and won the team title. Washburn won his first tournament title, as well, with Spahr and Stokebrand joining him with gold medals.

WILBER-CLATONIA

Boys' Basketball

The Wilber-Clatonia boys' basketball team picked up a trio of wins last week, beating Milford 51-24 Jan. 26 and Fairbury 59-12 Jan. 27. The week started with a 77-31 win over Palmyra Jan. 23. Jameson Conway led the team with 21 points against the Panthers.

Girls' Basketball

The Wilber-Clatonia girls' basketball team finished a busy week with a 35-27 win over Fairbury Jan. 27. Jera Schuerman led the team with 16 points, and Madison Vogel grabbed 10 rebounds. WCHS lost to Centennial 33-22, Palmyra 40-31 and Milford 45-11 in its other games.

Wrestling

A busy week on the mat ended with Wilber-Clatonia qualifying for the state wrestling duals for the seventh time. WCHS was 4-0 in duals during the week, beating Norris 43-34, Raymond Central 48-31, Crete 56-18 and Tri County 56-21. At the Southern Nebraska Conference tournament Jan. 27, Zaiyahn Ornelas and Iverson Mejia won conference titles.



DOUG CARROLL/CN

Crete’s Ricardo Vicente pins Lucas Lewandowski of Tri County during their 144-pound match.

Cardinals split with TC, WC, compete well despite open spots at conference

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Crete boys’ wrestling team started out the week with a triangular at Wilber-Clatonia and went 1-1, defeating Tri County 53-28, but lost to WC 56-18 on Jan. 25.

Against TC, Crete’s lighter weights picked up a majority of the wins for the Cardinals, with Crete’s Liam Clarke at 113, Wyatt Clarke at 120, Trinidad Sanchez at 126, Lyle VanHorn at 138, Ricardo Vicente at 144, Ashton Sundling at 150 and Cesar Linares at 157 all picking up wins for the Cardinals.

“They (Tri County) are always so technically sound, especially from the top position, and we knew we were going to have to be aggressive from our feet in order to stay away from their strength,” Coach Aaron Wagoner said. “The guys responded well with establishing matches by getting the first takedown, which is something we always preach. We were aggressive and really put ourselves in good positions to be successful.”

Wagoner said he was very impressed with how Sanchez performed.

“Trinidad Sanchez jumped into the varsity lineup for us against Tri County and did a really nice job,” he said. “He

is a quality wrestler on our team who has been stuck behind some state qualifiers the last couple of years. But whenever he is called upon, he is ready to go. He looked really sound and controlled on his feet, and was aggressive, picking up a nice victory.”

Against WC, Crete was only able to pick up four wins in the dual with Jamie Ramos’ coming by pin at 132, Wyatt Clarke and Linares picking theirs up by decision and Lesnier Gomez winning by forfeit at 126.

“Wilber is a tough team top to bottom, a definite participant in the state duals next weekend,” Wagoner said. “But I was disappointed with our effort in this one. We seemed sluggish and were out-wrestled in several matches that we should have been more competitive or had chances to win. That is something I will have to figure out from a coaching perspective.”

Wagoner said Linares did a nice job picking his moments and taking better quality shots and said VanHorn had a good match.

“Even in a loss, Lyle Van Horn looked good, limiting the damage against Iverson Mejia, a medalist from the state tournament last year,” he said. “Lyle fought well,

stayed in good position, and really went toe to toe with Mejia throughout the match. A great confidence booster for a young freshman at this point in the season.”

Crete then competed in the Central Conference tournament on Jan. 27 and placed eighth out of nine teams due to leaving multiple weights open.

“I was happy with the effort from our guys that were there,” Wagoner said. “We competed hard but simply fell short in a couple of matches against some high-level wrestlers. With one more varsity competition before districts, it will be some deep reflection time for our coaching staff and wrestlers.”

Wyatt Clarke at 120 and VanHorn at 138 each led the Cardinals with a third-place finish. Wagoner said Wyatt Clarke’s only loss on the day was to the eventual champion.

“Clarke hasn’t been 100% for a few weeks, but still competes at a high level and never makes excuses,” he said. “He has some things to clean up, but he is one I’m looking for to make a good run at districts in two weeks.”

Wagoner also gave Hollis Anderson credit for continuing to fight hard and being willing to do anything for his team.

“Anderson’s courage and willingness to do any-

thing for the team should be admired by everyone in our wrestling room,” he said. “Anderson never wavers when asked to step up for his team and never complains when he is giving up significant weight. He just gives his best every single time he wrestles.”

Overall, Wagoner said the Cardinals have been sluggish lately.

“From a coaching perspective, this isn’t the best time for the wrestlers to be banged up or mentally down,” he said. “We as a staff have some necessary reflections and some tough questions to answer. We will also need to get some serious buy-in from some of our guys the next week in order to finish the season strong.”

Wagoner said although the team hasn’t been able to hit its high expectations, there are still some goals that can still be achieved in two weeks at districts.

“No more excuses,” he said. “We have to focus and work hard if we are going to get where we want to be.”

Crete was scheduled to compete at a dual tournament in Nebraska City on Jan. 29 as a makeup meet that was postponed due to snow and extremely cold temperatures. Its next meet will be Districts on Saturday, Feb. 10, at York.

Cardinals claim third place at conference tournament

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

Coming into the Central Conference tournament seeded fifth, the Crete girls’ basketball team defied the odds and finished third in the tournament after going 2-1 on the week.

The Cardinals started with a 51-33 win over fourth-seeded Aurora on Jan. 23, a 53-46 loss to Adams Central and a 38-36 win over York.

Crete jumped out to a 21-11 lead at halftime, but Aurora continued to cut into Crete’s lead throughout the game according to Coach Britt Ehlers.

“I loved the way our players responded during the game,” he said. Aurora cut our double-digit lead to five or six on multiple occasions, as each time our players responded by creating offense through our defense. In the fourth quarter, we finally started to make some outside shots to create separation.”

After being outscored 14-9 in the third quarter, The Cardinals dominated the Huskies in the fourth quarter, outscoring them 21-8.

“Our players never panicked and this game showed great growth by our team,” Ehlers said.

Marin Rasgorshek led the Cardinals with 18 points and Camry Draeger had 12 rebounds. Anna Hohlen had 10 points and Amelia Hohlen scored eight.

Against Adams Central on Jan. 26, Crete hung in with the first-seeded Patriots as the Cardinals led 30-29 at halftime. AC grabbed the lead back 43-41 at the end of the third quarter and Crete was never able to grab it back.

“Adams Central is a really good team. They are the two-time defending conference champion and made the finals of Class C1 at state last year,” Ehlers said. “We had them on the ropes for significant periods of the game, but just couldn’t finish it at the end. I was most proud of the comments we received after the game from other coaches in our conference who were really impressed by the effort and relentlessness that our team showed.”

Stats were unavailable at press time.

In the consolation game against York, Ehlers said Crete won the game because of its defense.

“Even as we struggled offensively, we remained in the game because of our defense,” he said. “In the end, we had a chance to make plays and we did for a come-from-behind win.”

Ehlers said he gave credit to his seniors, Rasgorshek, Amelia, Anna, Ansley Kuntz and Lauren Maly as each of them stepped up in the game.

“Each of them did the little things that we needed, and in the end, it was just enough for us to win,” he said.

Stats were unavailable at press time.

Crete (10-7) was scheduled to play at Schuyler on Jan. 30. and host Wahoo on Thursday, Feb. 1, starting at 6:15 p.m.

Longhorns fall to Hawks in tournament

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

In its final game of the Crossroads conference tournament, the Dorchester boys’ basketball team couldn’t get passed Hampton, losing 50-35 Jan. 25.

Dorchester scored the first points of the game, a three-pointer from Chase Tachovsky, but struggled to keep up with the Hawks for the remainder of the game.

“We started out well and we were getting to the hoop and making shots,” Coach Corey Bird said. “We lost some momentum when we gave up some bigger

shots ending out the first half and beginning the second half.”

After trailing 48-25 at the start of the fourth quarter, Dorchester held the Hawks to two points in the quarter and scored 10, but it wasn’t enough.

“In the fourth quarter, we came alive and made a comeback but it was too late,” Bird said.

The Longhorns shot 39% from the floor and 50% from the free-throw line.

Dorchester (0-15) was scheduled to host East Butler on Jan. 29, travel to College View Academy on Jan. 30 and host Nebraska Lutheran on Thursday, Feb. 1, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Longhorns wrestle at Freeman, DT

BY DOUG CARROLL
doug@sewardindependent.com

Dorchester’s Marcos Borrego went 2-1 at the Doniphan-Trumbull Invite Jan. 27 to earn second place in the 175-pound division. Borrego opened the day with a pin and a 21-8 major decision before falling in the championship match.

At 150 pounds, Dorchester’s Jacob Hatfield had four pins and a technical fall to finish in third place.

In the girls’ division, Isabella Cornejo went 2-1 to finish third in the 115-pound weight class, with a 9-1 major decision and a 53 second pin.

Mitzu Real won first place, with no other competitors in her 105-pound weight class.

In the Freeman tournament on Jan. 25. Borrego finished third and Hatfield finished fourth, while at the girls’ tournament that same day at Raymond Central, Cornejo placed third.

“Overall the weekend went really well, and both teams continue to improve,” said Coach Chris Nelson.

This week the boys team will compete at East Butler on Thursdday, Feb. 1, while girls team will wrestle their subdistricts in Crete on Saturday, Feb. 3. Matches start at 9 a.m.

Tigers defeat Midland, lose to No. 1 Dordt

The Doane women's basketball team went on the road on Jan. 24 to Fremont and took on Midland. The Tigers were able to overcome the Warriors' hot shooting from behind the arc as Doane won, 74-60. It marked the third start win in Fremont for the Tigers.

Midland jumped out to a 7-4 lead through the opening 2:30 of play. Doane responded with an 11-0 run as Mak Hatcliff scored seven points in the stretch. The Warriors came back with a 13-2 run to regain the lead, 20-17 with 90 seconds left in the quarter. Doane scored the final four points of the quarter to take a 21-20 lead after 10 minutes of action.

The second quarter opened with the Tigers scoring the first seven points to take a 28-20 lead. An 8-2 Midland run pulled the Warriors within two points, 30-28, but it would be the closest they would get to the Tigers for the rest of the game. Doane led 37-32 at the half-

time break.

In the third quarter, Libby Trausch scored four points in the opening minute to extend the Doane lead. Later in the quarter, the Tigers had a 9-0 run which was led by Rylie Rice with two 3-point baskets. Doane led 59-46 at the quarter break.

The final quarter went back and forth as the two teams would string together mini-runs of points. Doane won the quarter by a point, giving them their 14-point margin.

Hatcliff led the Tigers with 23 points while adding five rebounds, four assists, and three steals. Rice posted 18 points and seven rebounds. Kaylee Klover added 13 points and a team-high eight rebounds. Maddie Portwine finished with 11 points and four assists.

Doane then had the tall task of taking on No. 1 Dordt on Jan. 27 in Sioux Center, Iowa, as the Defenders recognized 50 years of women’s athletics. The Defenders were

able to post a 102-58 win over the Tigers.

The two teams went through the opening four minutes and were tied 6-all. A 3-point basket from the Defenders started a 12-0 run as they were able to close the quarter on a 21-4 run for a 17-point lead after 10 minutes. Dordt had an 8-0 run in the second quarter as they pushed their lead to 49-24 at the half.

In the third quarter, Dordt closed the final 4:24 with a 12-4 run to lead 73-37 heading into the final 10 minutes. The Tigers shot 47-percent in the final quarter to raise their game percentage to 43-percent.

Kaylee Klover led the Tigers with 13 points and six rebounds. Mak Hatcliff added 12 points. Rylie Rice notched three assists and two steals. Megan Chambers had two blocks in the game.

Doane will return to action as they host Jamestown on Friday, Feb. 2, at 5 p.m. in Crete.

Dorchester volleyball smashes two records

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Dorchester volleyball team reached two new records during the 2023 season, including most team kills in a season and individual set assists in a season.

The 2023 Longhorns beat the most team kills record of 668 set in 2015. Dorchester crushed the previous record with 799 this season.

Senior Hailey Schweitzer also bested the previous individual set assists record of 492 set by Jacee Zoubek in 2018 with her own 667.

Dorchester volleyball coach Claire Tachovsky said she loves how the two records work together.

“Hailey’s assists record shows the level of talent and athleticism she brought to the table for us, but paired with the season kills record, you can see that both were an all-around team effort,” she said. “I think everyone can be proud of this kills record because it shows that we served, received and dug well, and



Members of the Longhorns bench celebrate a point Sept. 26 during the Longhorns home victory over Sterling. The Longhorns broke two records during the 2023 season.

hitters were ready to put the ball away when Hailey got it to them.”

Tachovsky said each record happened because each part of the team did

its job.

Along with the team and showing how hard they worked, Tachovsky said Schweitzer’s record is a testament to the hard

work she has put in.

“Her growth over the last three years has just been incredible,” she said. “She ran our 5-1 for three years and luckily

we didn’t have to play without her this season at any point because she was the heart of our offense. She carried her responsibilities so humbly

and quietly but with such determination to always do her best.”

Tachovsky said she loves how Schweitzer’s efforts brought her the record and future players can strive to be like her not only in terms of stats but her character and leadership as well.

“We will have very big shoes to fill in the setter position next year,” she said.

For next year’s team, Tachovsky said it will be a 50/50 mix of varsity returners with a lot of experience and underclassmen with no varsity experience who will have to step up to fill vacant spots.

“We are losing quite a few seniors that will be dearly missed, but I am really very excited to see what we will look like next year,” she said. “Our goals are always to be the best we can be on our side of the net. I would love to continue to build on the things we got really good at last year and strive to close the gap on some of the other skills. It’s so fun to work with these girls and I am really looking forward to next season.”

DOUG CARROLL/CN

Longhorns take third in Crossroads conference

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

After taking down Hampton in the first round of the Crossroads Conference, the sixth-seeded Dorchester girls’ basketball team went 2-1 the rest of the way, upsetting third-seeded Osceola 49-25 on Jan. 22, losing to first-seeded McCool Junction 51-31 on Jan. 23, but defeating fifth-seeded High Plains 35-20 on Jan. 26 for third place.

Against Osceola, Dorchester shot efficiently, knocking down 20 of its 29 shots on the night.

The Longhorns jumped out to a commanding 14-2 lead after one quarter and led 30-18 at halftime.

After building a 24-point lead after three quarters, the game was called due to a medical emergency in the stands.

“Our offense was the best it’s been all year,” Coach Brandon Bruha said. “We did a good job moving the ball and when we had a chance to score we capitalized on it. Our girls were making great decisions and it led to a lot of open looks.”

After losing to Osceola by five earlier in the season, Bruha said the team was ready for another opportunity against them.

Gabrielle Theis led the Longhorns with 17 points and both Baylor Behrens and Amber Kotas each scored eight.

Against McCool Junction, Dorchester struggled to keep up with the Mustangs in the first half, trailing 28-12 at halftime.

“They (McCool Junction) are a great team with a lot of talented athletes on

that team,” Bruha said. “They made it tough for us to get any offense going with their ball pressure and denial defense. I thought we did a good job defensively against them. We did a good job of containing their best player, Makenna Yates.”

Bruha said the Longhorns turned the ball over too many times to hang with a team like McCool Junction.

Atley Zoubek led the Longhorns with nine points and Gabrielle Theis had eight.

Against High Plains, after a tight first half, Dorchester blew the game wide open in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Storm by eight.

Bruha said the Longhorns didn’t play their best game.

“It was kind of a slower game and when we had our opportunities on offense to score we were not making shots,” he said. “It wasn’t until the end of the third and fourth quarter before we started to pull away from them and finally make some outside shots.”

Regardless of the way they played, Bruha said it had been a while since the Longhorns had been in a placing game at conference.

“It was good for the girls to bring home some hardware and get a taste of success,” he said. “Hopefully, this will give us momentum for the rest of the regular season and subdistricts.”

Dorchester (12-5) was scheduled to host East Butler on Jan. 29, play at College View Academy on Jan. 30, and host Nebraska Lutheran on Thursday, Feb. 1, at 6 p.m.

Tigers go 3-0 in duals

The Doane men’s wrestling team opened the GPAC Duals on Jan. 27 with a 48-4 win over Jamestown. The Tigers won nine of the 10 matches.

The match opened with Hunter Bennett posting a major decision at 125, 14-3. The Jimmies won the match at 133 by major decision to tie the team score at 4-all. Doane went in front as Matthew Terrence made his debut at 141 and won by pin in 1:06.

Nate Lendt tied his school record for fastest pin at 149, picking up the win in 29 seconds. Benjamin Dobler picked up a 7-5 decision at 157 and Benjamin Miller wrestled up a weight class to 165, posting a pin in 1:33. Michael Scarponi received a forfeit win at 174.

The tigers earned bonus points in the final three matches. Tyson Beauperthuy won by pin in 1:52 at 184. Kasten Grape won by tech fall at 197, 19-4. Eli Criblez finished off the team victory with a pin at heavyweight in 1:01.

Men’s wrestling then picked up their second win of the day as they de-

feated Dakota Wesleyan at the GPAC Duals, 33-8.

Doane jumped out to a 6-0 lead after two matches as Nathan Rizek won 11-4 at 125 and Devin Avedissian won 5-0 at 133. Dakota Wesleyan won their first match at 141 in overtime, 12-9. Nate Lendt was victorious at 149 with a 7-3 victory and Benjamin Miller posted an 8-3 win at 157.

DWU won by tech fall at 165, cutting the Doane lead to 12-8. However, the next three matches went to Doane by forfeit to secure the team victory. At heavyweight, Eli Criblez won by decision, 7-2.

Doane then closed out the GPAC Duals against No. 17 Morningside. The Tigers won four of the first five matches on their way to a 29-15 victory. The win clinched at least a share of the GPAC title.

Nathan Rizek started the match off with a 16-0 tech fall win at 125. Devin Avedissian received a forfeit win at 133. Morningside took the match at 141 by tech fall, leaving Doane in front 11-5.

Nate Lendt extended

the Tiger lead with his second pin of the day, winning in 34 seconds at 149. Benjamin Dobler collected a win in overtime at 157, 4-1. Morningside won by major decision at 165 and in overtime at 174 by decision.

The first match to pit a pair of ranked wrestlers in the same weight class came at 184 where No. 5 Tyson Beauperthuy defeated No. 6 Hayden Wempen, 4-1. Bradley Antesberger received a forfeit win at 197 for the Tigers’ final team points. Morningside won the second Top 25 battle as No. 5 Hunter DeJong defeated No. 20 Eli Criblez, 2-0.

Doane will return to action on Saturday, Feb. 3, as they host Concordia in the final GPAC match of the season. A Tiger win would clinch the GPAC regular season title outright and would also be the first time the wrestling program won a conference championship in front of their home crowd. The first match is scheduled for 7 p.m. following senior night recognitions.

Tigers hit more A standard marks

The Doane indoor track and field team competed at the Concordia Classic on Jan. 27 in Seward. The Tigers posted five automatic qualifying marks, including four new national qualifying marks in the meet.

On the track, JaDae Moore took third in the 60m dash with a time of 6.96. Connor Bradley placed fifth with a time of 22.96 in the 200m.

Joaquin Gutierrez won the 400m with a time of 49.21 (48.44 track conversion time), to qualify for the NAIA national meet. Zach Turner took second with a time of 49.26 (48.49 track conversion time), a national qualifying time for nationals.

In the 600m, Eli Marez placed fifth with a time of 1:25.14. Duncan Blankenship took fifth in the 800m with a time of 2:01.10.

Emmanuel Yego finished in second in the 1000m run with a time of 2:30.86 (2:28.81 track conversion time), hitting the NAIA automatic qualifying mark. In the 3000m, Nelson Ruto placed fifth with a time of 8:49.51. Thomas Oliver won the 5000m with a time of 15:22.64.

Turner won the 60m hurdles with a time of 7.88, breaking his school record. His time is the second fastest in the NAIA. The men’s 4x400m relay team of Gutierrez, Marez, Yego, and Chris Vincent won with a time of 3:23.53.

In the field events, Mike Pulliam took second place in the pole vault. He cleared 4.85m (15-11.00) to hit the NAIA automatic qualifying mark and move into a tie for fourth nationally. Peyton Herrick took third with a clearance of 1.92m (6-03.50).

Cameron Leeling placed fourth in the long jump with a leap of 6.52m (21-04.75). Vince Lauenroth won the triple jump with a mark of 13.88m (45-06.50).

In the shot put, Tad Dimmitt placed ninth with a throw of 14.12m (46-04.00). Carson Lavaley led the way for Doane in the weight throw with a toss of 14.63m (48-00.00) to place ninth.

For the women, the Tigers hit three NAIA automatic qualifying marks and five provisional qualifying marks on the day.

On the track, Neryah Hehl competed in her first meet for the Tigers and hit a provisional NAIA qualifying mark with a time of 7.71 to win the 60m dash. Lindsay Adams placed ninth in the 200m with a time of 27.11. Kiley Hejtmanek took sixth in the 400m with a time of

1:02.63.

Chaney Nelson took third in the 600m with a time of 1:42.32. Emily Lytle finished fifth in the 800m as she ran a time of 2:34.51.

Danie Parriott took second in the 1000m run. Her time of 3:00.85 (2:58.90 track conversion time) is sixth in the NAIA and an automatic qualifying mark. Delaney Catron took 16th in the mile run with a time of 5:54.40.

Josie Garrett took third in the 60m hurdles with a time of 9.33. In the prelims, she ran an NAIA provisional qualifying time of 8.92. The women’s 4x400m relay team placed fourth with a time of 4:13.09. Running for the Tigers were Hejtmanek, Nelson, Jerzi Maher, and Lytle.

In the field events, Garrett won the high jump with

a height of 1.65m (5-05.00). Her height met the provisional qualifying standard. In the pole vault, Kaylee Pribyl won with a height of 3.72m (12-02.50) to meet the automatic qualifying standard. Kennedy Stanley took second with a height of 3.47m (11-04.50), meeting the provisional qualifying mark.

Rosalyn Roggasch won the triple jump with an NAIA automatic qualifying mark of 11.52m (37-09.50). Garrett took second with another provisional qualifying mark, leaping to a mark of 11.49m (37-08.50).

Adams placed third in the long jump with a mark of 5.47m (17-11.50). Alyvia Thomas placed 11th in the shot put with a throw of 14.38m (47-02.25).

Next up for the Tigers will be the Fred Beile Classic on Saturday, Feb. 3, in Crete.

Tigers drop two on week

Doane men's Bbasketball went back and forth early on with Midland on Jan. 24 in Fremont but the Warriors were able to put together a couple of runs that led to an 84-59 win over the Tigers.

Through the opening seven minutes, there were four lead changes between Doane and Midland. The Tigers were hitting from beyond the arc with their first three baskets coming from 3-point territory. The Warriors held a 16-15 lead at the 13-minute mark of the opening half and followed with a 15-0 run. Doane was able to cut the lead to single digits before the halftime break as Midland led 37-28 at the break.

In the second half, Midland started with a 12-0 run which led to a 21-3 run over the opening 7:08 of play. Doane battled back midway through the half from behind the arc as Nick Saiz hit a pair of 3-point baskets with Carter Ruse and Guy Moran each adding one.

Saiz led the Tigers with 11 points and two steals. River Johnston added 10 points. Cooper Sheldon had a team-high eight rebounds and Brady Timm led the Tigers with four assists.

Doane then took on Dordt on Jan. 27 and hot-shooting aided the Defenders in defeating the Tiger Men's Basketball squad, 108-77, in Sioux Center, Iowa.

Dordt shot 66-percent for the game as Doane dropped to 7-14 on the season.

Doane jumped out early with three of the first four made baskets for a 6-3 lead. A 4-0 run by Dordt gave them their first lead only to have River Johnston hit a 3-point basket to put the Tigers back in front, 9-7. The Defenders regained the lead with a 22-4 run. They added a 13-2 run later in the opening half and led 53-30 at the break.

Dordt started the second half with a 14-6 run in the opening three minutes with Caleb Hrabik and Johnston hitting 3-point baskets for the Tigers. The Defenders would extend their lead to 49 points, 99-50, following a 22-5 run with eight minutes to play in the game. Doane finished strong with a 23-6 run in the final 6:12 of game time.

Johnston led the Tigers with 13 points and Cam Binder added 10 points. Matt Adamek recorded eight rebounds to lead Doane. Jack Wilson had a team-high three assists and Brady Timm picked up a team-leading three steals.

Doane will return to action on Friday, Feb. 2, when they host Jamestown at 6:45 p.m.

Doane places six at Spire Classic

The Doane women's wrestling team competed at the Spire Classic on Jan. 26 in Leavenworth, Kansas. The Tigers had six wrestlers place in the meet.

Kimberly Navarrete took second place at 101. After a first round bye, she opened with a pin in 51 seconds. In the semifinals, she earned her second straight by pin in 1:38. Navarrete dropped the final match due to injury. She was down 3-0 at the time of the stoppage.

Taylor Weber went 3-2 at 116. Her two losses came to NCAA Division II Gabrielle Hampton of Fort Hays State in the first and last matches. In between, she had a win by injury default, tech fall (10-0), and pin (2:34).

Abbie Ahrens took third at 130 with a 4-1 day. After dropping her first match by a 12-7 decision, she bounded back with a tech fall win. Her final three matches were wins by pin (0:45, 2:01, 2:45). In the consolation semifinals, she pinned NAIA No. 13 Peyton Hand of Ottawa. Brooke Cox won one match, a 12-1 tech fall victory, at 130.

Bridgette Sotomayor took third at 136 after going 5-1. She dropped her opening match only to bounce back with three consecutive pins (1:33, 1:51, 2:14). She added a 12-2 tech fall win and a 10-0 tech fall victory in the final match.

Kalli Sutton took third at 155 with four wins. She won her opening match by pin (3:24) and took the quarterfinal match with a 7-1 decision. Sutton dropped her semifinal match but came back with a pin over NCAA Division II Paige Barber of William Jewell. She won her final match, 9-3.

At 170, Hailey Romero picked up a third place finish. She dropped her opening match to No. 18 Amelia Frounfelter of Saint Mary (Kan.) by pin. Romero came back with a pin in 34 seconds followed by a forfeit win. She then won back-to-back matches by tech fall, 15-4 and 10-0. In the final match, she received a forfeit win over No. 12 Aime Hernandez-Perez. Lamia Benn picked up one win by pin (2:07) in the division.

Kenisha Jacobsaint finished in third place at 191. Her bracket was set up as a round robin. She went 1-1 in her pool and advanced to the championship bracket. She recorded a pin in pool action (1:25) before dropping her second match by pin. In bracket action, she lost to No. 15 Elisa Robinson of Baker (Kan.) by pin but defeated fellow KCAC opponent, Christina Page of Friends (Kan.) by pin in 42 seconds.

Next up for the Tigers will be the Midland Warrior Open on Saturday, Feb. 10, in Fremont.

LJS names all-state

The Lincoln Journal-Star names all-state honorees for sports throughout the school year. Crete athletes honored for the volleyball season are:

Sierra Crist, junior, hitter, Class B second team; and Reagan Bessler and Marin Rasgorshek, Class B honorable mention.

Honored in football are Angel Martinez and Cesar Linares, Class B honorable mention.

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Rent Sokol Hall for various social and business functions. Hall is air-conditioned and handicap accessible. Contact Lumir Sukovaty at 402-821-2429 or Leon Slama at 402-239-2857. For kolaches, contact Joan Kotas at 402-821-2971. Paid for in part by the Saline County Visitors Advisory Committee.

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• BJ Zalesky, Auctioneer/Agent
826-0370 • zalesky.bjz@gmail.com
• Dave Bauer, Sales Associate
826-7552 • daveb@bauerinsuranceinc.com
• Deb Schwisow, Sales Associate
243-3012 • dschwisow3@icloud.com
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ORGANIZATION

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION
OF LWS, LLC
A Nebraska Limited
Liability Company

Notice is hereby given that LWS, LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with its designated office and its registered office at 165 County Road 800, Friend, Nebraska 68359. The name of the Company's Registered Agent is: Larry W. Schweitzer. The general nature of its business is to engage in and do any lawful act concerning any and all lawful business, other than banking or insurance, for which limited liability companies may be organized under the laws of the state of Nebraska. The company was organized and commenced on January 10, 2024, and will have perpetual existence unless terminated sooner. The affairs of the company are to be conducted by its Members.
CR — January 24, 31, February 07, 2024
ZNEZ

STATE OF NEBRASKA
CERTIFICATE OF
ORGANIZATION
A LIMITED LIABILITY
COMPANY

ARTICLE I. The name of this limited liability company is LUXE ESTATES LLC.
ARTICLE II. The street address of the initial designated office is 515 W 6TH ST, Wilber, Nebraska 68465 US.
ARTICLE III. The street address of the initial agent for service of process of the company is 515 W 6th St, Wilber NE 68465 and the name of the agent is COLTIN REZABEK.
ARTICLE IV. The period of duration of the limited liability company shall be perpetual.
ARTICLE V. The limited liability company is organized to engage in any lawful purpose.
ARTICLE VI. The name and address of the Organizer is Lovette Dobson at 17350 State Hwy 249 #220, Houston, TX 77064.
ARTICLE VII. The effective date of this document is the date it is filed by the Secretary of State of Nebraska.
ARTICLE VIII. The limited liability company shall indemnify its directors, officers, employees, members, managers, and agents to the fullest extent provided by the laws of the State of Nebraska now or hereafter in force, including the advance of expenses under the procedures provided by such laws.
I, the undersigned, for the purpose of forming a limited liability company under the laws of the State of Nebraska, do make, file, and record this Certificate, and do certify that the facts herein stated are true, and I have accordingly hereunto set my hand and executed this Certificate of Organization on the date below.
Dated: Dec 19, 2023

/s/ Lovette Dobson, Organizer
CR — January 24, 31, February 07, 2024
ZNEZ

HEARINGS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TO ALL RESIDENTS OF
THE CITY OF CRETE,
NEBRASKA AND ALL OTHER
INTERESTED PERSONS:

You are hereby placed on notice that the Planning Commission of the City of Crete, Nebraska, shall hold a public hearing at City Hall Council Chambers, located at 243 East 13th Street on the 12th day of February, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of this hearing is to hear testimony in favor of, in opposition to and to answer questions in relation to the

proposed One Year and Six Year Street Improvement Program for the City of Crete, Nebraska. The Planning Commission will conduct a regular session after the hearing to take action as needed. A copy of the program is on file with the City Clerk and is subject to public review and examination.
Nancy Tellez
City Clerk
CR — January 31, 2024
ZNEZ

MEETINGS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2024
CITY OF CRETE, NEBRASKA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Airport Advisory Board of the City of Crete, Nebraska, will meet on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 8:15 a.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers, 243 East 13th Street, Crete, Nebraska. The agenda for the meeting is kept current and available for public inspection at the City Clerk's office. Said meeting is 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.
Nancy Tellez
City Clerk
CR — January 31, 2024
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Saline County Board of Commissioners will be held on February 6th, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. in the County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Courthouse, Wilber, NE. Agenda items for said meetings are kept current and can be reviewed in the County Clerk's office during regular office hours. Agenda item requests must be in the County Clerk's office 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting.
Diann Nettfee,
Saline County Clerk
CR/FS/WR — January 31, 2024
ZNEZ

NOTICE

The Saline County Planning Commission will meet on February 20th, 2024, at 7:00 P.M. The meeting will be in the assembly room of the Saline County Courthouse in Wilber, Nebraska. A current copy of the agenda is available for review at the County Courthouse in Wilber.
Lyle Weber
Zoning Administrator
CR/FS/WR — January 31, February 07, 2024
ZNEZ

NOTICE

The Saline County Variance Board will meet on Tuesday February 20th, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. in the Assembly Room of the County Courthouse. A current copy of the agenda is available for review at the County Clerk's and Zoning Administrator's office.
Lyle Weber
Zoning Administrator
CR/FS/WR — January 31, February 07, 2024
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 2024
SALINE COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Saline County Agricultural Society will meet in regular session on Wednesday, February 14, 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. West Kohout
Secretary
CR — January 31, 2024
ZNEZ

PUBLIC NOTICE

The February meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit 6 will have a remote option available on Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 6:00pm. The link to join is https://esu6-org.zoom.us/j/94727496186. The agenda for said meeting as well as the Open Meetings Act can be found at www.esu6.org.
SCI/MT/CR/FS/WR — January 31, 2024
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2024
CRETE BOARD OF
EDUCATION

The Crete Board of Education will meet in regular session Monday, February 12, 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 — January 31, 2024
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
FEBRUARY 14, 2024
CRETE HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Housing Authority of the City of Crete will hold its regular meeting Wednesday, February 14, 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 — January 31, 2024
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Saline County Board of Equalization will meet on February 6th, 2024, at 9:15 a.m. in the County Board Room, 2nd Floor, Courthouse, Wilber NE. Agenda items for said meetings are kept current and can be reviewed in the County Clerk's office during regular office hours. Agenda item requests must be in the County Clerk's office 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting. The Board of Equalization will hold a Public Hearing to consider motor vehicle exemption requests at 9:25 a.m. A list of organizations seeking an exemption is available in the office of the Saline County Treasurer.
Diann Nettfee,
Saline County Clerk
CR/FS/WR — January 31, 2024
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2024
CITY OF CRETE, NEBRASKA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Crete, Nebraska, will meet on Tuesday, February 6, 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.
Nancy Tellez
City Clerk

NAME CHANGE

LEGAL NOTICE FOR NAME
CHANGE OF A MINOR CHILD
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
CASE NUMBER CI 24-19
IN RE NAME CHANGE OF
AMERICA ASHLEY KAY

Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of January, 2024, a petition was filed in the District Court of Saline County, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which is to change a minor child's name from America Ashley Kay to America Ashley-Kay Andersen
A hearing will be had on said petition before the Honorable David J A Bergen in courtroom 1, 204 S High Street, Wilber, NE 68465. On the 26th day of February, 2024 at 10:15 a.m., or as soon thereafter as will be convenient for the court and that unless sufficient cause is shown to the contrary, the minor child's name will be changed from that of America Ashley-Kay to America Ashley-Kay Andersen.
Dated: January 25, 2024
/s/ Cassandra Garland
945 E. 14th St.
Crete, NE 68333
PH: 402-418-0542
Email: garland_cassandra@yahoo.com
CR — January 31, February 07, 2024
ZNEZ

LEGAL NOTICE FOR NAME
CHANGE OF A MINOR CHILD
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
CASE NUMBER CI 24-17
IN RE NAME CHANGE OF
HARMONY NEVAEH KAY

Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of January, 2024, a petition was filed in the District Court of Saline County, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which is to change a minor child's name from Harmony Nevaeh Kay to Harmony Nevaeh Andersen
A hearing will be had on said petition before the Honorable David J A Bergen in courtroom 1, 204 S High Street, Wilber, NE 68465. On the 26th day of February, 2024 at 10:15 a.m., or as soon thereafter as will be convenient for the court and that unless sufficient cause is shown to the contrary, the minor child's name will be changed from that of Harmony Nevaeh Kay to Harmony Nevaeh Andersen.
Dated: January 25, 2024
/s/ Cassandra Garland
945 E. 14th St.
Crete, NE 68333
PH: 402-418-0542
Email: garland_cassandra@yahoo.com
CR — January 31, February 07, 2024
ZNEZ

LEGAL NOTICE FOR NAME
CHANGE OF A MINOR CHILD
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
CASE NUMBER CI 24-18
IN RE NAME CHANGE OF
CATALEYA AMORA GARLAND

Notice is hereby given that on the 23rd day of January, 2024, a petition was filed in the District Court of Saline County, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which is to change a minor child's name from Cataleya Amora Garland to Cataleya Amora Andersen
A hearing will be had on said petition before the Honorable David J A Bergen in courtroom 1, 204 S High Street, Wilber, NE 68465. On the 26th day of February, 2024 at 10:15 a.m., or as soon thereafter as will be convenient for the court and that

unless sufficient cause is shown to the contrary, the minor child's name will be changed from that of Cataleya Amora Garland to Cataleya Amora Andersen.
Dated: January 25, 2024
/s/ Cassandra Garland
945 E. 14th St.
Crete, NE 68333
PH: 402-418-0542
Email: garland_cassandra@yahoo.com
CR — January 31, February 07, 2024
ZNEZ

LEGAL NOTICE
ADULT NAME CHANGE
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
IN RE NAME CHANGE OF
RODRIGO MARTINEZ-
ALMANZA.

Case Number: CI 24-12

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 18th day of January, 2024, a petition was filed in the District Court of Saline County, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which is for the change of the petitioner's name from Rodrigo Martinez-Almanza to Saint Allah Luv, in courtroom no. 1, 215 South Court St., Wilber, NE on the 26th day of February, 2024 at 10:45 a.m., or as soon thereafter as will be convenient for the court and that unless sufficient cause is shown to the contrary, the petitioner's name will be changed from that of Rodrigo Martinez-Almanza to Saint Allah Luv.
/s/ Rodrigo Martinez-Almanza
2489 Boxwell Ave, Apt D
Crete, NE 68333
402-381-7999
CR — January 24, 31, February 07, 14, 2024
ZNEZ

PROPERTY SALES

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED
that the following-described
property will be sold by GREGORY
L. GALLES, Successor Trustee,
at public auction to the highest
bidder on the first floor of the
Saline County Courthouse,
215 South Court Street, Wilber,
Nebraska, on February 27, 2024
at 10:00 a.m.:
THE WEST 62 FEET OF LOTS
SEVEN (7) AND EIGHT (8), IN
BLOCK ONE HUNDRED FORTY-
EIGHT (148), ORIGINAL TOWN
OF CRETE, SALINE COUNTY,
NEBRASKA
The highest bidder will deposit
with the Trustee, on the day and
time of the sale, \$5,000.00 in
cash or certified funds with the
remainder to be received in cash
or certified funds by 5:00 p.m. on
the day of the sale, at the offices of
Locher Pavelka Dostal Braddy &
Hammes, except this requirement
is waived when the highest bidder
is the Beneficiary. The Purchaser
shall be responsible for all prior
liens, all applicable fees, and all
taxes, including the documentary
stamp tax. This property is sold
"as is" and this sale is made
without any warranties as to the
title or condition of the property.
DATED this 28th day of December,
2023.
By: /s/ GREGORY L. GALLES,
Successor Trustee
For: LOCHER PAVELKA DOSTAL
BRADDY & HAMMES, LLC
200 The Omaha Club
2002 Douglas Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102
Phone: (402) 898-7000
Fax: (402) 898-7130
Gregory L. Galles, #21748
STATE OF NEBRASKA ss.
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS
On this 28th day of December,
2023, before me, a Notary Public
in and for said County and State,
personally came Gregory L. Galles,
to me known to be the
identical person whose name is
affixed to the foregoing instrument
and acknowledged the execution
thereof to be a voluntary act and
deed.
Witness my hand and notarial

seal the day and year last above
written.

/s/ Ashlee Celesky
NOTARY PUBLIC
CR — January 10, 17, 24, 31,
February 07, 2024
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED
that the following-described
property will be sold by GREGORY
L. GALLES, Successor Trustee,
at public auction to the highest
bidder on the first floor of the
Saline County Courthouse,
215 South Court Street, Wilber,
Nebraska, on February 27, 2024
at 10:00 a.m.:
LOT 6, BLOCK 11, J.J.
AINSWORTH'S FIRST ADDITION
TO THE CITY OF FRIEND,
SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
AND THE EAST HALF OF VINE
STREET BORDERING SAID LOT
6, SAID STREET BEING MORE
PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED
AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING
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OF SAID LOT 6; THENCE WEST
30 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 142
FEET; THENCE EAST 30 FEET
TO THE SOUTHWEST CORNER
OF SAID LOT 6; THENCE
NORTH 142 FEET TO THE
PLACE OF BEGINNING
The highest bidder will deposit
with the Trustee, on the day and
time of the sale, \$5,000.00 in
cash or certified funds with the
remainder to be received in cash
or certified funds by 5:00 p.m. on
the day of the sale, at the offices of
Locher Pavelka Dostal Braddy &
Hammes, except this requirement
is waived when the highest bidder
is the Beneficiary. The Purchaser
shall be responsible for all prior
liens, all applicable fees, and all
taxes, including the documentary
stamp tax. This property is sold
"as is" and this sale is made
without any warranties as to the
title or condition of the property.
DATED this 2nd day of January,
2024.
BY: /s/ GREGORY L. GALLES,
Successor Trustee
For: LOCHER PAVELKA DOSTAL
BRADDY & HAMMES, LLC
200 The Omaha Club
2002 Douglas Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68102
Phone: (402) 898-7000
Fax: (402) 898-7130
Gregory L. Galles, #21748
STATE OF NEBRASKA ss.
COUNTY OF DOUGLAS
On this 2nd day of January, 2024,
before me, a Notary Public in
and for said County and State,
personally came Gregory L. Galles,
to me known to be the
identical person whose name is
affixed to the foregoing instrument
and acknowledged the execution
thereof to be a voluntary act and
deed.
Witness my hand and notarial
seal the day and year last above
written.

/s/ Ashlee Celesky
NOTARY PUBLIC
CR — January 10, 17, 24, 31,
February 07, 2024
ZNEZ

ESTATES

HANSON, HROCH & KUNTZ,
ATTORNEYS
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF
SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
ESTATE OF
GENE L. TYSER,
Deceased.
Estate Number PR23-68
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that
on December 12, 2023, Sherry
Tysler whose mailing address is
1826 County Road N, Wilber,
Nebraska 68465, was appointed
Personal Representative of this
estate. Creditors of this estate
must present their claims on or
before the 15th of March 2024,
or be forever barred.
/s/ Joshua K. McDougall
County Court Magistrate
CR — January 17, 24, 31, 2024
ZNEZ

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THE CRETE NEWS

JANUARY 31, 2024

MINUTES

This is a synopsis of the Saline County Board of Equalization's January 23, 2024, regular meeting proceedings. A complete set of the proceedings is on file in the Board of Equalizations' Journal, is of public record in the Saline County Clerk's office and on our website www.co.saline.ne.us;

SALINE COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

The regular meeting of the Saline County Board of Equalization opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. on Tuesday January 23, 2024, by Chairperson Phil Hardenburger. Present were Hardenburger, Janet J. Henning, Russ Karpisek, Marvin A. Kohout Commissioners, and Diann Nettifee, County Clerk. Commissioner Stephanie A. Krivohlavek was absent.

Notice of said meeting was posted in the County Clerk's office and published in all three county newspapers on January 17, 2024, in compliance with State Statutes. Hardenburger advised those present of the open meetings act posted at the back of the room and that all proceedings are electronically recorded;

Approved agenda as presented; Approved minutes of the previous meeting;

Correspondence;

No Correspondence;

Business for Action;

Clarification from Assessor on TERC Case 22C-0224;

Approved Tax List Correction 2024-01: Caleb Pongo a/k/a: Caleb J Pongo;

Approved Tax List Correction 2024-02: David Hult; 9:26 a.m. Entered Open Hearing to discuss Vehicle Exemption Application for Doane University; 9:29 a.m. Closed Open Hearing to discuss Vehicle Exemption Application for Doane University; Approved Vehicle Exemption Application for Doane University, 2024 Nissan Altima; There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m. The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, February 6th, 2024 at 9:15 a.m., in the Saline County Commissioners' Room, Court House, Wilber NE.

ATTEST:

Phil Hardenburger, Chairperson
Marvin A. Kohout
Russ Karpisek

Diann Nettifee, County Clerk
CR/FS/WR — January 31, 2024
ZNEZ

BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024 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: Present
Kelli Schweitzer: Present
Steve Vyhnalek: Present

1. Call to Order and Announce Open Meetings Act Verification
The regular board meeting was called to order by President Steve Vyhnalek at 7:00 pm with all board members present. He confirmed the advance notice to the public of the meeting date and agenda. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

2. Roll Call

Also, present were Principal Jake Wiese and Jen Feeken. Superintendent, Curt Cogswell, was present via zoom.

3. Receive Visitors and Announce Open Forum for Public Comment
No visitors were present.

4. Request for Change of Agenda
No request for change of agenda.

5. Reorganization of the Board of Education by Nomination and Roll Call or Ballot Vote

It was decided that Steve Vyhnalek would remain President, Matt Hanson would remain Vice President, Kelli Schweitzer would remain Treasurer, and Mike Hatfield will become Secretary passed with a motion by Shelly Lehr and a second by Matthew Hansen.

Matthew Hansen: Yea, Mike Hatfield: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Kelli

Schweitzer: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea

6. Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting(s)

Motion to approve the reading of the last meeting minutes passed with a motion by Matthew Hansen and a second by Kelli Schweitzer. Matthew Hansen: Yea, Mike Hatfield: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Kelli Schweitzer: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea

7. Financial Report

Motion to approve the financial report passed with a motion by Carol Schnell and a second by Mike Hatfield.

Matthew Hansen: Yea, Mike Hatfield: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Kelli Schweitzer: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea

8. Reports

8.1. Principal's Report

There was no Principal's report this month.

8.2. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Cogswell discussed that next month the board will need to vote on whether to let a new school into the Crossroads Conference.

9. Discussion Items

9.1. 2024-2025 Calendar

A draft of the 24-25 school calendar was given to board members to look over.

9.2. State Career and Technical Education Funding
The State with the passage of LB 814 provided each school district with additional funding for our Career and Technical Education Funding. Dorchester Public Schools received \$7,500 to use towards our CTE Programs.

9.3. 2023-2024 Annual Report
The board was presented with the Rule 10 District Annual Report.

9.4. Review Board Policies - 6004, 6005, 6006, 6007, 6008 and 6009
This item was tabled until the next board meeting.

9.5. Safety Visit (Rule 10)

Mr. Cogswell shared some information from Dr. Norm Yoder's safety visit that he conducted on December 12th. He also shared pricing on wall pads for the auxiliary gym.

9.6. 2024-2025 Board Member Election

Incumbents must file before February 15th and Non-incumbents must file before March 1. Shelly Lehr, Kelli Schweitzer, and Mike Hatfield are up for re-election this year.

10. Action Items

10.1. Appointment of Board Committees for 2024: Public Relations, Committee of American Civics/Curriculum, Buildings/Ground, Negotiations, Wellness, and Transportation

Motion for board committee members to stay the same as the previous year passed with a motion by Carol Schnell and a second by Matthew Hansen.

Matthew Hansen: Yea, Mike Hatfield: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Kelli Schweitzer: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea

10.2. Consider retaining the following as the official designees for 2024: 1) Representative for State and Federal Programs - Superintendent, 2) School Attorneys - KSB Law, 3) Newspaper - Crete News, and 4) Depository of District Funds - First State Bank, Dorchester Branch. Motion to retain official designees for 2024 as presented passed with a motion by Matthew Hansen and a second by Mike Hatfield.

Matthew Hansen: Yea, Mike Hatfield: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Kelli Schweitzer: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea

10.3. Consider and take action to accept board member's resignation.

Carol Schnell rescinded her resignation. She will remain on the school board.

11. Board Committee Report(s)
There were no board committee reports this month.

12. Closed Session (as necessary per statute)
No need for closed session.

13. Establish Future Board of Education Meeting Date(s) and Time(s)

The next scheduled board meeting is Monday, February 5 at 7:00 pm.

14. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 pm Passed with a motion by Carol Schnell and a second by Matthew Hansen.

Matthew Hansen: Yea, Mike Hatfield: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Kelli Schweitzer: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea

Mike Hatfield, Secretary of the Board of Education
CR — January 31, 2024
ZNEZ

VILLAGE OF DORCHESTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES MINUTES

January 15, 2024 (Rescheduled from January 8, 2024)

The regular meeting of the Village of Dorchester Board of Trustees was held Monday, January 15, 2024, at the Farmers Cooperative meeting room, and was called to order at 6:30 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. 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.

Oath of office was taken by all present board members. Approved Consent Agenda Items #1-#4. Claims: Amazon spls \$34.19; Ameritas Life Ins ins \$622.90; BC Builders Pay App #5 \$78.494; BZ Construction svs \$4,000; BH Energy gas \$1,227.58; BCBS ins \$12,044.31; Cline Williams svs \$4,451; Craig Bontrager svs \$500; CAMC ALS \$1,200; EFTPS payroll tax \$3,695.48; Farmers Coop VFD \$130.89; Farmers Coop Village \$671.69; Gana Trucking & Excavating Rock \$803.94; Hoffschneider Law svs \$2,045.38; KCL Grp Benefits STD/LTD \$241.28; Kelli Hromek svs \$168; Klein Construction svs \$40,435; LARM Ins \$1,109.97; Lincoln Financial Grp Ins \$50; Matheson Tri Gas spls \$95.81; NAPA spls (DVFD) \$46.50; NDEE Water Lic. Renewal \$115; NE Dept of Revenue Sales & Use Tax \$4,832.10; NE Public Health Environmental Lab svs \$31; NPPD elec \$3,988; Olsson svs \$15,000.61; One Call Concepts locates \$7.73; O'Reilly spls \$379.98; R L Tiemann spls \$1,055.29; Saline County Treasurer taxes \$218.50; Seton spls \$413.90; SCI publ \$166.13; Sparq Data Solutions license \$5,625; Troyer Concrete svs \$600; Wages Dec \$17,650.43; Walmart spls \$193.86; Waste Connections gbge \$5,776.48; Cline Williams svs \$540.16; Lincoln Fin Grp Ins \$50; Milford A/C and Appliance 1/2 down payment \$7,000; NEPPD Dec \$30,013.14; NPPD elec \$80.22 Sid Dillon svs (VFD) \$216; Trey B Construction drywall fire hall \$6,071.83 spec acct. No sheriff's report. Fire report was given by B. Kasl. Code compliance report in packet. Unfinished business: Discussion held on future infrastructure projects and vehicle storage building updates. Consideration of quote from BZ Construction for interior doors for the building. Motion by Shaw, seconded by Tellez to approve the quote. Motion carried (4-0-1). Discussion held on Christmas pole decorations. Motion by Shaw, seconded by Miller to approve purchasing 4 of each snowflake out of the general account and extra bulbs. Motion carried (4-0-1). New business: Consideration and discussion of Ordinance 2024-01 to amend time and location of meetings:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-01
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 1 ARTICLE FIVE OF THE DORCHESTER MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO REGULAR MEETING; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF.
Motion by Miller, seconded by Shaw to waive the three-reading rule. Motion carried (4-0-1.) Motion by Shaw, seconded by Lang to approve Ordinance 2024-01. Motion carried (4-0-1.) Discussion on Resolution 2024-01 for investment of funds:

RESOLUTION NO. 2024 - 01
INVESTMENT OF FUNDS
A RESOLUTION BY THE CHAIRPERSON AND VILLAGE BOARD OF THE VILLAGE OF DORCHESTER, NEBRASKA, AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE TREASURER TO DEPOSIT FUNDS INTO 6-MONTH CDs.

WHEREAS, that Chapter 1, Article 8, Section 1-818.01 of the Revised Municipal Code of the Village of Dorchester, Nebraska, allows for the Village Board to authorize by resolution the Village Treasurer to purchase certificates of deposit from and make time deposits in any bank and shall be secured by a bond or as security; WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of Dorchester hereby ratify and approve the Resolution of Investment Funds; WHEREAS, this resolution shall be in full force and effective from and following the passage and publication hereof as required by law;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Village of Dorchester, Nebraska:

The Village Board hereby authorizes the Village Treasurer to deposit the highway allocation bonds into four 6-month CDs at three hundred thousand (\$300,000.00) each deposit two hundred thousand (\$200,000.00) of the city sales tax into a 6-month CD, and transfer three of the current CDs (Shop Building Funds, Electrical Upgrade, and General Account) into a 6-month CD.

This resolution shall be in full force and effective from and following the passage and publication hereof as required by law; Passed and approved this ___ day of January, 2024.

Roger Miller, Board Chairperson
ATTEST:

(SEAL)

Jen Kasl, Village Clerk
Motion by Miller, seconded by Shaw to approve Resolution 2024-01. Motion carried (4-0-1).

Dale Hayek presented information on the shade structures to be purchased for the ball fields. Motion by Miller, seconded by Lang to release park funds to pay for the downpayment of the shade structures. Motion carried. (4-0-1). Discussion held on upcoming conference and training opportunities. Discussion held on stop sign replacements and additions. Motion by Shaw, seconded by Lang to purchase 10 signs and apply for the LARM safety grant funds. Motion carried. (4-0-1). Discussion on Ordinance 2024-02 to update and adopt 2018 international codes:

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-02
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER NINE ARTICLE FIVE OF THE DORCHESTER MUNICIPAL CODE RELATING TO ADOPTED CODES; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE THEREOF.

Motion by Shaw, seconded by Lang to waive the three-reading rule. Motion carried (4-0-1.) Motion by Shaw, seconded by Lang to approve Ordinance 2024-02. Motion carried (4-0-1.) Discussion held on ribbon cuttings for new businesses in town. Discussion held on employee handbook review. Board will meet briefly for a workshop prior to the next regular board meeting. Time to be determined later. Marvin's retirement party will be from 1-3 this Friday at the community building.

Motion by Shaw, seconded by Lang, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried (4-0-1). Meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m. Next regular meeting will be Monday, February 12, 2024 at 6:30 pm at the Farmers Cooperative Meeting Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Kasl, Clerk-Treasurer
CR — January 31, 2024
ZNEZ

This is a synopsis of the Saline County Board of Commissioners' January 23th, 2024, regular meeting proceedings. A complete set of the proceedings is on file in the Board of Commissioners' Journal is of public record in the Saline County Clerk's office and on our website: www.co.saline.ne.us

SALINE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The regular meeting of the Saline County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 9:37 a.m. on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, by Chairperson Phil Hardenburger. Present were Hardenburger, Janet J. Henning, Russ Karpisek and Marvin A. Kohout Commissioners, County Clerk Diann Nettifee and County Attorney David Solheim. Commissioner Stephanie A. Krivohlavek was absent.

Notice of said meeting was posted in the County Clerk's Office and published in all three county newspapers on January 17, 2024, in compliance with State Statutes; Hardenburger advised those present of the open meetings act at the back of the room and that all proceedings are electronically recorded;

Approved Agenda;

Approved minutes of the previous meeting;

Under Citizen Forum; No Citizen spoke;

Correspondence; Blue River Arts Council thanked the Board and Visitor's Committee for the \$1,200 grant they used for IT and security services, Blue Valley Behavioral Health thanked the Board for their continued financial support and dedication to the people of Saline County; Letter from NIRMA with 3 checks in the amount of \$1,775.00 towards the cost of a sign post puller, battery powered chainsaw, and three pair of steel toed boots for the Roads Department. This was made possible through NIRMA's ASSIST program; Court findings for the Milligan One Lawsuit, the Board of Adjustments did not have authority to impose a sound limit on any of the existing wind turbines and vacates the order; Kohout presented the certified results of the special election shall Hardenburger be removed 99 yes votes and 232 no's;

Reports of Officials;

Commissioner Karpisek; Nothing to report;

Commissioner Kohout; attended NACO presidents meeting in Washington D.C. he learned that the OPIOID settlement needs to be spent in areas that will benefit the opioid project, attended meetings with FEMA concerning bridges and CO2 Pipeline, attended a dinner at the British Embassy, January 16 attended CO2 meeting Solheim will give a report after studying information, Mutual Aid meeting discussed EMT shortage, attended NACO meeting in Lincoln, Legislative Day and heard all bills coming up. Will be attending the Seward/Saline County Solid Waste and Wellness meeting next week; Commissioner Henning; Attended January 18th Public Health Solutions meeting and has a CASA meeting next week; Commissioner Hardenburger; Ag Society meeting, Extension Board

meeting tomorrow. Numerous calls with John McKee with Disaster Declaration and other snowstorm issues;

Business for Action;

Discussion the need for encrypted emails for the Assessor's office, Assessor will get more information and bring back to the Board;

Approved Resolution #2024-02 to sell certain real estate to another political subdivision, Friend Volunteer Fire Department; Approved signing and sending a letter of support for NextLink to provide internet service near Pleasant Hill, NE;

Approved making reimbursement for Flex, Health Reimbursement and Dependent Care by way of petty cash account;

10:21 a.m. Meeting in Recess;

10:32 a.m. Meeting Reconvened;

Approved Saline County Clerk Fees in the amount of \$15,315.76; Discussed Planning and Zoning will elect member to serve on the Board of Adjustments;

Approved COVID Premium Payout for Tim McDermott;

Approved moving May 14th, 2024 Commissioner meeting to Monday, May 13th, 2024;

Highway Superintendent – Road and Bridge Matters; Bruce gave a report on the recent snowstorm and how everything was handled, discussed the shortage of gravel for roads and praised his crew for their hard work and long hours;

Approved Claims as presented;

All Funds

A&F Const Cntrct 165.00; Rebecca Anderson Atty Fees 2,432.00; Anytime Plumb Bldg Maint 104.07; Barnas Spls 1,791.24; Black Hills Utly 2,034.38; Blue 360 Media Cntrct 184.45; Radiant Solutions Spls 840.80; Candlewood Suites Trng 2,039.15; Capital Business Sys Cntrct 172.79; CCP Ind Spls 160.85; City of Wilber Utly 8,196.11; Crete Ace Hardware Spls 29.94; Crete Auto Supply Equip Rpr 1,761.70; Culligan Cntrct 183.00; Cummins Sales Cntrct 251.23; Eakes Spls 1,540.19; Entenmann-Rovin Spls 224.50; Farmers Coop Fuel 17,665.60; FSB Cntrct 20.00; First Wireless Comm 3,086.35; Stephanie Flynn Atty Fees 808.46; Food Mesto Spls 13.77; Friend Comm Hlthcr Sys Cntrct 695.00; Dueling Pianos Bnqt 2,095.00; Greatamerica Fin Cntrct 135.57; Gropp Law Reimb 90.00; Matthew Hanson MHB 166.08; Helena Agri-Ent Spls 165.50; The Home Depot Pro Spls 101.50; Jefferson Co Em Mgt Cntrct 4,425.00; Sandra Johnson Lbr 48.00; Lancaster Co Sheriff Cntrct 18.69; Language Line Cntrct 14.75; Menards Spls 125.34; Microfilm Imaging Cntrct 150.00; Mid America Benefits HRA 50,000.00; MIPS Cntrct 4,626.71; Nathan Mueller Mlg 36.68; NACO Dues 40.00; NCEA Trng 90.00; Nebraska.Gov Cntrct 17.00; Pip Spls 282.85; Region V Sys Cntrct 7,569.00; Sack Lumber Spls 87.44; Saline Co Atty Reimb 500.69; Saline Co Crt Reimb 539.00; Saline Co Sheriff Reimb 1,074.94; Sapp Bros Fuel 8,910.58; Sec of State Cntrct 20.00; Seward Co Ind P&P 687.83; Shop Qwik Fuel 69.05; Sid Dillon Equip Rpr 104.95; Soarin Grp Cntrct 10,774.60; SCC Trng 300.00; Sparq Data Cntrct 4,100.00; Stanard Appraisal Cntrct 1,235.00; Anita Stougard Mlg 1,242.16; Summit Spls 16,818.12; Thomas & Thomas Crt Rep Cntrct 379.58; Thomson Reuters Cntrct 160.24; UPN Comm 6,490.97; Carroll Verhage MHB 260.30; Visa Fuel 58.69; Visa Spls 126.83; Visa Spls 61.38; Visa Equip 375.30; Visa Fuel 253.47; Visa Spls 382.24; Visa Spls 37.42; Visa Spls 482.92; Walker Cntrct 114.69; Walker Cntrct 82.03; Windstream Comm 2,871.87; Jerrod Zoubek Cntrct 150.00; 41 Auto Equip Rpr 1,439.42; Ace Irrigation Spls 10,909.46; AKRS Spls 214.44; Beatrice Concrete Gravel 19,303.76; Beaver Hardware Spls 43.98; Certified Truck Spls 20.56; City of Crete Utly 419.15; City of Friend Utly 44.35; Crete Ace Hardware Spls 59.97; Crete Lumber Spls 45.59; Farmers Union Coop Equip Rpr 2,534.34; Food Mesto Spls 10.29; Inland Truck Equip Rpr 585.32; Rick Korbelik Reimb 60.00; Linde Gas Spls 94.81; Matheson Tri-Gas Spls 234.59; Medical Ent Spls 105.00; NE IA Ind Spls 807.73; NMC Spls 106.58; NPPD Utly 945.21; Pomp's Tire Spls 93.50; Powerplan Equip Rpr 1,107.87; Southwest Gravel Gravel 6,423.28; Speece-Lewis Eng Fees 6,805.67; Surplus Center Spls 438.75; Village of Dorchester Utly 124.75; Village of Swanton Utly 68.55; Village of Tobias Utly 56.80; Village of Western Utly 83.25; Visa Spls 153.98; Waste Conct Utly 181.46; Young's Welding Equip Rpr 1,031.72; 41 Auto Spls 69.79; Legion Post 101 Reimb 1,126.13; Meridian SFS Baseball Reimb 1,200.00; Jessica Acosta Prgm 840.00; City of Crete Prgm 60.00; Deb Collins Prgm 1,052.02; Samantha Cosaert Prgm 690.00; Marcia Emal Prgm 277.15; Food Mesto Prgm 26.05; Madison Maly Mlg 58.69; Delaney Mazza Prgm 120.00; Lori Moldenhauer Mlg 39.30; Darlene Pribyl Prgm 180.25; Mom's Meals

Prgm 281.25; Tabitha Prgm 743.75; Visa Prgm 87.72; Visa Prgm 59.75; Visa Prgm 1,432.98; Wilber Care Center Prgm 864.00; Sarah Yokel Prgm 69.14; Nereyda Zambrand Prgm 80.00; Family Service Lincoln Prgm 960.00; Geocomm Cntrct 4,165.00; Patrick Hotovy Cntrct 2,000.00; Centurylink Cntrct 4,629.04; Bob Barker Co Spls 87.60; Charm-Tex Spls 372.50; iSolved Pyrl & Txs 272,507.89; Ameritas Life Retire 32,981.53; Health Savings Acct Hlth Sv Acct 10,272.47; Principal Dental Dental Ins 2,328.90; Madison Nat'l Life Life Ins 317.22; AFLAC Ins 971.96; VSP Eye Ins 554.67; Empower Def Comp 3,026.61; Point C Café 952.07; Colonial Supp Ins Ins 157.77; Madison Nat'l Life Dis Ins 474.30; Teamsters Dues 351.00; New York Life Ins 95.64; Globe Life Ins 213.64; Saline County Court Garnish 513.77

Discussion with John McKee by phone. Explained what the reasons for the Disaster Declaration and other snowstorm issues, and updated Commissioner's on the radio project;

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next regular meeting will be on February 6th 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the Saline County Commissioners' Room, Court House, Wilber, NE.

ATTEST:

Phil Hardenburger, Chairperson
Russ Karpisek

Marvin A. Kohout
Janet J. Henning

Diann Nettifee, County Clerk
CR/FS/WR — January 31, 2024
ZNEZ

LIQUOR LICENSES

NOTICE OF RENEWAL OF RETAIL LIQUOR LICENSE

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Section 53-135.01 liquor licenses may be automatically renewed for one year from May 1, 2024, for the following Class I retail liquor license, to wit:

PWR & DWD Rental Properties, LLC

DBA Old Main Bar & Grill
1103 Main Avenue
Crete, NE

Notice is hereby given that written protests to the issuance of automatic renewal of license may be filed by any resident of the city on or before February 16, 2024, in the office of the City Clerk; that in the event protests are filed by three or more such persons, a hearing will be held to determine whether continuation of said license should be allowed. Nancy Tellez
City Clerk
January 31st, 2024
CR — January 31, 2024
ZNEZ

GENERAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE ADULT NAME CHANGE IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA IN RE NAME CHANGE OF: CLAUDIA JANET REYES

Case Number CI 24-4

Notice is hereby given that on the 4th day of January, 2024, a petition was filed in the District Court of Saline County, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which is for the change of the petitioner's name from Claudia Janet Reyes to Mariposa Janet Reyes.

A hearing will be had on said petition before the Honorable David J. Barga, South Court St., Wilber NE 68465 on the 26th day of February, 2024 at 10:30 a.m., or as soon thereafter as will be convenient for the court and that unless sufficient cause is shown to the contrary, the petitioner's name will be changed from that of Claudia Janet Reyes to Mariposa Janet Reyes.

Claudia Janet Reyes
840 Saint Johns Ct
Crete NE 68333
402-613-1399

CR — January 10, 17, 24, 31, 2024
ZNEZ

TRADE NAMES

APPLICATION FOR REGISTRATION OF TRADE NAME

Trade Name: NICK'S SOIL PRODUCTS
Name of Applicant: NICKEL AND SONS INC

Address: 416 COUNTY ROAD 400, FRIEND, NE 68359

Applicant is: Corporation
If other than an individual, state under whose laws entity was formed: Nebraska

Date of first use of name in Nebraska: January 4, 2024

General nature of business: SOIL TESTING, SOIL NUTRIENTS

/s/ Dave Nickel, President
Signature of Applicant
CR — January 31, 2024
ZNEZ



Korbin Kunc kneels next to his cow, Winnie, as she struggles for air.

COURTESY PHOTOS
LEFT: Korbin Kunc, 9, chops ice as part of his regular choring routine.

Learning life’s lessons

Nine-year-old Korbin Kunc experiences love, loss of raising animals

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN
scireporter@sewardindependent.com

Korbin Kunc, 9, cherishes the bonds he forms with the animals he and his family raise on their farm just west of Wilber.

He feels the loss of them just as strongly.

Melanie Kunc said her son has been raising cattle his whole life and started showing with 4-H when he was five. She said he is naturally talented in showing and won awards in his first year participating.

He never seems worried about anyone else in the ring, though. He is simply dedicated to bettering himself.

“When Korbin shows, it’s just him and his animal,” Kunc said. “He doesn’t care who’s watching, and he doesn’t care if his animal isn’t as good as everyone else’s. He’s competing against himself, and that’s what sets him apart. I think that extra spunk is going to take him places in life.”

Korbin has always had a special love for animals. Last year, he got to show big show heifers for the first time. He participated in his final show in his age bracket in November, and Kunc remembers seeing tears in his eyes as he walked into the ring.

“This big old animal, an 1,100-pound breeding heifer or bigger, could



Korbin Kunc, right, is shown with his calf, Winnie, at the Saline County Fair, along with his parents, Jake and Melanie.

literally kill your kid. But they’re their buddy, and they respect them,” she said. “The lessons that every individual animal teaches your child are so different from animal to animal.”

One of Korbin’s most beloved pets was Win-

nie. The Kunces bought Winnie, a bucket calf, when Korbin was 6 years old. Kunc said she had no mother, so Korbin took on that role. He eventually began showing her in 4-H competitions.

“Bucket calves don’t typically grow well.

They’re typically a little behind and a little disadvantaged. But, he raised her, and she did very well for him,” Kunc said. “She grew nicely. She was a stinker though— he learned a lot from her because she wasn’t always cooperative.”

A few weeks ago, Winnie gave birth prematurely and had a stillborn. Kunc said she seemed depressed afterward and the Kunces paid close attention to her as they tried to determine what was wrong. They then noticed swelling in her jaw and took her to the veterinarian where she was diagnosed with a high altitude disease.

Her body was filling up with fluid from the inside out.

Winnie contracting the condition was just bad luck and there was nothing they could have done to prevent it, Kunc said. The family knew it was only a matter of time until she died, so Korbin made sure she received extra attention during her last days.

“We’ve been loving on her, and Korbin spends a lot of time out there talking to her and visiting her and petting her,” Kunc said.

Kunc said this is not the only tough hand her son has been dealt over the past few months. The Kunces purchased a new horse and watched her fall and break her leg in September. They had to put her down, and Kunc said Korbin took it pretty hard.

Watching Korbin struggle with the loss of an animal reminded Kunc of her own experiences on a farm as a child. Her heart was always drawn to

animals that needed extra care, and she said she remembers feeding a little black calf in her family’s barn when she was just two and a half.

“Korbin has kind of got that same spirit of, if it needs saved or needs taken care of, I’m here to serve,” she said. “That big heart aspect is really evident in Korbin, and I just really appreciate that about him.”

Kunc said losing an animal is a heartbreaking experience.

“It’s such an important thing, though, in the world we live in, for these kiddos to understand the humanity of it and realize you’re not in control. A life is a life, and once it’s gone you don’t get it back,” Kunc said. “People don’t grow up learning that and embracing that.

“So, despite the sadness and challenges, I’m very appreciative for those opportunities for my kids.”

Winnie died the afternoon of Jan. 18. Kunc said although her life was cut short, Korbin gave her the best one possible.

“That little guy has taken immaculate care of her, and you can just tell when she stands there and looks at him like, ‘I love you,’” she said. “There’s always an ending, and, I guess, just like a person, you can’t focus on the ending. You have to focus on the in between.”

Soybean farmers encouraged to apply for board position

This year, the Nebraska Soybean Board will be seeking farmer-leaders to represent fellow soybean farmers in Districts 1, 3 and 6. The candidacy petition period began on Dec. 1 and concludes on April 15.

District 6 includes Saline and Seward counties. “Farmer leadership is crucial to NSB and submitting a candidacy petition is a powerful way for farmers to actively shape the future of our soybean industry,” Andy Chvatal, NSB executive director, said. “District directors contribute directly to the decision-making processes, ensuring a collective and impactful representation of our industry.”

Qualified candidates include those who are a resident of Nebraska, are at least 21 years old, reside in the district where the election is being held, have been

a soybean farmer in Nebraska for at least the previous five years and have submitted an NSB candidacy petition.

To apply for candidacy you must:

- Obtain an NSB candidacy petition by contacting NSB’s executive director, Andy Chvatal, at (402) 441-3240 or andy@nebraskasoybeans.org.
- Complete the petition and collect the signatures of 20 soybean farmers in your district.
- Return such petition to the NSB office on or before April 15, 2024.

District directors’ roles and responsibilities include:

- Manage and conduct the business of the Nebraska Soybean Board.

- Uphold the core values of integrity, leadership,

collaboration, adaptability and innovation.

- Attend five annual board meetings (typically held in September, November, January, March and June/July). These meetings are required and are one to two days in length.

- Participate in trade missions, work with the media, represent NSB at events, meetings and more.

- Serve on two of the four NSB committees each year. These committees provide strategic direction regarding board decisions.

- Serve a three-year term that will begin Oct. 1, 2024.

Soybean farmers who reside in counties that are up for election in 2024 will receive ballots and candidate information regarding NSB’s election process via direct mail.



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