

WWR

The Wilber Republican



For more puppies in the workplace, see Page 10



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024

WILBER, NE | WWW.WILBER-REPUBLICAN.COM

VOL. 136, NO. 6



COURTESY PHOTO

Darla Chrans at her retirement party wears a shirt given to her by her class. Chrans said, since they were her last class, her students wanted to do something special. They all signed the back of it.

A full circle moment

Darla Chrans retires from teaching at alma mater

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN
scireporter@sewardindependent.com

Darla Chrans completed her time in kindergarten this year after 31 years of teaching where she graduated, Wilber-Clatonia Public Schools.

She and her husband, Roger, were junior-senior high school sweethearts at Wilber-Clatonia. After graduation, they moved to Falls City because Roger was stationed there with the Nebraska State Patrol. Darla became a para at the school there.

She fell in love with education and working with kids, so she decided to get her bachelor's degree in education from Peru State College. She graduated in 1992 and began teaching at Wilber in 1993.

"I saw that there was an opening here at Wilber-Clatonia, and I decided that's for me because Wilber is home and holds so many really good memories of being a student at Wilber-Clatonia and just the community of Wilber," she said. "I knew that that's where I wanted to teach and raise our family."

She later got her master's degree in curriculum instruction from Doane University and her endorsement in early childhood.

Chrans spent her first couple of years at Wilber as a Title I teacher.

When a kindergarten teacher position opened, she took the opportunity and has been in the role ever since. Over the years, she has been an assistant coach for various sports, including volleyball, softball and track.

"With kindergarteners, they just grow so much that first year," she said. "I just love being that first step in their educational journey and just really wanted to make learning fun and exciting for them to get started off on the right foot."

English learner teacher Kelly Kalkwarf has worked with Chrans for the past five years. They share some of the same students, and Kalkwarf said Chrans is very knowledgeable about content and instruction and is great at balancing students' academic, social and emotional needs.

"She's very open to learning about new cultures and loves to learn about that," Kalkwarf said. "In fact, she's the one researching about the culture of the country to make sure we're doing things right at Wilber. That's really great to see. Wilber is settled and we have a lot of Czech pride, but we also are welcoming students from around the world, really, and she's just a leader in that area."

Chrans said one of her favorite things about being a teacher was the relationships she cultivated with students, staff, families and the community. She also enjoyed seeing kids get that "ah-ha" moment when they understand a concept.

Chrans said many Wilber-Clatonia students stay in the area after graduation, and seven kids she taught as kindergarteners ended up working with her at Wilber-Clatonia as teachers or office staff.

The Chranses' two kids, Elizabeth and Matthew, also graduated from Wilber-Clatonia, and the four of them are in the Alumni Band together. She said it is special to be able to do that together.

Chrans and Brenda Cerveny, who also retired this

See CHRANS, page 5

Czech translations coming to all Wilber street signs

Project expected to be finished by the end of summer

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN
scireporter@sewardindependent.com

By the end of the summer, every street sign in Wilber will sport a Czech translation underneath its name in English.

Several English-Czech signs were installed about 15 years ago, and Wilber Chamber of Commerce President Jennifer Reedy said it is past time to get the project finished.

The chamber purchased the signs from Michael Todd Industrial Supply in Omaha, and they cost around \$1,000 in total. Reedy ordered them June 17 and they are set to arrive before the end of July. The city crew will have them up before the end of the summer.

"I look forward to finishing a project that was started a long time ago," she said. "We are the Czech capital of the United States, so we might as well have Czech signs in our town."

John Brickner became a Wilber resident in 2006 and was immediately



COURTESY PHOTO

Wilber will have English and Czech signs like these installed on all the streets in town by the end of the summer.

amazed by the Wilber Czech Festival. He was part of the chamber when the sign idea was brought forth, and donations from locals and the city helped fund the initial installations.

He said he thought installing the signs would be a great way to

celebrate the rich Czech history in Wilber.

"Wilber has the very best festival in the whole state, as far as I'm concerned. I was really caught up in what they do," he said. "Wilber has been named the Czech capital of the United States. So, when that

plan came into existence, I thought, 'Man, what a way to push that. I'm German, but I think the Czech heritage in this town is just fantastic.'

The city and the chamber got around 10-15 signs put up along the highway, and individual chamber members were also able to get a few of the signs up on the main streets of town. Brickner bought a couple of them and went from house to house collecting donations so they could get more put up.

Each sign was about \$150 at the time, and Brickner said he helped around 10-15 get installed in town.

Last summer, he and his granddaughter brought the sign project to the town's attention again when they located every intersection in town that did not have a sign and presented it to the chamber. There ended up being about 70 signs that still needed to be installed, and John Kastanek helped him create a list of all those remaining street names in Czech.

Reedy said she is looking forward to getting the project finished for Brickner and all of Wilber.

"I'm tickled to death that this is getting done," Brickner said. "I really am."



COURTESY PHOTO

The Wilber Chamber of Commerce is raffling off this bright white 2024 Jeep Compass this year.

Wheelin' and dealin' with the Wilber car raffle

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN
scireporter@sewardindependent.com

One lucky local will walk away with a white 2024 Jeep Compass with a black interior after the Wilber Chamber of Commerce's car raffle this summer.

The money raised from the raffle will go toward the beautification of Wilber.

The car was paid for in full by the chamber. Wilber Chamber of Commerce President Jennifer Reedy said the chamber tells a car dealership its budget, gets its car options based on that and votes on which car to purchase for the raffle.

Tickets are \$100 and went on sale on June 14. There are 400 available for purchase.

Tickets are available at First State Bank, Farmers and Mer-



Interested parties can enter the raffle using this QR code.

chants Bank, Barnas Drug, Karpisek's Market, Frank's Smokehouse and through Reedy. They can also be purchased through the Clover Go app using a QR code that is posted around town. There is a \$3

handling charge for using the app.

After the grand prize drawing, nine other names will be drawn. Those people will win \$100.

Eric Thornburg won the car at last year's raffle after about five years of entering the competition. He entered to support the chamber and, although the grand prize was very enticing, he did not think he would win. He described the experience as exciting and shocking.

"A half an hour before the drawing, my 7-year-old son at the time found a four-leaf clover in the yard," Thornburg said. "He gave it to me for luck, and I guess it worked. We are very lucky and grateful for the opportunity."

This year's drawing will be Sunday, Aug. 4, at 6 p.m. at the bandstand. Participants do not have to be present to win.

OBITUARY

Robert E. "Bob" Johnson
Aug. 28, 1939 – June 21, 2024

Robert Edward Johnson of Wilber passed away June 21, 2024, at the age of 84 after a prolonged battle with cancer.

Robert, affectionately known as Bob to many, was born Aug. 28, 1939, to John Henry Johnson and Carrie Maihan Johnson in Grand Forks, Minnesota, where he assisted his parents' with work on their farm until deciding to embark on a life of his own.

Following his time on the Johnson Family Farm, Bob worked in a variety of jobs, but excelled as a carpenter, painter and handyman.

Many will fondly recall Bob's high-quality craftsmanship as well as his excellent work ethic.

In his free-time, Bob enjoyed spending time with his family and pets as well as gardening, camping, motorbiking, and honing his skills as a craftsman.

Bob was a devoted family man and is deeply missed by no less than 15 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, 10 children and numerous cousins, nephews, and nieces alongside his one surviving sister and his wife.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, John Henry Johnson and Carrie Maihan Johnson, and his sister, Carol Aken. He is survived today by his wife of 30 years, Tracy Johnson; his former wife, Loretta Miner; his children, Patricia Mulvania, Joshua Johnson, Richard Johnson, Robert Johnson, Tammy Moe, Debbie Adcock and Courtney Johnson; his step-children, David Baldwin, Patricia Ollie, and Matthew Ollie; his sister, Jeanette Parks; and many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, and nephews.

A celebration of Bob's life will be Monday, July 1, at 10:30 a.m. at Radiant Springs Church in Crete.



TRAFFIC

Information taken from records filed with the Saline County court.

Saimel L. Solas Barreto, 22, Beatrice, no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine; no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Rury Gomboa, 29, Beatrice, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.

Mario E. Espinosa Valente, 35, Crete, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine; no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Keith J. Korbel, 39, Wilber, careless driving, \$100 fine.

Donaldo Herrera Franyutti, 29, Omaha, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine; no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Kimberley F. Smith, 36, O'Fallon, Missouri, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.

Gerardo A. Hernandez Chavarria, 33, Wilber, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.

Jorge Baez Gonzalez, 38, Omaha, no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Andy D. Montejo, 18, Crete, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine; misuse learner's permit, \$25 fine.

Oscar Monsivais Balderas, 42, Lincoln, speeding 16-20 mph county/state, \$125 fine.

Adrian Aguilar Aguilera, 39, Crete, no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Davis L. Luebbe, 24, Milford, speeding 16-20 mph county/state, \$125 fine.

Dylan C. Nantkes, 23, Exeter, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.

Aba Yanford, 43, Urbandale, Iowa, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.

Estela E. Florez, 43, Lincoln, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.

Kyrsten K. Hessheimer, 31, Lincoln, no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Argelio Rojas Carralero, 60, Crete, no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Hunter D. Wake, 16, Dorchester, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine; no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine.

Mario A. Cruz Rueda 46, Crete, speeding 6-10 mph county/state, \$25 fine; no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Serra Podio Jadel, 29, Lincoln, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.

Oscar M. Castillo, 56, Lincoln, speeding 5-10 mph county/state, \$25 fine; no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Eugene E. Vacek, 77, Western, fail to yield right-of-way entering roadway, \$25 fine.

Noemi Y. Martinez, 58, Crete, no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Kevin M. Rivera Vasquez, 27, Crete, careless driving, \$100 fine; unlawful/fictitious display of plate/renew tab, \$50 fine.

REAL ESTATE

Information taken from records filed with the Saline County clerk.

June 10 – 20

David C. Solheim, trustee, to Carlos Lopez, a tract of land in the NE1/4 NE1/4 33-8-4. DS \$103.50

David C. Solheim, trustee, to Craig A. Filipi, Lot 2, Krupicka Administrative Subdivision, an administrative subdivision of Lots 1-12, Block 29, in Crete. DS \$382.50

Chris P. Bessler and Deborah K. Bessler to Hose R. Ramos and Norma Y. Perez Rosa, Lot 7, Block 4, Lothrop Heights Addition to

Crete. DS \$652.50

Katherine A. Benson and Shawne K. Thompson to Jane E. Znamenacek and Kevin L. Znamenacek, Lots 9-10, Block 3, Wilber's Third Addition to Wilber. DS \$344.25

Michael Jess and Morgan Jess to Marvin Cruz Aguilar and Y. Ramos Sandoval, Lot 8, Block 4, Lothrop Heights Addition to Crete. DS \$702

Pine Ridge, LLC, to Randolph A. Bond, Lot 10, Pine Ridge Second Addition to Crete. DS \$141.75

Anna K. Warnes and Nathan D. Erickson to Samuel J. Johnson, Lots 10-12,

Block 193 in Crete. DS \$630

Diane K. Hand to Diane K. Hand and Alicyn K. Ringler, Lots 1-4, Block 3, West Western Addition to Western. DS exempt

Shelly A. Precht and Joshua Precht to William Thompson and Shawne Thompson, Lots 4-6, Block 16 in Western. DS \$94.50.

Roger C. Horner and Kristine J. Horner, Ray D. Horner, Diane M. Randolph and Gary Randolph, Cindy L. Varley and Lou Varley and Susan J. Horner to Deea S. Peckham, all of Lot 62 and part of Lot 61 in R. S. Bentley's First Addition to

Friend. DS \$418.50

Norma A. Stutzman to Mark D. Stutzman, Harvey F. Stutzman, David H. Stutzman, Jack D. Stutzman, Patti A. Stauffer and Lisa M. Wells, S1/2 SW1/4 22-8-1. DS exempt

DDNB Investments, LLC, to Joseph R. Kubicek, Lots 13-15, Block 9 in Wilber's First Addition to Wilber. DS \$276.75

Marco T. Flores and Maricela Flores to Sandra P. Herrarte and Richard A. Ramirez, Lots 1-4, Block 165 in Crete. DS \$337.50

ANNIVERSARY

Pesek

Milo "Mike" and Mari-Ann Pesek of Swanton will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary this week.

They were married June 27, 1959, in Swanton.

Their family members include sons, Michael (Terri) Pesek and Mitchell (Alisa) Pesek; daughter, Michele Pesek; seven grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

To help Mike and Mari-Ann celebrate, cards may be sent to them at 1312 County Road V, Swanton, NE 68445.

STUDENTS

Wayne State College

Wayne State College released the names of students on the Dean's list for exemplary academic achievement during the Spring 2024 semester. Those on the Dean's list are full-time undergraduate students who have achieved a GPA of 3.5 or above on a 4.0 scale for the semester. Students earning a place on the list from this area include CeCe Meister of Wilber.

COUNTY COURT

Information taken from records filed with the Saline County court.

Elio Hernandez Guzman, 34, Crete, assault-third degree, one day jail one year probation; disturbing the peace, one year probation.

Juan M. Pimentel Hernandez, 25, Grand Island, driving during revocation/impound first offense, \$150 fine and two months probation; no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine and two months probation.

Ann M. Roesler, 37, Crete, driving under suspension before reinstated, \$100 fine; no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine.

Domingo A. Rafael Ramirez, 30, Crete, driving under suspension before reinstated, 10 days jail; no

operator's license waiverable, 10 days jail.

Elian A. Ortiz Torres, 24, Crete, possess marijuana one ounce or less second offense, \$400 fine; possess or use drug paraphernalia, \$100 fine.

Maria Bedolla De Tapia, 52, Crete, theft-shoplifting \$0-500, \$50 fine.

Daniel G. Chrastil, 51, Crete, DUS when license revoked on points, \$100 fine; fail to yield right-of-way when stopping/parking, \$25 fine.

Estela E. Florez, 43, Lincoln, possess marijuana one ounce or less first offense, \$300 fine.

Adalis C. Gonzalez Tamayo, 32, Crete, theft-shoplifting \$0-500, \$50 fine.

Jose A. Rosales, 47, Wilber, theft-shoplifting \$0-500, \$50 fine.

Oddities showing up in planted crops

BY JENNY REES
Seward/York counties
Extension educator



UNL Extension
Jenny Rees
jrees2@unl.edu

I'm grateful for the good start to the growing season that many in the area I serve have experienced thus far.

Soybeans have started flowering or will soon. Earliest planted corn isn't far from tassel. Some areas continue to miss rain and other areas get far too much. For those dealing with flooding, the following are some rules of thumb:

Corn Prior to V6: Plants can survive under water for 2-4 days if temperatures do not exceed 77°F.

V7—V10: Plants can survive 7-10 days if temperatures do not exceed 86°F.

VT—R1: Reduced nutrient uptake and successful pollination if standing water is present longer than 2-4 days. Yield losses may occur.

Soybeans: Yield losses minimal if flooding lasts less than 48 hours. Flooded for 4-5 days, fewer nodes develop and plants will be shorter; possible stand and yield loss beyond that.

Soybeans at flowering: Potential yield loss, especially on poorly drained soils.

We've seen several oddities this year in crops, which I haven't talked much about, but a crop consultant suggested I should write a column on them. The following have been found from Saunders County through the Gothenburg area this year.

The warm February, reminiscent of 2017, provided the potential for greater insects. Thankfully haven't seen more than 10% damage from wheat stem maggots to corn planted green into small grains (compared to 2017).

Pill bugs (roly polys) and centipedes which typically feed on decaying material and other small insects/spiders, respectfully, have caused damage to soybeans in some fields. I've never seen these numbers nor damage before.

However, this year, in heavy residue fields, we've observed them eating soy-

beans to the point of fields needing replanting. Slugs and snails have plagued some double crop small grain/soybean fields with one consultant sending me a picture of a planter bar loaded with snails.

There have been some issues with seed germination in some hybrids/seed lots. I've heard situations of non-liberty tolerant refuge in liberty link corn hybrids. There's also the failing to remember which trait is in which field before spraying herbicides, so a reminder to double check that before herbicide applications occur.

There's been a lot of uneven corn within rows this year. Each field has various circumstances, but common culprits have been a solar storm throwing off GPS which got seeds too close to fertilizer bands; residue blowing back over portions of rows; planting depth and/or sidewall compaction issues; seed issues; and "weaker" corn plants having a hard time outgrowing HPPD (bleacher chemistry) herbicides in portions of fields.

With corn rapidly growing and canopying, unevenness in fields doesn't look as bad anymore. Overall, these oddities are few and I'm grateful for a good start to this growing season.

Japanese beetles: are unfortunately starting to appear. Reminder, don't use traps as they attract more beetles to your yard. Beetles can be knocked off plants into soapy water in the evening hours and disposed of. The following contains conventional and organic insecticide information: <https://go.unl.edu/xgd6>.

Reflection: Some know that I've been off/on helping family and I'm grateful for that opportunity. We had celebrated making it through each surgery with Cheese-cake Factory Cheesecake and are praising the Lord for healing.

As I drove home this weekend from celebrating family birthdays, I was reminded again how blessed we are to live this life and how short it truly is. How often we miss the little things or don't take time to celebrate.

Some recent conversations included how often the china stays in the cupboard, taking time to smell a blooming flower instead of just walking by or just stopping to admire a sunrise/sunset. Simple things. But I think the result is gratitude.

This week, perhaps we can seek to live life more intentionally with the people around us.

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Nebraska supports high schools through new Healthy Home Team grants

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Nebraska has announced the launch of Healthy Home Team, a community initiative that awards grants to Nebraska high schools to support the health and well-being of their communities.

As part of BCBSNE's mission of championing health and well-being, the Healthy Home Team campaign partners with high schools across the state to encourage students to live their best and healthiest lives.

Each year, BCBSNE will award 100 schools with a \$500 grant to support health and well-being activities and initiatives, along with a customized team spirit sign to display in their athletic facilities.

In addition, a panel of BCBSNE judges will announce one school in November to receive an additional \$5,000 grant to further support their students and community.

"We are thrilled to launch the Healthy Home Team campaign as part of our mission to champion the health and well-being of our members and the communities we serve," said Jeff Russell, president and CEO of BCBSNE. "At Blue Cross, we believe investing in our youth is an investment in the future of our state. Through this campaign, we hope to empower high schools to implement innovative programs that prioritize the well-being of their students and

neighborhoods."

Now through Friday, Aug. 2, interested schools can complete a short application for a chance to become a Healthy Home Team partner school. During the application process, schools will share how they will use the grant funds available through the campaign to promote health and well-being in their community if selected.

Proposals for supporting health and well-being could include student wellness programs, community health efforts or athletics.

To learn more about the campaign and apply, visit NebraskaBlue.com/HealthyHomeTeam.

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DeWitt Days

20 24

SALUTE TO THE

Red White and Blue

THURSDAY, JULY 4TH

11am **Annual Trap Shoot Event** – Gun Club
(1 mile east of DeWitt)

FRIDAY, JULY 5TH

5–6:30pm **Poker Run/Scavenger Hunt** – Registration
(RJ's Bar & Grill)

11pm **Poker Run Awards & Karaoke** (Red Zone Bar & Grill)

SATURDAY, JULY 6TH

6–7am **"Firecracker Run"** – Registration (Community Center)

7–9am **"Firecracker Run" 5K & Mile Run/Walk**
(Community Center)

7:30–9am **Community Breakfast** (Community Center)

9am–noon **Car, Cycle, Truck, Tractor Show Registration**
(Legion Building Downtown)

9am–11am **Face Painting & Balloon Art** (Library)

9am **Sand Volleyball** – Co-ed (Courts by the Water Tower)

9:45am **Sidewalk Chalk Contest** (First State Bank)

9am–5pm **Indoor Flea Market & Crafts** (Legion Building)

10am–5pm **Honoring Vets** (Methodist Church)

10am–11am **Free Kids Activities / Sno Cones** (Senior Center)

10am **Downtown Museum Opens** (Downtown)

10am–4pm **Touch of the Past Museum Open**
(705 East Beatrice Ave.)

10am **Food Stand Opens** – DeWitt Museum (Downtown)

11am **Cornhole Tournament** – Bags Fly @ Noon
(Downtown by Bars)

11am **Money Dig** (Senior Center)

11am **Cow Pie Bingo** (Farmers Coop)

11am **1890 Printing Press Demo** – 2 Shows See 1 pm
(Downtown Museum)

11:00am **"Little Tuggers" Tractor Pull Registration** – Starts
at Noon (Main Street in Front of Coop)

1pm **1890 Printing Press Demo** (Downtown Museum)

1–5pm **Inflatable Bounce Houses / Slide / Course**
(West end of Main Street)

1–4pm **Free Swimming for Everyone** (DeWitt Pool)

1–4pm **Quilt Show** (Senior Center)

3–4pm **Omaha Street Percussion Group**
(Downtown Under Tent)

4–6:30pm **Chicken BBQ "1/2 Chicken Meals by Vans BBQ"**
(Community Center)

4pm **Car Show Awards Presentation** (Downtown)

6pm **Parade Line Up** (2 Blocks South of Bars)

7pm **Parade - "Salute to the Red White and Blue"**
(Main Street)

8pm **Quilt of Valor Presentations** (Ball Fields)

8:30pm **"Outhouse Races & Games"** – World Famous
(Main Ball Field)

10pm/Dark **Fireworks Show** (Main Ball Field)

10pm–1am **Street Dance - Live Band & Beer Garden**
(Outside RJ's Bar & Grill)

SUNDAY, JULY 7TH

10:30am **Coffee & Rolls** (Methodist Church)

11am **Community Church Services** (Methodist Church)

1–5pm **"Redneck Urban Golf"** (Start at Main Ball Field)

CONTACTS FOR REGISTERED EVENTS

Firecracker Run: **Brian Scherling - 402.239.2789**

Car Show: **Glen Pieper - 402.806.2881**

Co-Ed Sand Volleyball: **Travis Rahe - 602.399.1338**

Cornhole Tournament: **Shalayna Niemeyer - 402.223.9427**

Predneck Golf: **Travis Rahe - 602.399.1338**

Trap Shoot: **Randy Bartlett - 402.520.1342**

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Commuting for college – a nightmare turned lesson

BY ANDRES LOPEZ
reporter1@sewardindependent.com

Like every graduate, I spent the last summer before college getting prepped and ready for my journey into adulthood.

While all my peers marched into Walmart and Target to buy shower shoes, foam pads for their beds and ottomans for “secret storage,” I found myself stagnant, rotting away in my bedroom. The only preparation I could do was getting ready for a long, stressful year. I felt stuck in the in-between.

I didn't have the normal first-year experience. My family and I made the financial decision for me to commute back and forth to the University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

During my senior year of high school, I was content with this plan. However, reality struck pretty fast when I realized an hour of my day would be spent strictly on driving seven days a week.

I set a plan for myself – wake up three hours exactly before my first class



To be frank ...
Andrés López
reporter1@sewardindependent.com

starts, get ready for an hour and a half, drive the 30 minutes and have an hour to walk to class and get a start on homework for the following week. It was strict, but it kept me sane.

I tried to convince myself that my experience would be the same as everyone else. I'd get to go out, have fun and meet new people along the way, but the moment I stepped onto campus I realized my 20-some mile excursion would make creating relationships difficult.

Don't get me wrong, I made new friends and figured out parts of myself, but even after the completion of my first year, I still

don't feel like a college student.

A majority of my time was spent in the library, peacefully awaiting my next class alone, or sitting outside by the Nebraska Union for hours to wait for a group project in a dorm that I couldn't even get into since my card didn't allow access for non-resident students.

The other part was me jumping from friend to friend, always asking to spend time in their dorm so I wouldn't be reminded of the fact I'll never get this.

I felt so disconnected and spent all my time trying to plan and have the true college experience that I ended up feeling so lost by the end of it. While I had friends in Lincoln and friends in Seward, I wasn't able to strongly connect to either group.

Now that this first year is done, I look back to it with heaps of regret. Even though I'm moving to Lincoln this coming fall, I will never get that experience again. I'll have to learn all the hard parts of living on your own for the first time.

It feels as if I've fallen behind.

While I fixate on the hard parts, I can assure you that it made me learn a very important lesson after the year wrapped up that will help me push forward.

I had spent my whole freshman year living on the schedules of others and never for myself. I realized I was throwing myself around for others without a moment of self care or self love. College is supposed to be a place of learning lots about yourself and figuring out who you are, and I spent it doing the opposite.

For the first time, I finally see how important it is to be me and love the parts of me that I couldn't because of the commute.

Even though my friends learned lessons that I might never get to, I feel like I got the biggest lesson of all – to love myself right now and that things will always get better for me.

I let my commute dictate my freedom, but now I dictate my own life.

Providing important – and worthless – information

BY GENE STEINMEYER
For the Wilber Republican



Stein's Blog
Gene Steinmeyer

Last week was June-teenth, with the exact date June 19.

It's the celebration for the end of slavery in the United States. A few years ago, I wrote a book about a black man who became a teacher and basketball coach at Lewiston High School.

The year was 1960, about the time Dr. Martin Luther King was exploding on the scene in his efforts to promote civil rights. Civil Rights was never an issue for Wilson at Lewiston. They needed a coach and teacher. Wilson Fitzpatrick was the best candidate.

And he was black. Wilson grew up in Marshall, Missouri. It is in Saline County, one of only 19 counties that had slavery in Missouri. Those 19 counties were called Little Dixie. The Southern crops of cotton, tobacco and hemp flourished. Wilson's last name originated when his grandfather, a slave in Little Dixie, was given the last name of his owner.

Wilson spent five years teaching at Lewiston. He was an incredibly successful coach and teacher. During Wilson's first year at Lewiston, he would introduce himself by writing his name on the blackboard. Under “Wilson Fitzpatrick,” he would write, “I'm not Irish.”

Another African American in the news last week was the Hall of Fame baseball player, Willie Mays. He was in many baseball historians' opinion, the greatest baseball player to ever play the game.

If you listened to the accolades bestowed on Mays, one term always mentioned was he was a great five-tool player. Ever wonder what those five tools are? I still can't remember the names of the seven dwarfs, so this was tough for me, too, even though I am a huge fan of baseball.

In my childhood, you could find almost every major league team playing on the radio. I couldn't see Willie Mays on my transistor radio, but I knew Mays could hit for average (.301 career batting average), hit for power (660 career home runs), run (339 career stolen bases), field and throw (12 career gold glove awards for center field).

That's the five tools. Willie Mays also played in 24 All Star Games. Only Henry Aaron played in more. It was only one more. There is more you need to know about Willie Mays.

Every major league baseball player that ever took the field had a nickname. Mays' nickname was the Say Hey Kid. Want to know how he came about that unusual nickname? A sports journalist by the name of Jimmy Cannon is credited with starting the nickname.

When you meet someone on the street, how do you greet them. Do you just say, “Hi?” Maybe you show real care and ask, “How are you.” Not Mays. His common greeting was: “Say who, say what, say where, say hey?” It's fortunate that Cannon condensed the greeting to the Say Hey Kid.

My goal was to combine Juneteenth with useless information and make a column out of it. Last week was one of my favorites, with coaching tee-ball baseball. That was helpful information for young parents. Your brain needed a break, so you get worthless information this week.

Broadening tax base can help alleviate property tax burden

BY SEN TOM BRANDT
Dist. 32



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

Nebraskans have been feeling the frustration surrounding the recent property valuation notices that have been hitting mailboxes across Nebraska.

The sharp increases in property valuations have left many homeowners and farmers feeling the weight of an unfair burden, and I share your concerns.

Gov. Jim Pillen has been vocal in recent weeks about how these increases are unacceptable. He has emphasized that the current system is flawed and that immediate action is needed to provide relief to Nebraskans.

I stand with the governor in recognizing that these valuation spikes are creating undue stress for families and businesses alike.

This is an issue that has been going on for over a decade, and I applaud Gov. Pillen for having the guts to try and tackle this. So, what needs to be done to address this issue?

The first step is a comprehensive review and reform of our property

even further.

We also need to consider implementing caps on annual increases in property valuations. These caps would prevent sudden and drastic spikes, providing property owners with a more predictable and manageable tax burden.

This approach has been successfully adopted in other states and could serve as a model for Nebraska.

To even out the “three-legged stool,” we need to look at broadening the tax base. Nebraska has more than 100 sales tax exemptions which range from pop and candy to services such as haircuts, massages, legal and accounting work.

By broadening the tax base, we can help alleviate the strain that currently resides on property taxes.

Gov. Pillen has already announced the preliminary dates for a possible special session this summer, and I am committed to working with my colleagues in the Legislature to pass meaningful reforms that address these property valuation increases.

If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact me or my legislative staff at (402) 471-2711, or tbrandt@leg.ne.gov.

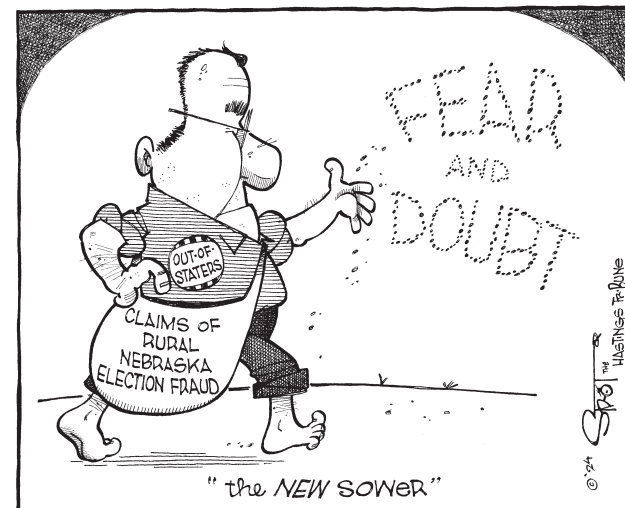
tax system. This includes evaluating the methods used to assess property values and ensuring that they reflect fair market values without overburdening property owners.

Transparency in the assessment process is crucial, and we must ensure that property owners have clear and understandable explanations for their valuations.

How we fund schools still needs to be a part of the equation. Increases in foundation aid in the past few years have allowed most schools to lower their property tax ask. I still believe the state can pick up more of the tab for funding schools, thus allowing schools to lower their levies

Letters to the editor

The Wilber Republican welcomes your letters to the editor. Letters should be 500 words or less and must be submitted before noon Friday. All letters may be edited for content and should be free of libelous statements. All letters must be signed and include a phone number to verify authenticity.



"the NEW SOWER"

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The Wilber Republican

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402-826-2147
www.wilber-republican.com

USPS 683-800
Postage paid at Wilber, NE 68465
Published once a week
Owned by Sweet Tea Media, LLC

SUBSCRIPTIONS

\$35.00
Statewide

\$44.00
Out of State

Call for additional subscription pricing

A weekly newspaper published each Wednesday at 129 S. 6th St., Seward, NE 68434 by Sweet Tea Media, LLC.
Periodical postage paid at Wilber, NE.
Postmaster send changes of address to P.O. Box 40, Crete, NE 68333.
E-mail the news dept. at editor@sewardindependent.com, the ad dept. at paula@sewardindependent.com, the circulation dept. at createofficemgr@gmail.com.
Normal deadline is noon Friday.

Have a Grillicious Summer

Tabitha Tip: How does cooking nourish my psyche?

If you've ever fallen victim to summertime sadness, don't let your self-esteem take the heat – get grillin' instead.

Unbeknownst to many, home-cooked meals aren't just good for you and your wallet. They're also an unappreciated form of self-care. July happens to be National Grill Month and Culinary Arts Month, which means it's time to reach for the "Kiss the Chef" apron – but not before getting up to speed on how cooking feeds the soul.

Cooking has provided sustenance – for body and mind – since the beginning of time. Of course, the earliest forms of cooking were much more primitive than the elaborate dinners that we're used to today, but the purpose of food hasn't changed: energizing the body, feeding your overall function and engaging the senses in an experience unlike any other.

We've certainly come a long way from crude paste bread, after all. As food became less about survival and more about enjoyment, experimental cooking was born – and with it, the opportunity to explore new ways to make long-established recipes that have brought comfort and nutrition for thousands of years.

So how does this play into a well-nourished well-being?

When you play chef, your brain receives the ingredients for success. Intentionally investing time, patience and dexterity into your three meals a day can make a difference in your day-to-day life. In fact, the benefits extend far beyond getting your gut health in check.

Psychologists have found that creativity and emotional function go hand in hand. It doesn't matter if you're mixing

up cookies from the recipe on the back of the chocolate chip bag or you're creating a whole new concoction off the top of your head, you're stimulating the brain in a way that boosts concentration and confidence, and can even lower feelings of depression as you gain new skills and purpose.

Food connects you to the past, present and future. Meals are a social activity by design. Recall helping mom or dad in the kitchen when you were younger, hovering over a grill full of meat with the designated grill-master at family holidays, or setting all aspects of life aside just to enjoy dinner around the dining table with loved ones.

Cooking with others harbors feelings of community and belonging. It brings people together in what's equivalent to a team-building activity: Working toward one central goal – or multiple goals for that matter, if you're making side dishes as well.

Similarly, as you cook recipes that run in your family or are traditional to your culture, you'll not only feel a connection to those you share your history with, in the form of a meal, you'll feel close to your ancestors who once made those same meals, too.

The next time you're feeling down, don't just turn to fast food for a quick dinner. If you can manifest the energy to cook something warm and fulfilling, you'll benefit from a full stomach and a nourished mind, too.

This health tip is brought to you by Tabitha. To learn more, visit Tabitha.org or call (402) 362-7739.

How to keep an air conditioning system running strong

Air conditioners are a lifeline come the dog days of summer, when soaring temperatures make a well-cooled home a welcome respite from the outdoors. Maintaining an AC unit ensures it will be there to keep everyone cool when the mercury rises. The following are some steps homeowners can take to keep their AC units in tip-top shape this summer.

- Replace the air filter on the unit. Dirt, dust, debris, and pollen can quickly fill the filter on an AC unit. Replacing these filters prior to summer can make the unit operate more efficiently and keep cool air circulating throughout the house all summer. Homeowners can first identify which type of unit they have and then find an online tutorial to see how to replace the filter. Some filters are more expensive than others, but the cost is still low and the energy savings can be substantial.

- Schedule annual maintenance on the unit. Routine maintenance performed by a local HVAC technician is another way to ensure an AC unit is running at peak capacity when it's most needed. Such maintenance is

perhaps most effective in spring, as that ensures the unit is running strong from the first heat wave of the summer all the way through Labor Day. HVAC technicians can identify problems and recommend services that homeowners may not recognize they need until it's already hot out. Annual maintenance appointments also give HVAC professionals a chance to assess a system compared to the previous year, which can help them identify if a unit is nearing its end. That can ensure homeowners are not caught off guard when the unit needs to be replaced.

- Help the unit make it through the summer. Whether it's a typical summer or one marked by a handful of heat waves, AC units can use a little help to get through the season. Closing curtains throughout the house on hot afternoons is a natural way to keep a home cool during a heat wave, and that can cut back on home cooling costs and protect a unit from being overworked. Ceiling fans also can be installed to keep rooms cool and circulate air, which also makes a hot summer a little less taxing on an AC unit.

- Use a programmable

thermostat. Programmable thermostats allow homeowners to set the temperatures inside their homes throughout the day. If no one is home during the afternoon, there's no reason to have the AC cranking. Program the thermostat so the house is comfortable when people are home, but raise the desired temperature when no one is around. That gives the AC unit a break during the day and can help to dramatically reduce the cost of cooling the home.

AC units will not last forever, but some simple maintenance can improve their life expectancy and keep homes comfortable throughout the summer.



Summer goes destruction to construction

BY STEPHANIE CROSTON
scroston@sewardindependent.com

"We're just about done with the month of destruction," Randy Schlueter said.

Schlueter, the interim superintendent at Tri County Public Schools, said June is usually the month when destruction for summer projects happens.

The Tri County district is installing a new heating/ventilation/air conditioning system in the secondary wing of the building, finishing a five-year project. The new system will be five smaller, more efficient HVAC units replacing two large units.

In order to install them, the ceilings, ceiling grid and existing ductwork had to be removed, and everything had to be moved out of the classrooms.

"We did that the last day of school," he said.

Students and teachers worked together to move desks, chairs, books and other items into the cafeteria. Principal Ryan Clark organized the students, Schlueter said.

"It didn't take long to empty the rooms," Schlueter said.

The new ductwork

and units were to be set the week of the 22nd, Schlueter said. Crews will then insulate and reinstall the ceilings. The project should be completed by the third week of July.

Crews were also updating the competition gym, he said. The ceiling will be repainted. Electric winches were installed on the basketball backboards, and the side baskets are now adjustable. Shot clocks will be installed to meet the Nebraska School Activities Association requirement.

In addition, a new marquee will be installed at the front of the school in the next few weeks, Schlueter said.

"It will be easier to read, and you can have graphics with it," he said.

Once the projects are completed, furniture will be moved back into cleaned classrooms.

"We want it to look fresh in August," Schlueter said.

The facility study was completed in May, and Schlueter said there were a couple areas that will be updated once the HVAC project is done.

Up next will be the career and technical education wing that includes woods, welding and FFA. Tri County is looking to expand those areas,

Schlueter said.

The next will be the preschool, which the district would also like to expand, he said. Currently, TC offers one section of preschool and cannot accommodate everyone.

The district is also working to update its transportation fleet. National standards now say that the typical school van is no longer allowed because of safety concerns.

Schlueter said schools are moving to smaller vehicles with 10-person maximum capacity for student transportation.

"It's easier to purchase a different type of vehicle that meets code," he said.

Tri County has five school vans. Schlueter said TC will have two of the new vehicles by the time school starts.

The board is also reviewing and updating policies. The principals and superintendent reread the handbooks and updated them, as well. The updates will be considered for approval at the July board meeting.

With Schlueter serving in an interim role, the board is in the process of hiring a new superintendent. Schlueter said that person should be hired during first semester, and he will help with the transition.

Chrans

Continued from page 1

year after teaching kindergarten at W-C for more than three decades, walked out the door together for the last time together on their final day of school.

"We walked out the door that we've been using for years, and we had some confetti poppers and we just went out together," Chrans said.

Cervený said the pair formed a close bond through the years.

"Spending so many years together, we can kind of figure out what we want and read each other's minds," she said. "If I couldn't figure something out, she did, or vice versa. We plan, we work together and it's good to work with somebody that you match up nicely with."

Chrans and her husband, who has been the mayor for the past 18 years, enjoy being involved in the community. She said school is a great way to do that.

"We love representing Wilber everywhere we go, and we both believe that the school and the community work

"With kindergarteners, they just grow so much that first year. I just love being that first step in their educational journey and just really wanted to make learning fun and exciting for them to get started off on the right foot."

Wilber-Clatonia Elementary School teacher Darla Chrans

together to make both successful," she said.

Chrans said she is looking forward to traveling and being able to spend more time with her five grandchildren during retirement. Looking back on her time as an educator, she said she simply hopes she was able to help children.

"With the education of these kids and just spending time with them, hopefully, I could make a difference in their lives," she said.

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Ear, Nose & Throat	Dr. N. Hejtmanek	July 2, 16, 30
General Surgery	Dr. S. Nagengast	Thursdays
Gynecology/Women's Health	Dr. G. Heidrick	July 9, 18, 23
	L. Hanseling, APRN	July 9, 18, 23
	Dr. A. Kafka	July 18
Nerve Conduction Studies, EMGs	Dr. B. Bixenmann	July 5
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Nutrition	Dr. C. Peterson	July 12
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	C. Scholtes, PA-C	July 3, 10, 17, 24
	Dr. M. Bokemper	July 10, 24
	M. Koebornick, PA-C	July 31
	Dr. J. Rixen	July 1
Ophthalmology	Dr. A. Reilly	July 23
Pain Management	Dr. M. Williamson	July 2, 16
Podiatry	Dr. K. Otto	Tuesdays
Psychology - Adult	A. Lovell, LIMHP	Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays
Psychology - Youth	T. Lang, LIMHP	Thursdays & Fridays
	Dr. R. Neamu	July 11
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COURTESY PHOTO

Wilber catcher Brock Young dives to try to tag Zac Strein of Tri County at home, but Strein was safe at the plate June 19.

Wilber comes from behind to best TC

BY STEPHANIE CROSTON
scroston@sewardindependent.com

Wilber Post 101 headed down Highway 103 June 19 to battle county rival Tri County in Legion baseball action. Wilber had

to come from behind and then hold off a Tri County rally to bring home a 13-11 victory.

Post 101 trailed 9-8 going into the sixth after Tri County scored five with two outs in the bottom of

the fifth.

Trevor Kapke started the rally with a single to left, stole second and advanced to third on a passed ball. Zac Strein drew a walk, and Kapke scored on a wild pitch.

Jason Wehrman walked, and Strein took third on a wild pitch and scored on another wild pitch.

Wehrman advanced to third on the play, and Alex Bartolome drew a walk. Wehrman scored

on a passed ball, and Bartolome advanced to third on the play. Easton Thomsen drew a walk, and both scored on a single by Henry Kapke to give Tri County a 9-8 lead.

Wilber answered with five of its own in the top of the sixth. Grayson Vlean started things off with a single, followed by a single from Chase Tachovsky. RJ Klassen walked to load the bases, and Aven Smith drove in one with a single

to tie the score at 9-9 and leave the bases loaded.

Brock Young walked to score Tachovsky, and Collin Kohout walked to drive in Klassen. Allen Roger singled to right, driving in two more and making the score 13-9.

Tri County rallied in the bottom of the sixth. Justus Wehrman singled to second and then stole second. Jayton Jones moved him to third with a single to

see JUNIORS, page 7



PHOTO COURTESY CATHERINE DOUD/CONCORDIA BLADE EMPIRE

Ryby swim in league finals

Alysa Zoubek of the Wilber Ryby takes a breath during the 50-meter butterfly June 22 during competition at Concordia, Kansas.



PHOTO COURTESY CATHERINE DOUD/CONCORDIA BLADE EMPIRE

Myra Zimmerman of Wilber Ryby competes in the 50-meter freestyle June 22.



PHOTO COURTESY CATHERINE DOUD/CONCORDIA BLADE EMPIRE

Ainsley Boggs of the Wilber Ryby swim team looks back after finishing the 50-meter freestyle June 22.



COURTESY PHOTO

Trevor Kapke of the Tri County juniors sets to throw June 19 against Wilber.



STEPHANIE CROSTON/WR

All star Wolverine

Carter Skleba, a graduate of Wilber-Clatonia High, brings the ball down the court for the red team in the Centennial Classic all-star game June 21. Skleba finished with eight points, six rebounds and one assist, but the red lost to the navy 77-72.

Juniors

Continued from 6
left, and Wehrman scored on a ground out by Kapke. Jones, who had taken second on defensive indifference, moved to third on the play and scored on a ground out by Maddox Haake.

Vlcan finished the game 5-5 for Wilber and scored four runs. Smith was 2-3 and drove in four.

For Tri County, Henry Kapke drove in three runs, and Trevor Kapke and Dike scored three times each.

Post 101 competed in a wood bat tournament at Hebron over the weekend and went 1-2 in its games. Wilber lost to Milford 9-1, beat Bennet 8-7 and fell to Hebron 12-5.

Milford pitching held Wilber batters to two hits in the loss.

In the win over Bennet, Vlcan was 2-4 with a double and drove in two, and Young was 2-3. Smith pitched 6.1 innings and struck out 16.

Wilber's bats were quiet again against Hebron, recording just three hits. Two were singles by Young, the other came from Tachovsky.

Tri County came back to the field June 22 and defeated Wymore Diller

Odell 13-6. Henry Kapke and Cobi Bales had three hits each. Jones and Justus Wehrman had two, and Wehrman drove in two runs. Grady Schwisow also had two RBIs.

Wilber (5-6) was scheduled to play in a tournament at Crete June 29 and 30. The next regular-season game is Tuesday, July 2, at Adams.

Tri County's next game was Wednesday, June 26, at Tecumseh.

WIL	202	405	13	10	1
TC	020	252	11	5	2

WIL: 2B—Smith, Tachovsky, Vlcan. HBP—Tachovsky. SB—Vlcan 5, Tachovsky 2. RBI—Smith 4, Roger 2, Vlcan, Tachovsky, Klassen, Kohout. K—Vlcan 2. WP—Vlcan 2, Tachovsky 3.
TC: SB—T. Kapke 3, H. Kapke, J. Wehrman. K—T. Kapke 2. Hit batters—T. Kapke.

MIL	012	24	9	4	3
WIL	000	01	1	2	4

HBP—Roger, Fritz. SB—Tachovsky 2, Roger, Vlcan. RBI—Wake. K—Roger 5, Tachovsky 2. Hit batters—Roger, Tachovsky.

WIL	141	101	0	8	7	4
BEN	400	102	0	7	6	3

2B—Vlcan. HBP—Kohout. SB—Smith 2, Fritz 2, Vlcan. RBI—Vlcan 2, Tachovsky, Roger, Fritz. K—Vlcan 1, Smith 16. WP—Vlcan. Hit batters—Smith 2.

WIL	020	03	5	3	5
HEB	331	6x	13	6	2

SB—Roger 2, Young, Wake 2. RBI—Tachovsky, Fritz. K—Fritz 1. WP—Fritz. Hit batters—Fritz 3, Kohout.

TC	900	103	13	14	3
WDO	301	200	6	2	1

2B—Schwisow, T. Kapke. SF—Ja. Wehrman. SB—Schwisow 2, Bales, Schafer, Jones, Ja. Wehrman, Haake, T. Kapke. RBI—Ju. Wehrman 2, Schwisow 2, H. Kapke, Jones, T. Kapke, Ja. Wehrman, Schafer. K—Haake 3, Strein 1, Jones 3. WP—Strein 2. Hit batters—Haake, Strein.



Carter Skleba of Wilber gets ready to slide into home as Tri County's Tayden Gronemeyer looks for the throw from the catcher June 19. Skleba was safe on the play.

Wilber seniors hold off Tri County

BY STEPHANIE CROSTON
scroston@sewardindependent.com

In its only game of the week, the Wilber Post 101 seniors defeated Tri County 5-2, thanks to a three-run sixth inning.

Karsen Fisher opened the inning by reaching on a hit-bypitch. Caden Parham singled and pinch hitter Lexand Baker singled to left to load the bases.

Grayson Vlcan reached on an error that scored Fisher, but Chase Tachovsky, who was running for Parham, was out at third on the play.

Carter Skleba walked to load the bases, and Jack Zimmerman drove in Baker on a fielder's choice.

Cash Keslar then hit an infield single that scored Vlcan for the third run of the inning.

Keslar finished the game 2-3. Skleba was 1-2 with a home run. He was also the starting pitcher and struck out seven in five innings.

For Tri County, Dustin Kapke doubled and drove in a run, and Maddox Haake also had an RBI.

Tri County then played a doubleheader against Geneva June 21 and lost 18-4 in game one and 13-10 in game two. In game one, Braiden Strouf was 2-3, and Haake and Cole Spahr each drove in two runs.

Pierce Damrow went 3-5 with a double, a home run and two RBIs and three runs scored in game two. Strouf was 2-4 with two doubles and drove in two, as well.

Spahr got the start on the mound and struck out seven in 4.1 innings.

Tri County ended the week with a 12-11 walk-off loss at Wymore Diller Odell June 22.

TC led 11-10 entering the bottom of the seventh. Wymore tied the game after its leadoff hitter



Tri County's Tayden Gronemeyer delivers a pitch against Wilber June 19.

reached on a dropped third strike and then scored on a double. The winning run scored on a single to right.

Dustin Kapke went 4-4 with a home run, a double and four RBIs for Tri County. Caden Bales, Tayden Gronemeyer and Cobi Bales added two hits each, and Caden Bales drove in two runs.

Up next for Tri County (5-6) was a trip to Tecumseh Wednesday, June 26. The team is home Friday,

June 28, to host Adams at 8 p.m. and then travels to Beaver Crossing Sunday, June 30.

The Wilber seniors (9-4) are next in action Monday, July 1, at home against Utica-Beaver Crossing. First pitch is set for 7 p.m. Post 101 travels to Adams Tuesday, July 2.

WIL	100	013	0	5	8	1
TC	000	010	1	2	7	2

WIL: HR—Skleba. HBP—Skleba, Fisher. SB—Skleba, Fisher. RBI—Skleba, Zimmerman, Keslar. W—Skleba. K—Skleba 7, A. Smith 3. WP—Skleba. Hit batters—Skleba.
TC: 2B—D. Kapke. HBP—Bales. SB—Spahr 2, Strouf, Damrow. RBI—D. Kapke, Haake. K—

Gronemeyer 2, Spahr 1. WP—Gronemeyer 2. Hit batters—Gronemeyer 2.

GEN	272	16	18	9	1
TC	220	00	4	5	4

HBP—D. Kapke. RBI—Haake 2, Spahr 2, K—T. Kapke 1. Hit batters—Strouf, Damrow 2, T. Kapke.

GEN	002	541	1	13	9	4
TC	331	101	1	10	9	7

2B—Strouf 2, Damrow. HR—Damrow. HBP—Strouf. SB—Strouf 3, D. Kapke, Gronemeyer. RBI—Damrow 2, Strouf 2, D. Kapke, Haake. K—Spahr 7, H. Kapke 2. WP—Spahr. Hit batters—Spahr 2, H. Kapke.

TC	102	053	0	11	12	1
WDO	300	304	2	12	12	3

2B—Co. Bales, D. Kapke. HR—D. Kapke. SB—D. Kapke 3, Damrow 3, Ca. Bales 2, Strouf. RBI—D. Kapke 4, Ca. Bales 2, Spahr, Gronemeyer, Co. Bales. K—D. Kapke 6, Strein 2, Jones 2. WP—D. Kapke 2, Strein.

DU business programs earn accreditation

Four programs in Doane University's College of Business received initial accreditation in mid-May from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs, a global business education accrediting body.

The accredited programs are:

- Accounting, which is available in-person for students enrolled on the Crete or Lincoln campuses;
- Agribusiness, which is available in-person or online for students enrolled on the Crete or Lincoln campuses, or fully online;
- Business Administration, which is available in-person or online for students enrolled on the Crete or Lincoln campuses, or fully online; and
- Master of Business Administration, which can be completed fully online or in person at the Lincoln campus.

"We closely referenced ACBSP's best practices when the College of Business was founded five years ago, and those best practices are applied to all programs across the board," said Dr. Jennifer Bossard, dean of the College of Business and professor of economics. "Seeing four programs receive accreditation this year is affirmation that what we're doing is working."

According to the ACBSP's website, "institutions with programs accredited by ACBSP are committed to continuous improvement that ensures their business program will give students the skills employers want."

The emphasis on continuous improvement is one of the reasons Doane chose to pursue accreditation with ACBSP instead of other accrediting bodies

for business programs and colleges.

"Continuous improvement is something we value and encourage," Bossard said. "There is always more to learn and do better."

Accreditation brings several benefits to Doane as an institution, and to its students and faculty. Employers are able to tell at a glance that graduates have received a rigorous education and the skills and knowledge needed by contemporary businesses.

For students, it helps set Doane apart among other institutions, and tuition reimbursement from employers may be more readily available for accredited programs.

"From a faculty standpoint, a major benefit of having accreditation through the ACBSP is the networking opportunities we have with peers. We're able to see how other faculty and institutions are addressing changes, challenges and opportunities in both higher education and professional business," said Tracy Corr, assistant professor of practice and co-chair of Doane's Accounting Department.

Those changes, challenges and opportunities include, for example, the role of AI in education and in the fields of business, and changes to exams for CPAs.



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AMY HAUSMAN/WR

Daylily Drive, located five miles west of Plymouth, will have its garden open for those who might enjoy hundreds of varieties of daylilies in bloom on July 13 for Garden and Art Show guests.

Garden and Art Show is July 13 in Plymouth

The Plymouth Improvement Association will conduct its annual Garden and Art Show on Saturday, July 13, at the Plymouth Community Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The doors will be open at 7:30 a.m. to receive entries. All entries must be at the center by 9:30 a.m. Bring your favorite art or garden entry to share,

many prizes will be awarded. A youth category for 12 years and younger will be offered. A lunch will be provided from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Daylily Drive, located five miles west of Plymouth, will have its garden open. For more information, call Eileen at (402) 239-5915 or Nancy at (402) 656-4791.

Friday is deadline for 2024 USDA grassland conservation program

BY DEBORAH VAN FLEET
Nebraska News Connections

Farm producers and landowners have until the end of this week to apply for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency's Grasslands Conservation Reserve Program.

More than 2 million acres of Nebraska land are enrolled in one of three CRP programs, nearly three-fourths of it in grassland. It is unique among the CRP programs because landowners are allowed to continue using the land for grazing or haying.

Zach Ducheneaux, administrator of the Farm Service Agency, called the program "the essence" of the USDA's working lands conservation initiative. He said grazing on CRP land often involves more "hands on" practices.

"That are really aimed at enhancing soil health through the use of livestock in a way that will

eventually lead to increased productivity, and producers will see more biodiversity," Ducheneaux explained. "They'll end up seeing better production from the land for their livestock."

Since 1985, landowners have voluntarily taken acres out of production through the Conservation Reserve Programs. They receive a rental payment in return, currently a minimum of around \$13 an acre. Environmental benefits include preserving and enhancing the soil, promoting carbon sequestration and protecting wildlife habitat and diversity.

The deadline for 2024 applications is Friday, June 28.

Nebraska landowners added more than 400,000 new acres to the program last year, second only to Colorado.

Ducheneaux said most land suitable for grazing is appropriate for the program but it must meet an "environmental benefit index" threshold to be accepted.

In addition to the rental payment, landowners can receive financial assistance to improve their land.

"They have access to cost-share dollars that can help them do infrastructure development that maybe makes that land a little more productive," Ducheneaux said. "Better fencing, pollinator habitat, perhaps water development, if it's needed."

Ducheneaux said a great deal of thought goes into the environmental impact of land use, for example, if a landowner plans to use it for haying.

"Since it's a mechanical harvesting in most cases, it can create a vulnerability in some of the bird habitat," Ducheneaux said. "We try to encourage the haying to happen in a certain way, or after the nesting season, which is set on a state level."

Producers can still make an offer to participate in CRP through the Continuous CRP signup, which is ongoing, by contacting FSA at their local USDA Service Center.

The next NE Czechs of Wilber meeting will be Thursday, June 27, at 7 p.m. at the Cultural Center in Wilber.

SHOULD I APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID?

SIGNS POINT TO YES

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EOE

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ESTATES

HANSON, HROCH & KUNTZ, ATTORNEYS
NOTICE OF INFORMAL PROBATE AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
IN THE COUNTY COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA
ESTATE OF LARRY BARTELS, DECEASED
Estate Number PR24-31
Notice is hereby given that on the 17th day of June 2024, in the Saline County Court, the Registrar issued a written statement of informal probate of the will of Larry Bartels, Deceased. Eric Bartels, whose address is 103 N. County Road, Plymouth, NE 68424 and Shawn Bartels, 103 N. Washington, Plymouth, NE 68424, have been appointed Co-Personal Representatives of this estate. Creditors of this estate must present their claims on or before the 26th day of August 2024, or be forever barred.
/s/ Joshua K. McDougall
Clerk of the County Court
WR — June 26, July 03, 10, 2024
ZNEZ

ORGANIZATION

HANSON, HROCH & KUNTZ CRETE, NEBRASKA
NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Wilber Liquor & More, LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company is organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with its registered office at 515 S. School Street, Wilber, Nebraska 68465. The general nature of its business is to engage in and to do any lawful act concerning any and all lawful business, other than banking and insurance, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of Nebraska; including all purposes authorized by law, to the same extent as natural persons might or could do. A limited liability company was formed on June 13, 2024, and will continue in perpetuity. Its affairs shall be conducted by the Members pursuant to an Operating Agreement duly adopted by the Company. The initial Manager and registered agent is Randolph L. Kozeal. The initial designated office and initial agent's address is: 515 S. School Street, Wilber, Nebraska 68465. The registered agent is Randolph L. Kozeal and his address and the address of the designated office is 515 S. School Street, Wilber, Nebraska 68465.
WR — June 26, July 03, 10, 2024
ZNEZ

MINUTES

This is a synopsis of the regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Wilber. A complete copy of the proceedings, resolutions, agreements, and ordinances are on file at the City Office, 110 W Third Street, Wilber, NE and are available for public inspection during regular business hours.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILBER, NEBRASKA
Tuesday, June 11, 2024 7:30 p.m.
Mayor Chrans called the regular meeting to order at the Cultural Center at 110 W Third Street in Wilber, Nebraska at 7:00 p.m. Notice of this meeting was published in The Wilber Republican on May 29, 2024. The following were present: Mayor Roger Chrans, Council members Allen Brozovsky, Tim Lempka, Kent Linhart and Randy Sasek. City Attorney Tad Eickman, City Clerk Lori Rezny, City Treasurer Melissa Beeman, Water/WWTP Operator Jason Ripa, City Superintendent Tim Krivohlavek, Saline Co Deputy Eric Escobar. The Mayor stated that the open meetings act is posted in the meeting room and is available for public inspection. Roll

call shows four Councilmembers are present. The Mayor called for recognition of visitors if anyone in attendance wishes to address the Council. No one addressed the Council. The following motions were moved, seconded and approved by unanimous roll call vote. 1) Approved the consent agenda including the minutes of the May 14, 2024 regular meeting and claims as presented. 2) Read Ordinance #980 by title. Suspended the rules requiring the ordinance be read three times and approved Ordinance #980 an ordinance of the City of Wilber, Saline County, Nebraska, relating to water rates and to provide for the amendment of Chapter 3, Article 1, Section 3-110 of the Municipal Code. 3) Read Ordinance #981 by title. Suspended the rules requiring the ordinance be read three times and approved Ordinance #981 an ordinance of the City of Wilber, Saline County, Nebraska, relating to sewer rates and to provide for the amendment of Chapter 3, Article 2, Section 3-208 of the Municipal Code. 4) Approved the cost of rental for 10 port-a-potties for the Czech Festival. The Mayor stated that the Cultural Center will again be used for the Art Show, Bingo, Demonstrations and Queen's silent action during the 2024 Czech Festival. 5) Approved the SDL application for Nebraska Czechs of Wilber at Hotel Wilber on August 1, 2, 3, 4, 2024. 6) Approved the SDL application for Stokers Saloon for a beer garden during the Czech Festival on August 1, 2, 3, 4, 2024. 7) Approved Resolution 2024-02. A resolution for temporary use of a state highway located within the official corporate limits of the City of Wilber on August 2, 3, 4, 5, 2024 during the Czech Festival. 8) Approved spending \$250.00 for the City's cost share for advertising for the Czech Festival with O'Red 99.5 Radio. 9) Approved paying \$416 for the City's cost share ad for the Czech Festival in Nebraska Life Magazine. 10) Approved to add June 19th as a paid legal holiday for the City of Wilber. 11) Approved to go into closed session for the purpose of protection of public interest regarding property acquisition for a water source and for the protection of the reputation of persons regarding applications received for part time summer laborer and possible lineman position. The Mayor restated the purpose of the meeting is for the protection of public interest regarding property acquisition for a water source and the protection of the reputation of persons regarding applications received for part time summer laborer and possible lineman position. The Mayor and Council went into closed session at 7:55 p.m. Those attending the closed session were: Mayor Chrans, Councilmembers Linhart, Lempka, Brozovsky and Sasek. City Clerk Lori Rezny, City Treasurer Melissa Beeman, Water/WWTP Operator Jason Ripa and City Superintendent Tim Krivohlavek. The doors of the meeting room were opened at 8:12 p.m. at which time Sasek moved and Brozovsky seconded to come out of closed session. Motion carried 4-0. 12) Authorized City Superintendent Tim Krivohlavek to review and interview applicants for a part time summer laborer and hire for this position if he chooses an applicant at a rate of \$12.75 per hour. Tim may also interview applicants for the possible lineman position. Other items of discussion were: The Mayor presented a discussion regarding a possible code enforcement position with other additional duties. It was agreed that the Mayor could develop a job description for the position. An update was given on the progress of cleaning the nuisance property at 606 W 7th Street. It was agreed to put this item on the July agenda along with other properties that need to be addressed as nuisance properties and possible public health concerns. Deputy Eric Escobar arrived at 7:30 and

presented the monthly Sheriff's report. Discussion was held on educating the public regarding rules for golf carts and UTV's usage with the City. Among other rules, Golf Carts and UTV can only be driven on City streets from dawn till dusk, operators must have a valid Class O driver's license and must be 17 years of age or older, units need to be registered with the City Office and provide proof of liability insurance at the time of registration. Brochures and more information are available at the City Office. City reports were given. Claims were as follows: Description of claims for this legal, an-annuity; bond-bond expense, pymt, interest; const-struction; eq-equipment; ex-expense; ga-garnishment; gr-grant reimb; in-insurance; ml-mileage; mi-miscellaneous; pf-professional services; pr-payroll; ps-power supplier; rb-reimbursement; rp-repairs and maintenance; st-sales tax; se-service; sup-supplies; loan-srff/loan pymt; tr-transfer of funds; ut-utilities. 41 Auto, rp, 295.87; AFLAC, in, 487.84; Aqua Chem, sup, 2353.92; Black Hills Energy, ut, 816.98; BCBS, in, 12,188.01; Border States, sup, 696.00; City of Wilber, ut, 2188.74; pr, 44,745.44; CAMC, se, 2400.00; Crete Lumber, rp, 495.95; Culligan, sup, 11.25; Core & Main, sup, 860.16; Crete Ace, sup, 873.53; Delta Indust., sup, 404.87; Dutton-Lainson, sup, 802.23; Eakes, sup, 772.10; Environ. Resource, ex, 153.27; F & M Bank, hsa, 1480.00; Farmers Elev., sup, 1192.88; First Bankcard, ex, sup, 953.62; Food Mesto, sup, 3327.50; Grainger, rp, 1273.01; Hawkins, sup, 1851.74; High Plains, eq, 8850.00; IRS, pr, 9637.06; Johnson Services, se, 41,232.60; Kovar Sales, rp, 85.50; Lowes, sup, 1198.49; Matheson, sup, 353.31; Melissa Beeman, rb, 138.32; Michelle Kalkwarf, sup, 21.40; Midwest Labs, ex, 417.44; Municipal Supply, rp, 1801.56; Mutual of Omaha, in, 334.71; retirement, 3106.22; Ne Public Health, ex, 30.00; Norris PP, ps, 52,628.52; Olsson, pf, 83.35; One Call, se, 18.28; Petty Cash, rb, 1250.00; Quadiant, ex, 699.00; Recreation Supply, sup, 877.70; Rose Equipment, rp, 3750.00; Sack Lumber, rp, 640.70; Saline Co Clerk, se, 16,666.66; Saline Co Reg of Deeds, ex, 22.00; Saline Co Treas, se, 309.17; Shop Qwik, sup, 607.93; Small Town Makins, sup, 1365.00; St of Nebr, st, 7259.40; w/h tx, 1448.04; Tad Eickman, pf, 2000.00; Youth Sports Umpire fees, se, 3850.00; Walker Uniform, se, 34.18; WAPA, ps, \$16,311.11; Wilber Republican, ex, 436.12; Waste Connections, se, 18,437.77; Windstream, ut, 708.68. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.
WR — June 26, 2024
ZNEZ

VILLAGE OF SWANTON P.O. BOX 23 SWANTON, NEBRASKA. 68445 JUNE 10, 2024

A regular meeting of the Chairman and Board of Trustees of the Village of Swanton, Nebraska was held at the Fire Hall in Swanton, Nebraska on the 10th day of June, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. Chairman Runty called the meeting to order. Roll call was answered by Runty, Strouf, Likens, and Bass. Placek absent. Also attending was Donna Rut, Village Clerk and Alan Krupicka, Water Operator. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting as required by law. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. The Open Meeting Laws are posted in the meeting room. A Saline County Deputy presented the monthly sheriff's report. The claims, Treasurer's report, and minutes were presented. A motion was made by Likens and seconded by Strouf to approve the Treasurer's report and minutes and to pay all claims as presented.

Motion carried with all members voting aye. Placek absent. The loan commitment letter from First Tri-County Bank was read. The bank has committed to a loan for \$189,000.00 at 3.75% for the water project. A motion was made by Strouf and seconded by Likens to approve the loan commitment. Motion carried with Strouf, Likens, and Runty voting aye. Placek absent. A motion was made by Bass and seconded by Likens to approve the amendment to Owner-Engineer Agreement with JEO Consulting Group for the surveying of the well property. Motion carried with Strouf, Likens, Bass, and Runty voting aye. Placek absent. Discussion on the well project and water rates was held. An ordinance will be presented at the July meeting with new water rates. A motion was made by Strouf and seconded by Bass to have Manning & Associates prepare the budget and audit. Motion carried with all members present voting aye. Placek absent. Discussion on park repairs, nuisance properties, and street repairs was held. A motion was made by Bass and seconded by Likens to book 1,000 gallons of propane at \$1.65 per gallon with the Farmers Cooperative. Motion carried with all members present voting aye. Placek absent. As there was no further business, a motion was made by Strouf and seconded by Likens to adjourn. Motion carried with all members present voting aye. Placek absent. Claims: Alan Krupicka Wages \$433.97; Donna S. Rut Wages \$373.97; Johnny Barta Wages \$132.76; Waste Connection of Ne Garbage \$1,035.02; Windstream Utilities \$88.83; Ne Public Health Env. Lab Water Tests \$31.00; Norris Public Power Utilities \$801.00; Farmers Cooperative Mower Gas \$87.31; Danko Emergency Equip. RF Expenses \$174.58; First Tri County Bank Bond Interest \$701.00; DeWitt Rescue Ambulance Service \$850.00; Western Rescue Ambulance Service \$800.00; Manning & Associates Audit Waiver \$965.00; Small Engine Specialists Mower Repairs \$451.99; The Crete News Publications \$42.95; Johnny Barta Sewer-Mower Gas \$41.98; Gill Insurance Service Firemen Life Ins. \$1,771.20.
Donna S. Rut, Clerk
WR — June 26, 2024
ZNEZ

MEETINGS

NOTICE
The July meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit 6 will be held at 1016 Rd 15, Geneva NE on Thursday, July 11th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. The agenda for said meeting is on file at Educational Service Unit No. 6 offices in Milford, NE and kept continually current.
SCI/MT/CR/FS/WR — June 26, 2024
ZNEZ

MEETING NOTICE
The Board of Education of Wilber Clatonia Public Schools will meet in regular session on Monday, July 15, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at Wilber Clatonia Public Schools Board Room. An agenda for the meeting and public hearings, which shall be kept continually current, is readily available for public inspection at

the Superintendent's office during normal business hours.
Raymond Collins, Superintendent
WR — June 26, 2024
ZNEZ

MEETING NOTICE

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Wilber, Nebraska is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cultural Center at 110 W Third St. in Wilber, NE. The agenda which shall be kept continually current is readily available for public inspection at the City Office during normal business hours. Council reserves the right to modify the agenda when convened. Council reserves the right to go into closed session on any of the agenda items as pursuant to Section 84-1410. Requests to be on the agenda must be made in the City Office 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting. If accommodations are required, contact the City Office at 110 W Third Street, Wilber, NE 68465, (402) 821-3233. All meetings are open to the public.
/s/ Lori L Rezny
City Clerk
City of Wilber, NE
WR — June 26, 2024
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

A Regular Meeting of the DeWitt Board of Trustees of the Village of DeWitt, NE. is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, July 2, 2024, at the DeWitt Village Office. The Board reserves the right to go into closed session on any agenda items as pursuant to Section 84-1410. An agenda will be available at the Village Office with the Board members reserving the right to modify the agenda when convened. The agenda which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the Clerk's office during normal business hours. Requests to be on the agenda must be made in the Village Clerks' office, 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting. If special accommodations are needed, please contact the Village office @ 209 E Fillmore Ave. DeWitt, NE. Phone 402-683-5025. Meetings are open to the public.
/s/ Moria Holly
Village Clerk
WR — June 26, 2024
ZNEZ

GENERAL NOTICES

NOTICE
The Saline County Courthouse will be closed Thursday, July 4th, 2024 to observe Independence Day.
Diann Nettifee
Saline County Clerk
CR/FS/WR — June 26, 2024
ZNEZ

PUBLIC NOTICE OF REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION OF THE VILLAGE OF DEWITT, NEBRASKA

In accordance with the Village of DeWitt Municipal Code §6-116, public notice is hereby given that the Village Board of the Village of DeWitt, has authorized acquisition by the Village of DeWitt of the following described real properties: Lots Numbered Eight Hundred Ninety (890) Eight Hundred Ninety-One (891) and Eight Hundred Ninety-Two (892), Original Town of DeWitt, Saline County, NE. Registered voters of the Village of DeWitt shall have thirty (30) days after publication of this Notice to protest the acquisition of these properties in accordance with the

procedures set forth in Neb. Rev. Stat. §17-953 and Village of DeWitt Municipal Code §6-116.
/s/ Moria Holly, Village Clerk
WR — June 26, 2024
ZNEZ

RESOLUTION NO 2024-09 REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION

WHEREAS, the Village of DeWitt has authority under Nebraska Revised Statute 17-953 and Village of DeWitt Municipal Code §6-116, that the Village Board of the Village of DeWitt, has authorized the acquisition of the following described real property; Lots Numbered Eight Hundred Ninety (890) Eight Hundred Ninety-One (891) and Eight Hundred Ninety-Two (892), Original Town of DeWitt, Saline County, NE; WHEREAS, the Village of DeWitt will purchase said real property from Melissa A. Mihn and Kevin F. Mihn; after a notice of acquisition has been published in a legal newspaper in or of general circulation in such city or village prior to the acquisition of such property. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Chairman and Governing Body of the Village of DeWitt that the above-described real property be purchased after notice of such acquisition has been published in a legal newspaper in or of general circulation in such city or village prior to the sale of such property. Said notice shall give general description of the real property proposed for acquisition and state the terms and conditions of such sale.
PASSED AND APPROVED this 20th day of June, 2024.
/s/ Lyle Fink
Chairman
ATTEST:
(SEAL)
/s/ Moria Holly
Village Clerk
WR — June 26, 2024
ZENZ



PUBLIC NOTICES

It's Your Right to Know

- School District Budgets
- Local Tax Changes
- Public Hearings
- Property Auctions
- More!

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-11

BE IT RESOLVED by the Chairman and Village Board of the Village of DeWitt, Nebraska, that the following fees and charges be and hereby are established:

Bonds; copies of records	\$25.00 / Copy
Public records; copies	\$25.00 / Copy
Certified copies	\$50.00 / Copy
Credit cards; surcharge/convenience fee	Refer to Passport Agreement
Dog licensing	\$5.00 / License
Dogs; duplicate tag	\$5.00 / License
Dogs; impoundment fee	Refer to Beatrice Humane Society Agreement
Dogs; daily board fee	Refer to Beatrice Humane Society Agreement
Kennel licensing fee	\$25.00
Special liquor license	\$40.00
Peddlers' and solicitors' permit	\$15.00/ Day or \$300.00/ Year
Occupation taxes	Refer to Ordinance 451
Cutting curb	Owner's Expense
Utility deposit	\$200.00
Utility late fee	\$20.00
Water; tap fee	Owner's Expense
Sewer; permit & inspection fee, res. or comm.	\$20.00
Sewer; permit & inspection fee, industrial	\$20.00
Sewer; tap fee	Owner's Expense
Building permit; standard	\$10.00
Building permit; after construction	\$40.00
Building moving permit; Bond	\$10K Bond
Camping Fees	\$15.00/ Day
Non-Sufficient Fund Return Fee	\$20.00
Mowing	\$100.00/ Hour with 1 Hour Minimum
Reconnect Fee for Non-Payment	\$60.00 During Business Hours
Reconnect Fee for Non-Payment	\$100.00 After Business Hours/Weekends/Holidays
Code Violations - Parking:	
Trailer Coach/Trailer/Camper /Converted Bus/Mobile Home	\$100.00 per Offense
Handicap Parking	\$100.00 per Offense/towed at Owner's expense
No Parking	\$100.00 per Offense/towed at Owner's expense

DATED this 20th day of June, 2024.

X Lyle Fink X Moria Holly
Lyle Fink, Chairman Moria Holly, Village Clerk

Notice of Filing Deadlines and Elections

General Election November 5, 2024

The vacancies listed below will be filled by election at the General Election and have a filing deadline of July 15th, 2024 for incumbents and August 1st, 2024 for new filers

Subdivision	Position	Number of Vacancies	Term of Office
Norris Public Power	District Board Member	1	6 years
ESU # 5 – Dist. 2	District Board Member	1	4 years
ESU # 6 – Dist. 4	District Board Member	1	4 years
Village of DeWitt	Board Trustee	2	4 years
Village of Dorchester	Board Members	2	4 years
Village of Swanton	Trustee	2	4 years
Village of Tobias	Trustee	2	4 years
Village of Western	Trustee	2	4 years
Southeast Com. College			
District 1	Board of Governors	1	4 years
At Large	Board of Governors	1	4 years
Lower Big Blue NRD			
Subdistrict 1	Board of Directors	1	4 years
Subdistrict 3	Board of Directors	1	4 years
Subdistrict 4	Board of Directors	1	4 years
Upper Big Blue NRD			
Subdistrict 3	Board of Directors	1	4 years

Diann Nettifee, County Clerk/Election Commissioner



JEFFREY CALHOUN/WR

Scout, (left) and Frank (right) sit in the lobby of Rose Refinery in Wilber.

Pups in strange places

Dogs are part of the everyday culture in several area businesses

BY JEFFREY CALHOUN
reporter@sewardindependent.com

Imagine this: you have just finished a long day of work and you just want the day to be over.

You are tired, spent, and just want to go home. But you still have some errands to run.

Begrudgingly, you start knocking errands off of your list. You pull up to your first stop, walk through the door, and a friendly dog walks up to you.

You lean down to pet it as it curls up into your arms, wagging its tail as you give it some attention.

Are you at a pet shop? The vet? An animal shelter? Nope, you are visiting a book store getting presents for your loved ones, or a spa looking to relax, or maybe even meeting with your attorney.

Across Seward and Saline counties, with a large number of local businesses, dogs hanging around in unorthodox places is not that uncommon of an occurrence.

"One of the advantages of being a small business owner is we can kind of set our own rules; wear jeans and boots around, and bring the dog to work," Saline County Attorney David Solheim said.

On most days, Solheim does bring his dog to work as his 14-year-old rescue dog, Dozo, tags along with him in the office.

Solheim and his fam-

ily moved to Crete seven years ago, and the decision to bring Dozo along came quickly after.

"He was having a hard time adjusting to his new house and would get barky and would be digging in the yard," Solheim said. "He was just missing us, and so if we brought him into the office, we could avoid some damage to the house."

But what started as just a way to make Dozo more comfortable turned into a way to provide comfort for clients, especially younger individuals.

"We have county attorney cases where we had child victims or child witnesses," Solheim said. "A lot of them feel more at ease with the dog here."

"There's a case that we're prosecuting now involving three young children who were victims and witnesses in this case. They're a family that has a lot of pets. When we met him here at the office and brought in Dozo, the tension just lifted."

For some other business owners, bringing their dog with them to work is more than just having a companion. Shaylene Smith in Crete has been working in dog rescue for around a decade, which has created deep ties with her law firm.

"My family has been involved in animal rescue in some way, shape or form for about 10 years," she said. "We didn't start out with the plan of having a companion animal or dog here, but we were rescuing pups that needed some extra attention."

It started off with a Samoyed named Keara that Smith had rescued

from South Korea that had some behavioral issues.

"I didn't want her at home with our other dogs until we knew how that was gonna go on and what (her behavior) looked like," Smith said. "So it started with Keara just coming down here with me those first few weeks and then people really enjoyed having her down here. So she came quite a bit."

Smith has rescued dogs from all over including in Nebraska, emergency vet surrenders and many more.

Her benefit of rescuing dogs reaches far beyond the ones she personally saves as she has spent time working as an advocate as well.

"The Humane Society of Nebraska has a lobby day every year where they have volunteers and people that are interested in pet welfare legislation, come in and talk to their senators," Smith said.

While not a rescue pup, dogs have been a staple in Carla Ketner's bookshop Chapters in Seward.

"We had a golden retriever here for several years and then when she died, it was pretty sad," Ketner said. "We had a lot of customers that would come in just to see her."

About five years after the passing of their first dog, Ketner decided to start bringing her son's dog in. Fabio, the nine-year-old chocolate lab has become a welcome addition to the employee base.

"People loved (our golden) so much that I thought it might be a good idea to do that again, but most of it is I feel bad leaving him by himself (at home) all day and if he can be here

with people, he's happy," Ketner said.

The people at Chapters also greatly enjoy having him around.

"Ninty-nine percent of people love seeing him and they want to give him love," Ketner said. "A lot of college kids come in to see him because they miss their pets and they want to get a little dog love."

Chapters is not the only retail shop in the area with fluffy friends running around, as Frank and Scout help to hold down the fort at Rose Refinery in Wilber.

Stephanie Krivohlavek adopted her Maltipoo Frank as a puppy and then quickly after that, adopted her giant schnauzer, Scout, from her brother.

Having her dogs in the refinery has impacted her business as she now sells toys and other products for dogs.

"A lot of our clients, the dogs are part of their family. The thing about me is if I find out something I like, I tell everyone about it," Krivohlavek said. "When I started finding this stuff (for Scout, customers) were like 'well where did you get it?' And I thought, 'then I'll just going to bring it in here and have it available.'"

Like all the other places, the dogs are a welcome guest for customers.

"People hang out with them while they're waiting for their appointment," Krivohlavek said. "Most clients love it."

So if you are in the area and are looking for a place to hang out with a sweet dog to brighten your mood, these businesses have just what you may need to bring your spirits up.

Planning can ease concerns about what happens to end of life wind turbines

Advances in technology and lower installation costs continue to contribute to the growth of wind electricity generation in the U.S., especially in rural areas.

According to a report from the U.S. Department of Energy and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the cost of installing wind turbines has fallen more than 40% since its peak in 2010. In 2022, wind energy provided 10% of total electricity nationwide. In Iowa, more than 60% of power comes from wind energy systems. Wind energy generates more than 40% of the power in South Dakota, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

"Wind energy development continues to bring numerous benefits to nearby communities, such as increased tax revenue, new job opportunities, and lease payments to landowners," said Cora Hoffer, policy associate with the Center for Rural Affairs. "Wind energy also provides a low-cost, reliable energy source for residents and businesses and makes a positive economic contribution by offsetting energy costs."

However, Hoffer said the increase in development raises questions about what happens to wind turbines when they reach the end of their operational lifespan.

The Center's new "Decommissioning Wind Energy Systems Resource Guide," written by Hoffer, outlines several management options to assist county officials, wind developers, and project owners working with the public and local government on a wind project.

Hoffer said there are several ways to address wind energy systems that have reached their operational lifespan, which is estimated between 25 and 40 years, and those no longer in active operation.

"Owners and developers may choose to fully decommission the project—which includes repurposing material, recycling, and disposing of wind turbines—or repowering the system to extend its life," Hoffer said. "While relatively few systems are decommissioned each year, state and county governing bodies should set decommissioning standards during the planning process. Landowners and developers may consider establishing additional requirements."

To read and download a copy of the Center's "Decommissioning Wind Energy Systems Resource Guide," visit cfra.org/decommissioning-wind-energy-systems.



AMY HAUSMAN/WR

Planning for when the sun sets on wind turbines can help owners and developers.

Dewitt Days 2024
SALUTE TO THE RED WHITE AND BLUE

Thursday, July 4th
Trap Shoot - Gun-Club 1 Mile East of Dewitt 11:00 AM

Friday, July 5th
Poker Run/Scavenger Hunt - Registration at 5-6:30 PM Starts at RJ's, awards at Red Zone

Saturday, July 6th
Lil Tugers Tractor Pull • Sand Volleyball • Free Swimming Firecracker Run • Cornhole • Chicken BBQ • Car Show Bounce Houses • Parade • Gigantic Firework Display Street Dance • "Hillbilly Deluxe" Live Band at RJ's Quilt Of Valor Presentation

Sunday, July 7th - Redneck Urban Golf

For a full schedule of events, visit our website and Facebook pages. www.dewitt.ne.gov
DeWitt Civic Board Homepage
Village of DeWitt, NE
Paid for in part by the Saline County Tourism Fund

CAR SHOW
Registration 9-noon!

LAND FOR SALE

<p>Wayne County Online Only Absolute Land Auction 80 +/- Acres of Dryland Cropland East of Wayne, Nebraska</p> <p>Bidding Opens June 24th Bidding Closes June 28th at 11:00 AM CDT</p>	<p>Saunders County Land for Sale 82.04 +/- Acres of Dryland Cropland 1.5 Miles East of Valparaiso</p>
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Register for the Auction at www.NextAgRealEstate.com

NextAg
Appraisal & Realty

Ethan Sorensen, Owner/Agent
www.NextAgRealEstate.com
402-380-0432

MY BAR

915 Main St.
Suite 10
Crete, NE

Mojo Filter
FRIDAY, JUNE 28
9:00 PM - 12:30 AM