

Off the press, out of order: Newspaper gets a Topsy-Turvy Makeover

BY KEVIN L. ZADINA
 kevinzadina@sewardindependent.com

Our Topsy Turvy edition is back to one week only, THAT IS ONE WEEK ONLY. This edition will feature advertising at the top of the page and our news coverage on the lower part of the page. You will find our pages have



Off the Top
 Kevin L. Zadina
 kevinzadina@sewardindependent.com

been rearranged, so will have to read through the entire newspaper for the pages you usually find in the same place.

Your eyes will go to the advertising first and easily read the stories from there. The Topsy Turvy edition is about flipping the content and having a little fun from the traditional newspaper layout.

We know from our feedback from last year, some readers thought it was clever and others hated it. We haven't gone to the extreme with placing pictures or stories sideways or upside down. This way the newspaper is still easy to navigate. This edition is about changing things up. Readers will probably find that they read more

articles and see more advertising than usual.

This year's edition will not turn you sideways or make you flip the paper, but it will change your routine. Again our Records pages and Opinion pages are not being tampered with.

This edition is a change—we want to get done with winter, we want to change seasons,

we have a new president, we've had zero degree days and now days over 50 degrees, looking for some rain toward the weekend. We always see changes, but Topsy Turvy is only one week, so have FUN.

Kevin L. Zadina, publisher, can be reached at kevinzadina@sewardindependent.com.



COURTESY PHOTO

Volunteers with Crete Area Medical Center Mandy Steuer and Julie Lacy, Blue River Arts Council members Kate Hesser and Kristi Capek and new BRAC Vice President Michael Stehlik volunteering together at the Isis Theatre over winter break. CAMC sponsored a free showing of "Elf" for the community.

Stepping into the spotlight

Michael Stehlik joins Blue River Arts Council board

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN
 scireporter@sewardindependent.com

Crete's Michael Stehlik has always loved the Isis Theatre.

Now, he has gone from slinging snacks as a concessions volunteer to the vice president of the Blue River Arts Council's Board of Directors.

Stehlik, the senior marketing brand strategist at Doane University, started regularly volunteering with concessions at the Isis Theatre shortly after it reopened last summer and was quickly promoted to team lead. The BRAC board mem-

"I'm really, really looking forward to fundraising opportunities, like gala-like opportunities, just ways to bring more people from the community into the theatre to see both movies and the arts. We have a lot of fun things planned. I don't want to spoil anything, but it's going to be an exciting year."

Michael Stehlik, vice president of the Blue River Arts Council's Board of Directors

bers saw his drive and passion for the theater and the arts in town and invited him to join the BRAC Board of Directors that November.

The BRAC, which runs the Isis Theatre and promotes local art, elected Stehlik as the 2025 vice president at its meeting in Decem-

ber. Stehlik will assume the role of president in 2026.

Growing up in Saline County, Stehlik has always enjoyed the arts and visited the Isis Theatre with his family often. He participated in theater while he was a student at

See STEHLIK page 16

A perfect pitch for retirement

Pryor, Homestead Harmonizers take Friend stage

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN
 scireporter@sewardindependent.com

For decades, Randy Pryor cultivated knowledge as a Saline County Extension educator.

Now, he's growing something entirely new: Harmonies. Although he is one of the Homestead Harmonizers' newest members, he is already set to take over as the group's president in 2026.

Pryor returned to Friend to perform with the Homestead Harmonizers at their concert Jan. 26 in the San Carlo Room. The Friend Historical Society collected free-will donations.

The Homestead Harmonizers, chartered in 1988, is a barbershop chorus of about 40 men from



Randy Pryor

southeast Nebraska and northeast Kansas and is a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society. It has received several state and national honors and once performed the

National Anthem at a Chicago Cubs game.

The nonprofit group, which also offers a \$500 scholarship to any high school senior with a music major, sings various songs, including Western songs, Christmas songs, Frank Sinatra songs and more.

Pryor grew up in Nemaha, got his bachelor's and Master's degrees at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, moved to Wilber and became an Extension educator for Saline County. He said he loved his job and the people he got to work with made it an enjoyable 38-year career.

Three years ago, Pryor retired and moved to Lincoln.

He was always fond of music and performed at various times in his life. He played the trumpet in the UNL Marching Band while he was a student and later cantered alongside his wife who played piano and

See PRYOR page 16



COURTESY IMAGE

Above is a rendering of the newly approved Crete High School Athletic Complex, which will begin construction of phase 1 in June 2025.

CHS athletic complex plan takes shape

Phase 1 to begin in June

BY JOSIE GOLKA
 For the Crete News

Crete High School will see a chain of upgrades and new facilities over the coming years with the Crete Board of Education's new athletic complex design partnership with Mammoth Athletic Construction.

The initial project plan, proposed to the board earlier this month, includes \$2 million in upgrades to the CHS athletic facilities by September 2025. The project, broken up into three phases, will begin with Phase 1 this year, with Phases 2 and 3 to be added in coming years.

Dr. Josh McDowell, superintendent of Crete Public Schools, said the project will be a great way to unite students, families and communities.

"I want the community to be excited about what this can be," McDowell said. "It's an opportunity to bring the community together around a facility and a space for everybody to use, and I think it just greatly enhances our kids' experience in Crete."

Phase 1, which is set to begin in June of 2025, will add 1600-person bleachers into the hill by the football field, a press box, stadium lighting, track striping, a scoreboard, sidewalks and a 190-spot gravel parking lot behind the tennis courts.

The project is more than four years in the making, McDowell said. The board looked into upgrades a few years ago, but couldn't get on board with the cost estimate and decided to keep the project in their back pocket, McDowell said.

Now, with the right cost and partner, they are ready to start.

"It's been a long process, but it's been the right process," McDowell said. "This isn't something that the board jumped into, it's been on the agenda for four-plus years now."

The project's cost estimates lay around \$2 million for Phase 1, \$3 million for Phase 2, and \$2-3.5 million for Phase 3. McDowell said he feels confident the price of the project will remain in the projected range and hopes to come in under budget.

As for Phase 2 and 3, which would add upgrades to the tennis courts, home locker rooms, concessions, restrooms, a community pavilion, an indoor multipurpose facility and a baseball field, McDowell said those plans are in the back pocket – for now.

The board is looking into starting a capitol campaign and open to getting community sponsors for the project to help fund it and speed up the process. McDowell said the board is prioritizing keeping the property tax levy where it is over speeding up the project.

"The board and I are committed to doing it fiscally responsible," McDowell said. "We're doing everything that we can to keep the levy, utilize the building fund and then explore other options, like a capital campaign, just honoring and being respectful of taxpayer dollars."

McDowell said the project opens doors for CHS to

See COMPLEX page 12

Transparency in local government

When the board thinks it knows better than its lawyer

BY AMY HAUSMAN
amy@friendsentinel.com



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

Transparency is a beautiful thing – unless, of course, you're a local government trying to have a private chat about "sensitive matters" while your lawyer furiously waves a stack of statutes like an overworked referee.

I learned this the hard way at the last board of commissioners meeting, where our elected officials agenda decided to march boldly into an executive session, ignoring both legal advice and common sense.

Watching the drama unfold was like witnessing someone ignore their GPS, drive into a lake and then insist it was a shortcut.

Here's the setup: The meeting began with the usual formalities – roll call, approving last month's minutes and approval of claims. But things took a turn when the board reached an agenda item to go into executive session to interview candidates for the planning and zoning commission.

Mind you, this group is generally picked by the incoming BOC, not the existing one with exiting members.

The county attorney – a patient person who I imagine keeps a stress ball in every desk drawer – politely explained why moving into an executive session wasn't legally justified. He questioned the commissioners on what kind of questions were going to be asked of the

the legal advice were best applicable to them, and that the county attorney's warning of transparency was a suggestion and not a requirement.

It was not a rainy day but ominous thunderclaps echoed in the background of the courthouse meeting room.

The board did reconvene and performed the interviews in open session, but elected not to stream live on Facebook. Each candidate was called before the board individually, and out of respect for the others being considered, the candidates would come before the board of commissioners one by one to be asked to tell the board about themselves.

I stayed in the room and heard each person explain in their own words who they are. After the final candidate shared their story, the BOC went off into executive session, leaving the one candidate who cared to hear the results in person and I to sit awkwardly in the hallway.

When the board finally returned, the meeting ended faster than a middle school dodgeball game. They announced they actually voted in closed session, did not share the number of votes each candidate received and adjourned so quickly that the lights may as well have been turned off.

Not quite what they were advised to do.

Here's the thing: Executive sessions are supposed to be used sparingly and for specific, legally justifiable reasons – things like personnel

matters or pending litigation – and not like voting. They're not meant to be a convenient way to avoid public scrutiny or dodge uncomfortable questions.

When a board ignores legal advice to close a meeting, they're not just risking a slap on the wrist, they're undermining public trust.

And trust, as any politician should know, is hard to earn and easy to lose. When a board skirts transparency, it fuels suspicion, gossip and conspiracy theories. Did they approve a shady contract? Are they secretly renaming the park after someone's pet hamster?

We may never know, but the damage to their credibility is done.

So, here's my plea to local governments everywhere: Listen to your attorneys. They're there to keep you out of trouble, not to ruin your fun. Transparency isn't just a legal requirement, it's a commitment to the people you serve.

If you're doing something you wouldn't want your constituents to know about, maybe it's not the best idea.

And for the love of democracy, if you're going to break the rules, at least have the decency to provide snacks while we're waiting in the hallway. Some of us did not have time to grab lunch. The only thing worse than being left in the dark is being left in the dark and hungry.

I wish it was as easy for me to ignore my growling tummy as it is for them to ignore their lawyer.

candidates that could not be done in open session and reminded the board of open meetings laws.

In response, the county attorney was asked to skip district court that afternoon to be present and just explain to the judge (and all of the defense attorneys, accused and sheriff deputies arranging transportation) that these planning and zoning interviews were more important.

It may have been said in jest, but in my opinion, a slightly simpler route may be to just take his straightforward legal advice which was:

Hold the planning and zoning interviews in open session. Go into the executive session to discuss the candidates, RETURN to open session and then vote.

Due to the time in the day, the board recessed and then returned at 1 p.m. to conduct their interviews of the applicants. Board member Stephahné Krivohavek could not return because of a previously scheduled matter.

But somewhere during lunch, the board must have decided they could cherry pick what parts of

Avoid temptation and stay close to the scripture

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



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

I found this story in a Catholic Church newsletter: The children were lined up in the cafeteria of a Catholic elementary school for lunch. At the head of the table was a large pile of apples.

A nun made a note and posted it on the apple tray: "Take only ONE, God is watching."

Moving further along the lunch line, at the other end of the table was a large pile of chocolate chip cookies. A child had written a note, "Take all you want, God is watching the apples."

I used that story to introduce the subject of Temptation. I often jokingly say, "I can withstand anything but temptation." I imagine a lot of us feel that way sometimes.

Even Jesus struggled with temptation. Right after Jesus began his ministry of teaching, preaching and healing; Jesus faced strong temptations from the devil. Jesus was driven out into the wilderness by the Spirit, after his baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River.

Jesus fasted 40 days and nights and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and tempted Jesus to turn the stones into bread. Jesus answered with the word of God, "It is written, 'one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took Jesus to the pinnacle of the temple and suggested Jesus throw himself down and let the angels catch him. The devil even quoted scripture about

it. Again Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

And finally, the devil tempted Jesus with the power to rule the kingdoms of the world but Jesus resisted.

I'm glad to know that Jesus had to struggle like the rest of us. I think it was a real temptation.

It wasn't just nothing for Jesus to resist some pretty great temptations. We all encounter many temptations. Youth nowadays struggle with a lot of temptations that folks in my generation didn't have to deal with.

God will help us to overcome temptations if we ask for help. It's not easy to overcome all our temptations all the time. Doing the right thing is difficult. It's easy to rationalize cheating on your taxes because of lots of reasons – the taxes are too high, the government has lots of money, etc...

Staying honest is a challenge but I believe there is divine help to stay true to ourselves and our Lord. Lots of times it's easier to take only one apple than to take only one cookie.

Prayer: *Our Lord, this world seems to be full of temptations at every turn. Help us to follow the example of Jesus and stay close to the scripture. Amen.*

Have a plan in place for the unexpected

BY JENNY BRHEL

Seward/York counties Extension educator



UNL Extension
Jenny Brhel
jrees2@unl.edu

Last Tuesday night was our first Farm Succession Program "Leaving a Lasting Legacy."

That night was an incredibly impactful night for me. We heard from two women who became widows in their 30's with young children. They were incredibly courageous in sharing their stories of loss, grief, difficulty navigating bills and decisions, etc.

I left that night with so much on my mind. My husband and I have talked much since then. I've also shared with my siblings as we talked through how would our next of kin be able to navigate our accounts, passwords, etc. if something would happen to us.

The ladies shared several things that I felt would be beneficial to all for me to share here.

- At minimum, have a will in place that shares your desires for who receives your belongings, guardians for your children, etc.

- All vehicles and property should be listed as "joint tenancy with right of survivorship".

- Both widows nearly dealt with probate. One widow lost both her father and husband in a plane crash and both were part of the family dairy business. The trust had been started but never completed by the father. They were able to avoid probate on the things the father had

in the part of the estate plan written down but are still paying hefty fees on the parts that weren't written in order to keep the family business. She emphasized the importance of finishing estate plans. Then review them every two-three years.

- In the case of the other widow, the husband had an off-farm job as a life insurance agent in addition to the farm. She shared the blessing of how well he provided for her by having such a large life insurance policy that helped her pay off debt and keep/manage the farm while raising her children at home.

- All accounts need to have both people listed. For example, the family phone plan was listed under the husband. She wasn't able to access it with the phone company since she wasn't listed and had to start over with new phones and accounts.

- The husband's work email was used for several accounts at home (electric, heat, etc.). When

he passed, his email was discontinued and the wife had no access to the accounts, nor was she listed on them. They both shared the difficulty paying bills and keeping their homes because they weren't listed on accounts, on top of the immense grief they experienced.

- Ensure all account usernames and passwords are in a place where your next of kin can access them. There are tools for this including Nokboxes from Dave Ramsey.

- Medical: Many lawyers have templates for this, but if not, one document tool (paper or digital) you can use is from 5 Wishes. One wife whose husband was non-responsive had no idea if he would want experimental drugs used, if he wanted to be on dialysis for the rest of his life, and then if he wanted to remain on life support. She shared how having to make those decisions for him still haunts her, especially discontinuing life support.

There's so much more I could share. Life is so short. Tomorrow, our next moments, nothing is guaranteed. My hope is that this column creates conversations amongst loved ones. Do you and your spouse/next of kin have a will in place? Do you have access to each others' bank accounts, have a place where usernames/passwords are stored, have the names necessary on all accounts?

More information on upcoming meetings is available at <https://wia.unl.edu/succession25/>.



Letters to the editor

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

STAFF DIRECTORY

Kevin L. Zadina, publisher/owner.....kevinzadina@sewardindependent.com
 Amy Hausman, saline county editor.....amy@friendsentinel.com
 Stephanie Croston, seward county editor.....scroston@sewardindependent.com
 Alejandra Fernandez, reporter.....reporter2@sewardindependent.com
 Brittney Needham, reporter.....reporter11@sewardindependent.com
 Craig Jones, reporter.....craig@sewardindependent.com
 Hanna Christensen, reporter.....scireporter@sewardindependent.com
 Keaton Burgess, reporter.....reporter@sewardindependent.com
 Melanie Leitz, page designer.....designer@sewardindependent.com
 Kaitlyn Dallmann, marketing director.....kaitlyn@sewardindependent.com
 Paula Miller, multi-media sales executive.....paula@sewardindependent.com
 Sharon Hartshorn, marketing sales executive.....sharon@sewardindependent.com
 Hayli Frosheiser, graphic designer.....creative@sewardindependent.com
 Kennedy Goldsmith, graphic designer.....kennedy@sewardindependent.com
 Pam Callahan, crete office manager.....creteofficemgr@gmail.com
 Jade Elder, circulation/office assistant.....jade@sewardindependent.com
 Sarah Stinson, legal notices/bookkeeping.....office@sewardindependent.com
 Bill Gadberr, distribution



The Crete News

1201 Linden Ave. • P.O. Box 40 • Crete, NE 68333
402-826-2147
www.cretenews.com

USPS 137-860

Postage paid at Crete, NE 68333

Published once a week

Owned by Sweet Tea Media, LLC

SUBSCRIPTIONS

\$38.00
Statewide

\$48.00
Out of State

Call for additional subscription pricing

A weekly newspaper published each Wednesday at 1201 Linden Ave., Crete, NE 68333 by Sweet Tea Media, LLC. Periodical postage paid at Crete, NE. Postmaster send changes of address to P.O. Box 40, Crete, NE 68333.

E-mail the ad dept. at sharon@sewardindependent.com, the circulation dept. at creteofficemgr@gmail.com. For news content, please contact the editor via email.

Office hours Monday–Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Normal deadline is noon Friday.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIM WOODS

Elena Olague Martinez works for a takedown against Omaha Bryan.

Lady wrestlers win lone meet on week

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Crete girls' wrestling team only had one meet on the schedule for the week and it proved to be good for the Cardinals as Crete came out with energy and intensity according to coach Jeff Steele and won the meet at Louisville on Jan. 24.

"The team had a nice week of practice," Steele said. "I think the restful week helped us during our tournament in Louisville."

Crete had three individual champions, one runner up and two third place finishers. Kelsey Talkington at 135, Trinity

Williamson at 130 and Adriana Gomez were the three champs, with Williamson pinning all three of her opponents, Talkington winning two by pin and one by technical fall and Gomez pinning all four of her opponents.

Addison Woods was the runner up at 105, defeating Elizabeth Juan Lucas of Omaha North by pin and moving past Payton Thiele of Louisville due to medical forfeit, but couldn't quite get past Alejandra Reyes of Johnson County Central as Woods lost by pin.

Ruby VanHorn at 115 and Jennifer Cervantes Mendoza at 155 placed

third for the Cardinals, with Mendoza going 3-2 at the tournament with all three of her wins coming by pin and VanHorn winning three on the day, two of those coming by pin.

"The girls brought more energy and intensity which resulted in some quality wins," Steele said. "A team championship is always a good way to end the week and will help motivate our wrestlers to finish the season strong going into the postseason."

Crete is now off until Saturday, Feb. 1, when the Cardinals will host the Central Conference Tournament. The tournament starts at 9:30 a.m.



KEATON BURGESS/CN

Camry Draeger of Crete avoids defenders as she drives the lane and makes the layup against Blair on Jan. 23.

Cardinals drop games to Blair, Elkhorn

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Crete girls' basketball team gave good efforts in a 54-37 loss to Blair on Jan. 23 and a 56-26 loss to Elkhorn on Jan. 25.

Blair jumped out to a fast start, leading 20-8 at the end of the first quarter.

"Blair is a team that can really shoot it from the outside," Coach Britt Ehlers said.

The second quarter ended up being more of a defensive battle, with Blair outscoring the Cardinals 9-3 to take a 29-11 lead into the half.

"We modified a few things that we were trying to do to limit their scoring outside and did a decent job of it," Ehlers said. "However, we really struggled to score against their zone and had a tough time keeping the game within reach."

The second half went better for Crete as they went step for step with Blair, but could never score enough to get back in the game.

Camry Draeger led the Cardinals with 10 points followed by Sierra Crist with

nine points and Kassidy Egge with eight. Egge had nine rebounds.

Against Elkhorn, the Antlers jumped out to an early lead on the Cards, leading 24-10 at halftime and continued to roll from there.

"Elkhorn is a senior-heavy team that plays really hard," Ehlers said. "They did a good job jumping on us early and causing issues for us scoring."

The third quarter proved to be the nail in the coffin with Elkhorn putting the game out of reach, outscoring Crete 18-4. Crete fought back in the fourth quarter, scoring 12 to Elkhorn's 14.

"We could never get a flow going against them, despite the fact that our players played exceptionally hard throughout the game," Ehlers said. "Sometimes you just have those days where things don't go your way, and Saturday was one of those days."

Egge led the Cardinals with nine points and Draeger scored eight.

Crete (5-9) was scheduled to play in the Central Conference tournament. Crete is a five seed and was scheduled to play at Adams Central on Jan. 28.



KEATON BURGESS/CN

Kenson Spence of Crete gets the steal and makes the layup against Blair on Jan. 23.

Cards get by Blair, lose to Elkhorn on the road

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Crete boys' basketball team was in a battle for every second in every game this week as the Cards earned a 67-55 win over Blair on Jan. 23, but lost a close 58-53 game against Elkhorn on Jan. 25.

Against Blair, Crete led 29-9 midway through the second quarter, but Blair went on a 9-0 run at the end of the quarter to cut Crete's lead to 29-18 at halftime.

Both teams found their offense in the third quarter as Crete outscored Blair 20-19 to take a 49-37 lead into the fourth quarter.

Blair brought the game back to single digits at times, but Crete did enough to extend its lead back to 12 and win the game.

"We got off to a good start against Blair and maintained our lead," Coach Tony Siske said. "We came out a little slow on offense but our defense was able to allow us to get the lead once we got going offensively. In the second half, the pace of the game really picked up. It was a good win for us."

Carter Rezny led the Cardinals with 25 points and Justus Gardiner scored 20.

Crete looked to extend its winning streak against a previously 5-7 Elkhorn team, but a strong second half from the Antlers sent Crete home with a loss.

The Cardinals trailed 13-12 at the end of the first quarter, but a strong offensive performance in the second quarter



KEATON BURGESS/CN

Justus Gardiner of Crete takes and makes the three against Blair on Jan. 23.

from Crete resulted in the Cards outscoring Elkhorn 21-13 to take a 33-26 lead into halftime.

After halftime, it was all Elkhorn as the Antlers outscored Crete 12-8 in the third and 20-12 in the fourth to upset the Cardinals.

"The Elkhorn game was back and forth and unfortunately they made the last run," Siske said. "We weren't quite as crisp as we needed to be and made a couple mental mistakes that

really cost us. We need to learn from that game and move forward."

Rezny led Crete with 24 points and Gardiner scored 16.

Crete (11-3) is scheduled to play in the Central Conference tournament. Crete is the second seed and was scheduled to host York in the first round on Jan. 28. The second round of the tournament is scheduled to be played at Adams Central and the final round at Columbus Lakeview.

Cornejo finishes second at Thayer Central

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Dorchester girls' wrestling team traveled to Thayer Central on Jan. 23 and saw one girl finish in the standings.

Isabella Cornejo was the lone Longhorn to earn a medal, placing second at 110, pinning her first two opponents, Olivia McBride of Sandy Creek and Presleann Kerr of Red Cloud/Blue

Hill, but lost the championship match to Regan Kapke of Fairbury.

AyLynn Schwisow was the other Longhorn at the Invite to pick up a win, defeating Olivia Minary of Southwest by pin at 190. Briana Tellez went 0-2 at 115 and Emilia Perez went 0-2 at 140.

Dorchester is scheduled to wrestle at Raymond Central on Friday, Jan. 31, starting at 2 p.m.

FIND US ON

facebook

CN

The Crete News

402-826-2147
1201 Linden Ave
P.O. Box 40
Crete, NE 68333

Shots from the area



Kassidy Egge of Crete drives the baseline against Blair on Jan. 23.

KEATON BURGESS/CN



Livia Schweitzer of Dorchester drives the lane and eventually draws the foul on a layup on Jan. 21.

KEATON BURGESS/CN



Kyler Sladek of EMF tries to escape her opponent's hold at the Centennial Invitational Jan. 25.

STEPHANIE CROSTON/CN



Faith Klabenes of Wilber-Clatonia looks for an opening against her opponent from Sandy Creek Jan. 25 at the Centennial Invitational.

STEPHANIE CROSTON/CN



Branding solutions to help your business thrive.

From digital strategies, to promotional print items, to traditional newspaper ads, to practical print products, and logo & branding options.

Sweet Success Starts Here

**Call today to get started!
402-643-3678**

SIDELINE SUMMARY

This week in sports...

CRETE

Girls' Basketball

The Crete girls' basketball team gave good efforts in a 54-37 loss to Blair on Jan. 23 and a 56-26 loss to Elkhorn on Jan. 25.

Boys' Basketball

The Crete boys' basketball team was in a battle for every second in every game this week as the Cards earned a 67-55 win over Blair on Jan. 23, but lost a close 58-53 game against Elkhorn on Jan. 25.

Girls' Wrestling

The Crete girls' wrestling team only had one meet on the schedule for the week and it proved to be good for the Cardinals as Crete came out with energy and intensity according to coach Jeff Steele and won the meet at Louisville on Jan. 24.

Boys' Wrestling

The Crete boys' wrestling team continues to work to get healthy as the Cardinals sent a different looking team to a dual in Norris on Jan. 23 and to the David City Invite on Jan. 24. Crete lost the dual 41-40 and placed ninth as a team at DC.

DORCHESTER

Girls' Basketball

The Dorchester girls' basketball team knew it was going to be a tough game against a good Cross County team, but the Longhorns couldn't get past the Cougars, losing 58-35 on Jan. 21. Dorchester bounced back nicely and defeated Shelby-Rising City 40-28 on Jan. 23.

Boys' Basketball

The Dorchester boys' basketball team dropped its three games it played on the week including a 66-6 loss to Cross County on Jan. 21, a 62-27 loss to Shelby-Rising City on Jan. 23 and a 76-27 loss to Osceola in the first round of the Crossroads Conference tournament on Jan. 25.

Girls' Wrestling

The Dorchester girls' wrestling team traveled to Thayer Central on Jan. 23 and saw one girl finish in the standings. Isabella Cornejo was the lone Longhorn to earn a medal, placing second at 110, pinning her first two opponents, Olivia McBride of Sandy Creek and Presleann Kerr of Red Cloud/Blue Hill, but lost the championship match to Regan Kapke of Fairbury.

EXETER-MILLIGAN-FRIEND

Girls' Basketball

It was a tough week for the EMF girls' basketball team. The Bobcats lost to Thayer Central 44-14 Jan. 21 and to Johnson-Brock 62-22 Jan. 24. Taylin Schluter led the team in scoring both games, putting up 10 against JB.

Boys' Basketball

The EMF boys' basketball team defeated Thayer Central 56-43 Jan. 21 and lost to Johnson-Brock 65-52 Jan. 24, the second time the teams had met in a week. Grady Bresson scored 23 and Zach Vossler 20 in the win over Thayer Central. Bresson put up 24 and Vossler 11 against Johnson-Brock.

Girls' Wrestling

The EMF girls' wrestlers were at Thayer Central Jan. 23 and at Centennial Jan. 25 and won two medals. Kyler Sladek placed fourth in both tournaments at 120 pounds.

Boys' Wrestling

EMF's boys' wrestling team was at Thayer Central Jan. 24 and brought home three individual medals. Dayton Kremer finished third at 165 pounds, and Hunter Svehla was fourth at 190 pounds. Gabriel Covarrubias won the 175 B bracket with a 3-0 day.



TRI COUNTY

Girls' Basketball

The Tri County girls' basketball team went 1-1 in its games last week, falling to Elmwood-Murdock 50-42 Jan. 21 and beating Centennial 51-36 Jan. 25. Isabelle Peters led the team in both games with 17 points against EM and 15 against Centennial. Meila Gronemeyer added 11 against EM, and Macey Gronemeyer put up 12 against CHS.

Boys' Basketball

The Tri County boys' basketball team couldn't hold off a fourth-quarter rally by Elmwood-Murdock Jan. 21, losing 56-54. Drew Siems scored 16 and Jason Wehrman 12 for the Trojans.

Wrestling

Tri County's wrestlers beat Southern 52-25 in a dual Jan. 23, then competed at Thayer Central Jan. 24. Cooper Stokebrand took first at 215 pounds to lead the Trojans. Riley Kopf was second at 165, Jason Sullivan finished third at 113, and Henry Holtmeir was fourth at 132.

WILBER-CLATONIA

Girls' Basketball

The Wilber-Clatonia girls' basketball team dropped its three games last week, falling to Centennial 59-18 Jan. 21, to Freeman 63-27 Jan. 23 and to Auburn 52-32 Jan. 25.

Boys' Basketball

The Wilber-Clatonia boys' basketball team played two tough opponents last week and lost to both, falling to Freeman 62-32 Jan. 23 and to Auburn 48-37 Jan. 25. Aiden Zajicek scored 23 to lead WC against Freeman and 12 to pace the Wolverines against Auburn. Jameson Conway added 10 against the Bulldogs.

Girls' Wrestling

The WCHS girls' wrestling team had two tournaments last week and wrestled well at both. Faith Klabenes won the 190-pound bracket at Thayer Central Jan. 23 and finished third at Centennial Jan. 25. Matilda Koll placed fourth at 135 pounds at Centennial.

Boys' Wrestling

The WC boys' wrestling team had a great day at Thayer Central Jan. 24. Zaiyahn Ornelas (120), Grant Eschiti (132), Logan Zimmerman (144) and Iverson Mejia (150) were champions at their weights, with Ty Roesner (157) finishing second. Ryan Marsh placed third at 138.



KEATON BURGESS/CN

Gabby Theis of Dorchester fights through contact and draws the foul against Cross County on Jan. 21.

Longhorns lose first of season, bounce back with win

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Dorchester girls' basketball team knew it was going to be a tough game against a good Cross County team, but the Longhorns couldn't get past the Cougars, losing 58-35 on Jan. 21. Dorchester bounced back nicely and defeated Shelby-Rising City 40-28 on Jan. 23.

Against Cross County, Dorchester was down Baylor Behrens, which made the game even tougher.

In the first half, Dorchester kept the game close, trailing 21-14 at halftime, but the third quarter ended up being impactful as the Cougars outscored Dorchester 20-8.

"They are a solid team and very disciplined in everything they do," Coach Brandon Bruha said. "We stayed with them in the first half and fought well I thought. Then in the second half they wore us down in the third quarter and stretched their lead



KEATON BURGESS/CN

Atley Zoubek of Dorchester lines up a three point shot against Cross County on Jan. 21.

so far we couldn't fight our way back."

Gabby Theis led the Longhorns with 14 points and Bailey Theis scored

nine.

Against SRC, Dorchester had big first and third quarters, outscoring the Huskies 29-2. SRC won

the second and fourth quarters, but it wasn't enough.

"Our girls did exactly what they needed to do to get the win," Bruha said. "We did a good job of controlling their best player and limiting her points. We knew that was going to be hard to do but Livia Schweitzer and Mackenzie Yager did a good job locking her down and holding her to 12 points on the night."

Gabby Theis led with 17 points followed by Bailey Theis with 15.

Dorchester (13-1) is set to play in the Crossroads Conference tournament this week. The Longhorns were scheduled to play at York University in the second round of the tournament against Twin River.

Bruha said he hopes Behrens can return sometime this upcoming week.

"We have done a good job of managing without her," Bruha said. "Our players have stepped up into some roles that they are not used to and have done a great job."

Cards fall in close dual with Norris, send small team to David City

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Crete boys' wrestling team continues to work to get healthy as the Cardinals sent a different looking team to a dual in Norris on Jan. 23 and to the David City Invite on Jan. 24.

"Hopefully, having the full weekend off to rest and recover will give our guys some renewed excitement going into a big couple of weeks," Coach Aaron Wagoner said.

At Norris, Crete did a nice job from the 106-144 weight classes, as the Cardinals went 6-1 with wins from Alex Bernabe at 106, Juan Tercero-Rafael at 113, Greyer Slevin at 120 by pin, Eduard Valle at 126, Trinidad Sanchez at 132 by pin and Lyle VanHorn at 144 by pin. After the 144 class, only one win was picked up, Ashton Sundling at 165 by pin, which gave Norris the win.

"This was a tough one to lose. We were in control up through the 144 pound class," Wagoner said. "Norris is a very good team from 150 and up, but we had some opportunities for guys to step in and help their team, simply by not getting pinned, and we weren't able to do it. We've had lots of move-

ment and injuries at the 150 and 157 weights recently, and this dual really exposed that inexperience."

At the David City Invite, Wagoner said because of injuries, Crete only took eight wrestlers to the meet. Despite the low number, the Cardinals still placed ninth out of 15 teams and had two wrestlers finish within the top four.

Sundling was the runner-up at 165, picking up four pins and getting pinned in the final seconds in the championship match. VanHorn was fourth at 144, picking up three wins to start the day, but then losing his last two. Slevin picked up a fifth-place finish at 120, going 2-2 in contested matches.

"This is a great tournament where we see some different teams than we normally would from all classes," Wagoner said. "Lyle VanHorn and Ashton Sundling are really wrestling well as we head into the most important time of our season."

Crete is scheduled to host a triangular with Tri County and Wilber-Clatonia on Thursday, Jan. 30, starting at 5:30 p.m., and is set to host the Central Conference Tournament on Saturday, Feb. 1, starting at 9:30 a.m.



KEATON BURGESS/CN

Owen Vyhnalek of Dorchester makes a no look pass against Cross County on Jan. 21.

Tigers post solid results at CUNE

Doane Track and Field competed at the Concordia Classic in Seward.

On the track, Neryah Hekl placed second in the 60m dash with a time of 7.72. She posted a time of 7.70 in the prelims. Katie Vogt won the 400m by clocking a time of 58.42. Chaney Nelson finished fourth in the 600m with a time of 1:40.45. In the 800m, Marissa Miles placed seventh with a time of 2:34.23.

Danie Parriott took fifth in the 1000m as she ran a time of 3:10.54. Maddy Ramey finished the mile run in 5:43.04 to place 20th. Mackenzie Lippold finished in ninth place in the 3000m with a time of 11:16.23. In the 5000m, Alison Bradford placed third with a time of 19:58.49.

In the field events, Katelynn Kratz placed seventh in the high jump with a clearance of 1.55m (5-01.00). Kyra Bowen placed ninth in the long jump with a mark of 5.04m (16-06.50). Abby Rehtus placed 12th in the triple jump by leaping to a mark of 10.02m (32-10.50).

Grace Dean won the unseeded shot put with a throw of 12.97m (42-06.75). Delaney Burge took fifth in the seeded shot put with a mark of 12.74m (41-09.75). Alyvia



KEATON BURGESS/CN

Neryah Hekl takes second place in the women's 60m dash at the Concordia Classic on Jan. 25.

Thomas was seventh in the unseeded women's

weight throw with a mark of 14.29m (46-10.75).

Longhorns drop two, lose first round of conference tournament

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Dorchester boys' basketball team dropped its three games it played on the week including a 66-6 loss to Cross County on Jan. 21, a 62-27 loss to Shelby-Rising City on Jan. 23 and a 76-27 loss to Osceola in the first round of the Crossroads Conference tournament on Jan. 25.

Against Cross County, the Cougars had a height advantage that gave the Longhorns trouble. Max Novak knocked down a three point shot to give Dorchester its only three points heading into halftime.

"It was extremely tough to get the ball to where we wanted on the floor," Coach Corey Bird said. "We had a hard time being able to handle the pressure throughout the game in general. It was a difficult match up for us as we needed more height to be able to do the things we wanted to

do."

Against SRC, Dorchester had a better time on offense, but still couldn't slow down the Huskies on defense.

"We were a little bit more relaxed and let things happen later in the game, but by that time we were too far behind to make a difference in the overall matchup," Bird said.

Against Osceola, Bird said the Longhorns did a much better job of playing freely and finding cutting lanes.

"I was proud of the way we responded after we had to shake up the starting lineup right before the game," Bird said. "We had some guys step up and make more shots, and shoot with more confidence as we played during the game. We will continue working hard and putting ourselves in the best positions we can to win games."

Dorchester (1-14) was scheduled to play Meridian as part of the CRC tournament on Jan. 27.

SEE AMERICA Go on tour.

Time is Running Out!
Join the **SOUTHERN DELIGHTS Tour**
April 3-12, 2025

Vicksburg National Military Park, Natchez City Tour, McGee's Landing Swamp Tour, Conrad Rice Mill, New Orleans School of Cooking, New Orleans Tour and more!

Reserve Your Place Today!
Reward Yourself with These Warm Spring Getaways:

- Savannah & Charleston
March 18-27, 2025
- Virginia Beaches & Boardwalks
April 26-May 2, 2025
- FIESTA San Antonio
April 28-May 5, 2025

SAVE! Book by Feb. 14, 2025:

- Spring Mystery Tour
May 6-11, 2025
- Orange City Tulip Festival
May 15-17, 2025
- Mackinac Island Lilacs
June 6-13, 2025
- Ark Encounter & KY Pathways
June 17-23, 2025
- Yellowstone Park/Grand Tetons
June 19-26 OR June 23-30, 2025

See ALL tours at RideWithAllied.com

ALLIED tour&travel 1-800-672-1009
Call for a FREE tour catalog!

NEBRASKA BUILDERS HOME & GARDEN SHOW

FEBRUARY 7-9
FRI 12p-8p | SAT 10a-8p | SUN 10a-3p

Brought to you by **HBAL**
Home Builders Association of Lincoln

ADMISSION
\$10 for adults
FREE for children 12 & under

Sandhills Global EVENT CENTER
84th & Havelock
Lincoln, NE

For more info, visit www.HBAL.org



NextAg Appraisal & Realty

What our clients say:

“For appraisals, real estate sales, or farm management, Ethan Sorensen is the go-to — thorough, fast, and great at keeping you informed every step of the way.”

Competent. Comprehensive. Communicative.

We go above and beyond for our clients, producing timely and detailed appraisals.

Ethan Sorensen | Owner
(402) 380-0432
nextagrealstate.com
info@nextagrealstate.com



Tigers place third at Missouri Valley Invite

Men's Wrestling competed at the Missouri Valley Invite on Friday and Saturday in Marshall, Missouri. The Tigers had five wrestlers earn Top 8 finishes as the team walked away with a third place finish, their best placement at the meet.

Hunter Bennett competed for the Tigers at 125 and finished in second place. He opened the tournament with a pin over Daniel Glenn (Oklahoma Wesleyan) in 4:11. In his next match, Bennett defeated NAIA No. 24 Robert Albert (Missouri Valley) by major decision, 17-4. He advanced to the second day of action with a 10-7 win over Thomas Zielinski (Cornerstone) in the quarterfinals. On Saturday, Bennett defeated No. 18 Kolten Powers (Montana State-Northern) by decision, 7-6. He dropped his match in the finals to No. 15 Allen Calderon (Indiana Tech) by tech fall, 21-5.

Brian Peck also competed at 125 and went 2-2. He opened with a pin in 1:11 over Zach Lewis (Midway). NAIA No. 10 Brody Gee (Saint Mary, KS) won the next match by pin in 1:34. Peck moved into Saturday's action with a forfeit win over Nolan McDowell (Siena Heights). On the second day, Brodie Christmas (Southeastern) defeated Peck by major decision, 18-8.

In the 133 bracket, Matthew Terrence placed third overall. He opened

action with a pin over Gabriel Garcia (Wayland Baptist) in 4:32. Adonis Boyd (Cumberlands, Ky.) knocked off Terrence in the next match with a pin in 1:37. A medical forfeit win over Grant Wells (Concordia) moved Terrence into the second day of action. On Saturday, he faced off against teammate Anthony Harris, winning by a 6-0 decision. Terrence followed with a pin of NAIA No. 18 Dillon Witt (Missouri Baptist) in 6:18 and a pin over Jason Ramirez (Arizona Christian) in 3:47. A rematch with Boyd took place in the consolation semifinals and Terrence fell behind 7-0 after the first period. However, he racked up 23 unanswered points on his way to a 23-7 tech fall win over Boyd. In the final match, Terrence defeated No. 19 Daryl Mills (Missouri Baptist) by decision, 11-9.

Harris started the tournament with a 6-4 loss to Witt. He then defeated Anthony Piaia (Ottawa, KS) in 20 seconds, the seventh-fastest pin in program history and the fastest at 133. Harris then defeated NAIA No. 22 Kina'u McBrayer (Providence) by a 5-4 decision. He capped the first day of action with a pin of Jarrod Gilliam (Briar Cliff) in 1:02. His only match on Saturday was against Terrence.

Tristen Brown competed at 141 and won four matches. He dropped his opening match to Tony Mendoza (Grand View) by major decision,

10-2. Brown bounced back with a pin of Gant Browning (Hastings) in 2:11. He recorded back-to-back major decisions, defeating Dante Reviglio (Providence) by a score of 14-3 and Drake Montelongo (Lindsey Wilson) by a 12-3 final. Brown added a medical forfeit win over Cal Price (Concordia) to advance to Saturday where he bowed out with a 16-9 loss to No. 24 Noah Parmelee (Northwestern).

Chase Stieb had one win at 174, defeating Dawson Gregg (Jamestown) by tech fall, 20-5. In the 197 bracket, Kasten Grape and Bradley Antesberger posted 5-0 records on their way to the championship match. The two teammates would not compete in the final match, tying for first place.

Grape opened with a 15-0 tech fall win over Jayden Angle (Graceland). He followed with a 4-0 decision against Jake Henson (Central Methodist) and a 19-4 tech fall win over NAIA No. 20 Jett McCauley (Keiser). Grape rallied for a 10-6 win over Torrance Keehn (Concordia) to advance to the semifinals on Saturday. In his last match of the tournament, Grape defeated Trayvonne Jackson (Grand View) by a 10-5 decision.

Antesberger picked up two tech fall wins to open the tournament, defeating Jaron Alf (Ottawa) by a final of 17-2 and Jackson Turner

(Cornerstone) by a 16-1 score. He shutout Caleb Grove (Northwestern) by major decision, 8-0, and blanked NAIA No. 12 Gentry Smith (Southeastern), 4-0, to move into Saturday's action. Antesberger met No. 4 Ryker Blackburn (Saint Mary, KS) in the semifinals and was ahead, 10-3, in the third period before the match stopped due to an injury to Blackburn.

Eli Criblez placed seventh in the 285 bracket. He opened with a pin over Maximiliano Taboada (St. Thomas) in 5:44. In the next round, he defeated Stephos Georgiou (Cornerstone) by a 6-0 decision. Criblez followed with a decision victory by tie-breaker over NAIA No. 23 Zeph Sivels (Midland), 2-2, following triple overtime. He dropped a 2-1 decision to No. 10 Johnny Cruz (Indiana Tech) in the quarterfinals that saw the two men switch mats due to the surface of the first mat. On Saturday, Criblez defeated Mason Garcia (Concordia) by decision, 4-2. He dropped his next match to Koen Mattern (Hastings) by a 4-0 decision. In the final match, Criblez won in overtime over Ian Clifford (Indiana Tech), a 2-1 sudden victory.

Angelo Franco added one win at 285, defeating Jesse Schwery (William Penn) in 6:29.

Doane will return to action on Friday, January 31, when they host William Penn in a dual.

Tigers drop top 15 matchup

Doane women's basketball was on the road Jan. 26 in Mitchell, S.D., to take on No. 15 Dakota Wesleyan. A cold-shooting second quarter would prove to be the difference as Doane fell to DWU, 66-55.

Doane trailed by one after 10 minutes of action, 15-14. However, in the second quarter Doane was held to six points on 2-of-11 shooting. DWU was able to extend their lead to 33-20 at halftime. Dakota Wesleyan extended their lead to 16 points, 54-38, at the end of the third quarter. Doane battled back in the latter stages of the fourth quarter behind a 10-2 run which includ-

ed two Maddie Portwine 3-point baskets to cut the deficit to single digits with two minutes left.

Portwine led the Tigers with 20 points and Macy Holtz added 18 points. Mak Hatcliff and Holtz led the team with five rebounds apiece and Hatcliff had a team-leading three steals. Holtz and Libby Trausch had two assists each to lead the Tigers. For the game, Doane shot 31-percent (15-of-49) from the floor.

Next up for Doane will be a return trip to South Dakota as they play at Yankton on Wednesday, Jan. 29, against Mount Marty.

Doane drops close game to DWU

Doane men's basketball took to the road on Sunday to face Dakota Wesleyan in Mitchell, S.D. Doane jumped out early but a seven minute stretch in the first half would take down the Tigers as DWU won, 58-54.

Doane took a 9-3 lead with 15:36 left in the first half as Glavine McDonald and Brady Timm combined for the Tiger points. Dakota Wesleyan answered with a 21-4 run to erase the deficit and take a 24-13 lead. Doane trailed at the half, 38-29.

The Tigers held DWU to 20 points in the second half. Doane was fairly efficient on the offensive end, converting 46-percent of their shot attempts

and committing only one turnover. However, possessions were limited as Dakota Wesleyan was able to run down the shot clock on several possessions as well as limit their turnovers to four in the half.

McDonald led Doane with 15 points and Brady Timm added 13 points. Timm led the Tigers with six rebounds, three assists, and two steals. McDonald also added two steals in the game. Doane shot 51-percent (24-of-47) for the game, hitting on 24-percent (5-of-21) from behind the arc.

Doane is back on the road on Wednesday, Jan. 29, when they travel to Yankton, S.D., to take on Mount Marty.

Youth wrestlers take to the mat



PHOTOS BY DOUG CARROLL/CN

Crete's Julian Reyes tries to control Milford's Walker Mathis at the Milford Wrestling Club tournament Jan. 25.



Dorchester's Jaelynn Jensen and Leti Pierce look to the referee while competing in the Milford Wrestling Club tournament Jan. 25.

ESTATES

SVEHLA LAW OFFICES, P.C., L.L.O. NOTICE IN THE COUNTY COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA ESTATE OF

**ALLAN ROHRIG, Deceased
Estate No. PR 25-5**
Notice is hereby given that on January 23, 2025 in the County Court of Saline County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said Decedent and that Kathryn Ricenbaw, 2232 Stone Creek Loup N, Lincoln, NE 68512 and John Ricenbaw, 2232 Stone Creek Loup N, Lincoln, NE 68512, were informally appointed by the Registrar as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate. Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before March 30, 2025, or be forever barred.

/s/ Joshua K. McDougall
Clerk of the County Court
Address of County Court:
County Court of Saline County,
Nebraska
204 South High Street, Wilber,
NE 68465
Kelly M. Thomas, Bar I.D. # 18233
Svehla Law Offices, P.C., L.L.O.
408 N. Platte Ave., Ste. A,
York, NE 68467
(402) 362-5506
kthomas@svehlalaw.net
CR — January 29, February 05,
12, 2025
ZNEZ

NOTICE ESTATE OF THOMAS L. SCHEFFERT, DECEASED. DATE OF DEATH: NOVEMBER 30, 2024 CASE NO. PR 25-1

Notice is hereby given that on January 3, 2025, in the County Court of Saline County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a Written Statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said Deceased and that Patricia C. Morfeld, whose address is 306 W 12th St, Unit B, PO Box 55, Dorchester, NE 68343, has been appointed as Personal Representative of this estate. Creditors of this estate must file their claims with this Court on or before March 15, 2025, or be forever barred.
Heinisch & Lovegrove Law Office,
PC LLO
179 North 9th Street, PO Box 311
Geneva, Nebraska, 68361
402-759-3122
christin@hllawoffice.com
Attorney for Applicant
/s/ Joshua K. McDougall
Clerk Magistrate
CR — January 15, 22, 29, 2025
ZNEZ

ORGANIZATION

HANSON, HROCH & KUNTZ CRETE, NEBRASKA

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Flaska Farms Legacy, LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company is organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with its principal place of business at 211 Sycamore, Friend, NE 68359. The initial designated office for the Company is located at 211 Sycamore, Friend, NE 68359, and the registered agent for service of process of the Company is Ricky A. Flaska, at 211 Sycamore, Friend, NE 68359. The general nature of its business 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 December 19, 2024 and will continue in perpetuity. Its affairs shall be conducted by Managers pursuant to an Operating Agreement duly adopted by the Company. Ricky A. Flaska, Manager
211 Sycamore
Friend, Nebraska 68359
CR — January 29, February 05,
12, 2025
ZNEZ

MINUTES

This is a synopsis of the Saline County Board of Commissioners January 21, 2025, 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.salinecountyne.gov.

SALINE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The meeting of the Saline County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, by Chairperson Phil Hardenburger. Present were Hardenburger, Stephanie A. Krivohlavek, Russ Karpisek, Ray Rohrig and Brian Pribyl Commissioners, County Attorney David Solheim and County Clerk Diann Nettifee.

Notice of said meeting was posted in the County Clerk's Office and published in all three county newspapers on January 15, 2025, in compliance with State Statutes; Hardenburger advised those

present of the open meetings act at the back of the room and all proceedings are electronically recorded; Approved Agenda; Approved the minutes of the January 21, 2025, special meeting; Correspondence; Clerk updated Commissioners on recent correspondence; Report of Officials; Commissioners reported on various activities and meetings they attended; Approved to adjourn sine die for reorganization; County Attorney requested nominations for Chairperson; Approved Krivohlavek as Chairperson for 2025; Approved Karpisek as Vice-Chairperson for 2025; Approved 2025 Appointment, Policies, Holidays, Fees, Meeting Dates, ETC; John McKee, Emergency Management Director. Program update; Approved City of Crete Commercial Lease Agreement; Discussed Pledged Collateral Listing for Period ending December 31, 2024; Discussed Investments for period ending December 31, 2024; Approved 6 month report and complete fund listing for the period ending December 31, 2024; 10:31 a.m. Meeting in Recess 10:46 a.m. Meeting Reconvened Approved December Sheriff Fees, \$3,039.26; Approved Resolution #2025-009 clarifying resolution 2022-01 Officials salaries; Commissioner Hardenburger presented an update on the new ALS vehicle; Approved removing a Dell OptiPlex 3080 CPU from the Assessor's inventory; Approved Burial Assistance application; Approved Resolution #2025-006 transfer \$4,500.00 from the Inheritance Fund to the Grant fund, to be reimbursed when funds are available; Approved Resolution #2025-007 transfer \$1,700.00 from Inheritance Fund to the Victim-Witness Coordinator Fund, to be reimbursed when funds are available; Approved Resolution #2025-008 transfer \$1,575.00 from the Inheritance Fund to the Juvenile Services Aid Program Fund, to be reimbursed when funds are available; Highway Superintendent Filipi update Board on current and future projects; Approved Windstream request to occupy ROW on west side of County Road 1700; Approved Claims as presented including Burial Assistance application; Barnas Spls 1,862.78; J Baumann Reimb 10.00; G Baxa Ext Brd 48.50; Black Hills Utly 3,491.81; Blue 360 Media Cntrct 195.30; Bryan Health Cntrct 116.00; Capital Business Cntrct 157.00; Centec Spls 1,967.70; City of Wilber Utly 577.17; Mcgill Law Atty Fees 1,872.50; D Collins Lbr 1,087.50; CAMC Cntrct 350.00; Crowne Plaza Trng 699.75; Culligan Cntrct 256.50; Eakes Spls 2,594.73; Ecolab Cntrct 891.24; Fairfield Inn Trng 3,123.75; Farmers Coop Fuel 18,296.86; FSB Cntrct 20.00; Greatamerica Cntrct 234.19; P Hardenburger Mlg 222.44; Health Sports Unif 190.92; JK Elec Bldg Maint 1,652.00; R Kalkwarf Reimb 48.35; M Karel Cntrct 580.00; M Kohout Mlg 968.82; K Kottas Ext Brd 39.12; S Krivohlavek Ext Brd 37.78; Kuncil Cntrct 1,750.00; Language Line Cntrct 57.84; Marshall & Swift Cntrct 688.20; Microfilm Imaging Cntrct 150.00; MidAmerica Cntrct 10,512.27; MIPS Cntrct 4,795.20; A Mulbery Mlg 184.92; Murray Law Atty Fees 1,938.00; NACO Trng 335.00; NACA Dues 100.00; NCDCA Dues 50.00; NE.gov Cntrct 85.00; A Nicholson Ext Brd 18.35; A Niederklein Ext Brd 23.04; NPPD Utly 231.00; Planet Tech Comm 267.12; Point C Cntrct 347.50; Quill Spls 171.00; Region V Cntrct 8,639.00; Sack Lumber Spls 2,430.05; Saline Co Atty Reimb 16.40; Saline Co Crt Reimb 362.00; Saline Co Dist Cr Reimb 114.00; Saline Co ROD Reimb 38.00; Saline Co Sheriff Reimb 869.01; Sapp Bros Fuel 9,261.81; Sweet Tea P&P 1,029.35; Shop Qwik Fuel 42.41; Soarin Cntrct 4,848.50; D Spanyers Mlg 272.01; Sparq Data Cntrct 4,100.00; Stanard Appraisal Cntrct 2,500.00; Summit Fire Cntrct 825.00; Summit Food Spls 16,723.31; Thomson Reuters Cntrct 179.47; C Thorton Atty Fees 621.50; USPS Spls 157.50; Unite Comm 6,572.90; Verizon Comm 298.19; T Vernon Ext Brd 29.74; Visa Spls 3,433.30; Voss Spls 323.98; Walker Spls 162.31; A Watson Reimb 26.10; R Weber Ext Brd 57.21; M Werner Mlg 67.27; Wtns Fees-Co Crt Wtns Fees 23.35; Wtns Fees-Dist Crt Wtns Fees 4,611.59; 41 Auto Spls 1,181.60; AKRS Equip Rpr 955.50; Bartels Body Equip Rpr 962.11; Beatrice Concrete Gravel 7,140.91; Beaver Hardware Spls 404.72; City of Crete Utly 297.88; Crete Ace Spls 1,323.48; Crete Auto Equip Rpr 568.34; Crete Lumber Spls 288.99; Farmers Union Coop Fuel 788.00; Hard Rock Quarries Gravel 3,392.18; KT's Market Spls 26.58; Linde Gas Spls 99.96; Matheson Spls 25.29; Medical Ent Spls 144.00; MW Ulmtl Spls 200.90; NE IA Ind Spls 447.26; NMC Equip Rpr

4,549.34; Powerplan Equip Rpr 1,727.16; Shaffer Comm 841.87; Sudrla Water Cntrct 350.00; Total Tool Spls 132.17; Transit Works Cntrct 360.50; Village of Dewitt Utly 71.33; Village of Dorchester Utly 144.74; Village of Swanton Utly 78.28; Village of Western Utly 83.75; Waste Connections Utly 241.60; Young's Welding Equip Rpr 122.45; S Schmidt Lbr 6,000.00; Dewitt Comm Club Reimb 27.90; Am Legion Post 101 Reimb 6,000.00; Saline Center Reimb 1,500.00; Tabor Hall Reimb 3,000.00; M Emal Prgm 249.27; Food Mesto Prgm 910.76; M Garcia Prgm 400.00; D Mazza Prgm 1,875.00; S Moldenhauer Prgm 792.00; D Pribyl Prgm 146.93; Purfoods Prgm 167.44; WCC Prgm 1,116.00; Wilber Windows Bldg Maint 1,521.00; S Yokel Prgm 80.24; D Zlab-Kovar Prgm 45.16; A Stougar Prgm 1,575.00; Vigilnet Cntrct 215.45; iSolved Pylr & Txs 308,891.32; Ameritas Life Retire 37,656.22; Health Savings Acct Hlth Sv Acct 10,932.92; Principal Ins 3,221.45; Madison Nat'l Ins 1,424.76; AFLAC Ins 985.06; Empower Def Comp 2,194.61; Point C Café 655.50; Colonial Supp Ins Ins 177.43; Madison Nat'l Ins 1,424.76; AFLAC Ins 985.06; Empower Def Comp 2,194.61; Point C Café 655.50; Colonial Supp Ins Ins 177.43; Teamsters Dues 364.00; New York Life Ins 93.95; Saline Co Crt Garnish 260.20; Lancaster Co Crt Garnish 302.90.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. in the Saline County Commissioners' Room, Court House, Wilber, NE.
ATTEST:
Stephanie A. Krivohlavek, Chairperson
Russ Karpisek, Vice Chairperson
Phil Hardenburger
Brian Pribyl
Ray Rohrig
Diann Nettifee, County Clerk
CR/FS/WR — January 29, 2025
ZNEZ

MINUTES-JANUARY 21, 2024 REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING CITY HALL 243 East 13th St., Crete, Nebraska 68333

January 21st, 2025, (Condensed, entire copy available at the office of the City Clerk). Mayor Dave Bauer called the meeting of the City Council to order at 6:00 p.m. Answering roll call were the following Council Members: Crisman, Frans, Newmyer, Strehle and Fitzgerald. Absent: Papik

The following actions were taken at the meeting:
Approved the Consent Agenda items: Unanimous
Meeting Minutes
City Council Minutes January 7th, 2025
Public Works Minutes January 7th, 2024
Personnel Minutes January 7th, 2024
Public Safety Minutes January 7th, 2024
Legislative/Development January 7th, 2025

Treasurer's Report
Claims against the City \$530,733.67
Mayor's appointment of Tom Sorenson to the Downtown Advisory Committee
Mayor's appointment of Adam Bauer to the Downtown Advisory Committee
Mayor's appointment of Paul Heath to the Downtown Advisory Committee
Mayor's appointment of Crystal Alarcon to the Downtown Advisory Committee
Mayor's appointment of Chris Linhart to the Downtown Advisory Committee

Authorized the Crete Police Department to apply for the LARM Grant for the purchase of a ballistic vest. Unanimous

Approved the claims from Crete Ace Hardware in the amount of \$872.27. Unanimous
Approved the Crete Police Department to apply for the Department of Justice vest grant. Unanimous

Approved the amended FOP agreement regarding the Lieutenant position. Unanimous

Approved the amended LB840 application for funds in the amount up to \$150,000 from PWR & DWD Rental Properties DBA Old Main Bar & Grill and for the performance agreement to include proof of spent insurance funds. Unanimous

Approved the Master Professional Services Agreement and Work Order 001-City of Crete from Speece Lewis a Bowman Company. Unanimous
Enacted Ordinance 2230 Vacating Alley. Unanimous
Enacted Ordinance 2231 Sale of Vacated Alley. Unanimous

Approved the amended LB840 application from the Crete Housing and Community Development Corporation (CHCDC) in the amount of \$480,000.00. Unanimous

Adopted Resolution 2025-1 Establishing a time and place for the hearing to address C-2 special exception request for the property at 1575 Blue Acres Drive, Crete, NE. Unanimous

Approved the amended policy change to the City of Crete Personnel Rules and Regulations. Unanimous
Approved the Paramedic Services Agreement between Crete Area Medical Center and the City of

Crete. Unanimous
Approved the Clevette Administrative Subdivision. Unanimous
Officers' Reports
Chief of Police Gary Young stated the following:
The Nebraska State Patrol did an audit of the tracking from initial arrests through the jail and back to the state. They did great with that and Young stated he sees it being further enhanced with the records management.
The Police Department has hit a major milestone with completing a 300-task list for the records management system transition. Officer Noah Zac is going to be working to supplement as a School Resource officer.
Building Inspector Trent Griffin stated the following:
Senior Villas are about completed and just waiting on the elevator inspection.
The Crete Apartments that Joe Nerud is building are going to get done sooner than planned.
Attended a Flood Plain Administrator's Conference. City Administrator Tom Ourada stated the following:
Will be in Kearney Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025 for committee meetings and Thursday, January 23rd, 2025 for the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) Board of Directors Meeting in which he is the Chair.
There will be a 9% whole sale power cost increase. The City of Crete is conducting a rate study. Possibly going to spread the rate increase by a couple years 4.5% each year.
Council member Ashley Newmyer reminded the council of the Community Cafe on January 22, 2025. Council members Ashley Newmyer and Dale Strehle and Mayor Dave Bauer stated they were planning on attending. Ourada stated that the City of Crete has hired a new Human Resources Coordinator and she will be starting on Monday, February 3rd, 2025.
Ourada stated that some of the bills being discussed in the legislature of being exempted on sales tax on electricity and waste water. That would be about \$100,000 to \$150,000 a year that would cost the City.
Mayor Dave Bauer stated that there are openings on boards and committees in the City and think of recommendations of people who might be interested on serving on them.
The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

**JANUARY 2025
Claims Paid**
JAY'S OIL CO PROPANE \$675.00; KIDWELL SOFTWARE \$6.57; NAPA AUTO PARTS FUEL INJECTOR \$31.99; RAFA ROOFING METAL ROOF \$6,030.00; SAPP BROS, INC PROPANE \$311.45; VERIZON WIRELESS UTILITIES \$42.94; NPPD UTILITIES \$1,154.36; AIRPORT FUNDS SUBTOTAL \$8,252.31; CITY REVENUE FUND CONSUMER DEPOSIT APPLIED \$650.00; DOMINGO LUCAS-RAMOS CONSUMER DEPOSIT REFUND \$260.00; MONICA ROSS CONSUMER DEPOSIT REFUND \$110.00; RICKY SCHUETZE CONSUMER DEPOSIT REFUND \$160.00; SERGIO MANUEL REYES CONSUMER DEPOSIT REFUND \$110.00; CONSUMER DEPOSIT FUNDS SUBTOTAL \$1,290.00; BLUE VALLEY DOOR CO INC BAY DOOR REPAIR \$1,086.11; CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC SERVICE CONTRACT \$91.36; CONSTELLATION NEW ENERGY GAS NATURAL GAS \$557.10; CRETE ACE HARDWARE BLDG & GRND MAINT \$356.67; CRETE AREA MEDICAL CENTER DRUG SCREENING \$282.00; CRETE LUMBER & FARM SUPPLY CO SEWER JETTER REPAIR \$23.64; DOANE UNIVERSITY UTILITY OVERPAYMENT \$135.56; DUTTON LAINSON COMPANY PMLRY \$2,611.69; EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS OFFICE SUPPLIES \$75.01; EXECUTIVE ANSWERING SERVICEANSWERING SERVICE \$63.75; FIBER PLATFORM LLC ETHERNET INTERNET/PHONES \$401.80; JEO CONSULTING GROUP INC. CRETE WELL & TRANSMISSION MAIN UP \$12,650.00; KIDWELL SERVICE AGMT \$1,720.65; LINCOLN WINWATER WORKS 2X20 PVC SCH80 PE PIPE \$1,288.89; MAX I WALKER UNIFORM & APPAREL UNIFORMS \$165.34; MCI VERIZON TOLL FREE LINE \$22.07; NE PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL LAB LAB \$669.00; NORTHERN SAFETY CO. INC. WEATHERPROOF REFLECTIVE PARKA \$715.02; SAPP BROS, INC PROPANE \$819.50; SIR NAY MOO UTILITY OVERPAYMENT \$13.95; UNION BANK & TRUST HSA FEES \$42.00; UPS POSTAGE \$10.63; VERIZON WIRELESS CELL PHONE \$454.62; WASTE CONNECTIONS PUBLIC WORKS \$43,298.37; WINDSTREAM NMPP \$94.36; NE DEPT OF REVENUE SALES TAX \$34,445.37; NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT ELECTRICITY \$9,452.92; QUADIENT FINANCE USA INC POSTAGE \$550.00; NE DEPT OF REVENUE MOTOR FUEL TAX \$135.00; CITY PAYROLL FUNDS WAGES \$111,937.50; UTILITY FUNDS SUBTOTAL \$224,169.88; 911 CUSTOM

Crete. Unanimous
Approved the Clevette Administrative Subdivision. Unanimous
Officers' Reports
Chief of Police Gary Young stated the following:
The Nebraska State Patrol did an audit of the tracking from initial arrests through the jail and back to the state. They did great with that and Young stated he sees it being further enhanced with the records management.
The Police Department has hit a major milestone with completing a 300-task list for the records management system transition. Officer Noah Zac is going to be working to supplement as a School Resource officer.
Building Inspector Trent Griffin stated the following:
Senior Villas are about completed and just waiting on the elevator inspection.
The Crete Apartments that Joe Nerud is building are going to get done sooner than planned.
Attended a Flood Plain Administrator's Conference. City Administrator Tom Ourada stated the following:
Will be in Kearney Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025 for committee meetings and Thursday, January 23rd, 2025 for the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) Board of Directors Meeting in which he is the Chair.
There will be a 9% whole sale power cost increase. The City of Crete is conducting a rate study. Possibly going to spread the rate increase by a couple years 4.5% each year.
Council member Ashley Newmyer reminded the council of the Community Cafe on January 22, 2025. Council members Ashley Newmyer and Dale Strehle and Mayor Dave Bauer stated they were planning on attending. Ourada stated that the City of Crete has hired a new Human Resources Coordinator and she will be starting on Monday, February 3rd, 2025.
Ourada stated that some of the bills being discussed in the legislature of being exempted on sales tax on electricity and waste water. That would be about \$100,000 to \$150,000 a year that would cost the City.
Mayor Dave Bauer stated that there are openings on boards and committees in the City and think of recommendations of people who might be interested on serving on them.
The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

**JANUARY 2025
Claims Paid**
JAY'S OIL CO PROPANE \$675.00; KIDWELL SOFTWARE \$6.57; NAPA AUTO PARTS FUEL INJECTOR \$31.99; RAFA ROOFING METAL ROOF \$6,030.00; SAPP BROS, INC PROPANE \$311.45; VERIZON WIRELESS UTILITIES \$42.94; NPPD UTILITIES \$1,154.36; AIRPORT FUNDS SUBTOTAL \$8,252.31; CITY REVENUE FUND CONSUMER DEPOSIT APPLIED \$650.00; DOMINGO LUCAS-RAMOS CONSUMER DEPOSIT REFUND \$260.00; MONICA ROSS CONSUMER DEPOSIT REFUND \$110.00; RICKY SCHUETZE CONSUMER DEPOSIT REFUND \$160.00; SERGIO MANUEL REYES CONSUMER DEPOSIT REFUND \$110.00; CONSUMER DEPOSIT FUNDS SUBTOTAL \$1,290.00; BLUE VALLEY DOOR CO INC BAY DOOR REPAIR \$1,086.11; CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC SERVICE CONTRACT \$91.36; CONSTELLATION NEW ENERGY GAS NATURAL GAS \$557.10; CRETE ACE HARDWARE BLDG & GRND MAINT \$356.67; CRETE AREA MEDICAL CENTER DRUG SCREENING \$282.00; CRETE LUMBER & FARM SUPPLY CO SEWER JETTER REPAIR \$23.64; DOANE UNIVERSITY UTILITY OVERPAYMENT \$135.56; DUTTON LAINSON COMPANY PMLRY \$2,611.69; EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS OFFICE SUPPLIES \$75.01; EXECUTIVE ANSWERING SERVICEANSWERING SERVICE \$63.75; FIBER PLATFORM LLC ETHERNET INTERNET/PHONES \$401.80; JEO CONSULTING GROUP INC. CRETE WELL & TRANSMISSION MAIN UP \$12,650.00; KIDWELL SERVICE AGMT \$1,720.65; LINCOLN WINWATER WORKS 2X20 PVC SCH80 PE PIPE \$1,288.89; MAX I WALKER UNIFORM & APPAREL UNIFORMS \$165.34; MCI VERIZON TOLL FREE LINE \$22.07; NE PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL LAB LAB \$669.00; NORTHERN SAFETY CO. INC. WEATHERPROOF REFLECTIVE PARKA \$715.02; SAPP BROS, INC PROPANE \$819.50; SIR NAY MOO UTILITY OVERPAYMENT \$13.95; UNION BANK & TRUST HSA FEES \$42.00; UPS POSTAGE \$10.63; VERIZON WIRELESS CELL PHONE \$454.62; WASTE CONNECTIONS PUBLIC WORKS \$43,298.37; WINDSTREAM NMPP \$94.36; NE DEPT OF REVENUE SALES TAX \$34,445.37; NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT ELECTRICITY \$9,452.92; QUADIENT FINANCE USA INC POSTAGE \$550.00; NE DEPT OF REVENUE MOTOR FUEL TAX \$135.00; CITY PAYROLL FUNDS WAGES \$111,937.50; UTILITY FUNDS SUBTOTAL \$224,169.88; 911 CUSTOM

Crete. Unanimous
Approved the Clevette Administrative Subdivision. Unanimous
Officers' Reports
Chief of Police Gary Young stated the following:
The Nebraska State Patrol did an audit of the tracking from initial arrests through the jail and back to the state. They did great with that and Young stated he sees it being further enhanced with the records management.
The Police Department has hit a major milestone with completing a 300-task list for the records management system transition. Officer Noah Zac is going to be working to supplement as a School Resource officer.
Building Inspector Trent Griffin stated the following:
Senior Villas are about completed and just waiting on the elevator inspection.
The Crete Apartments that Joe Nerud is building are going to get done sooner than planned.
Attended a Flood Plain Administrator's Conference. City Administrator Tom Ourada stated the following:
Will be in Kearney Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025 for committee meetings and Thursday, January 23rd, 2025 for the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) Board of Directors Meeting in which he is the Chair.
There will be a 9% whole sale power cost increase. The City of Crete is conducting a rate study. Possibly going to spread the rate increase by a couple years 4.5% each year.
Council member Ashley Newmyer reminded the council of the Community Cafe on January 22, 2025. Council members Ashley Newmyer and Dale Strehle and Mayor Dave Bauer stated they were planning on attending. Ourada stated that the City of Crete has hired a new Human Resources Coordinator and she will be starting on Monday, February 3rd, 2025.
Ourada stated that some of the bills being discussed in the legislature of being exempted on sales tax on electricity and waste water. That would be about \$100,000 to \$150,000 a year that would cost the City.
Mayor Dave Bauer stated that there are openings on boards and committees in the City and think of recommendations of people who might be interested on serving on them.
The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

**JANUARY 2025
Claims Paid**
JAY'S OIL CO PROPANE \$675.00; KIDWELL SOFTWARE \$6.57; NAPA AUTO PARTS FUEL INJECTOR \$31.99; RAFA ROOFING METAL ROOF \$6,030.00; SAPP BROS, INC PROPANE \$311.45; VERIZON WIRELESS UTILITIES \$42.94; NPPD UTILITIES \$1,154.36; AIRPORT FUNDS SUBTOTAL \$8,252.31; CITY REVENUE FUND CONSUMER DEPOSIT APPLIED \$650.00; DOMINGO LUCAS-RAMOS CONSUMER DEPOSIT REFUND \$260.00; MONICA ROSS CONSUMER DEPOSIT REFUND \$110.00; RICKY SCHUETZE CONSUMER DEPOSIT REFUND \$160.00; SERGIO MANUEL REYES CONSUMER DEPOSIT REFUND \$110.00; CONSUMER DEPOSIT FUNDS SUBTOTAL \$1,290.00; BLUE VALLEY DOOR CO INC BAY DOOR REPAIR \$1,086.11; CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC SERVICE CONTRACT \$91.36; CONSTELLATION NEW ENERGY GAS NATURAL GAS \$557.10; CRETE ACE HARDWARE BLDG & GRND MAINT \$356.67; CRETE AREA MEDICAL CENTER DRUG SCREENING \$282.00; CRETE LUMBER & FARM SUPPLY CO SEWER JETTER REPAIR \$23.64; DOANE UNIVERSITY UTILITY OVERPAYMENT \$135.56; DUTTON LAINSON COMPANY PMLRY \$2,611.69; EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS OFFICE SUPPLIES \$75.01; EXECUTIVE ANSWERING SERVICEANSWERING SERVICE \$63.75; FIBER PLATFORM LLC ETHERNET INTERNET/PHONES \$401.80; JEO CONSULTING GROUP INC. CRETE WELL & TRANSMISSION MAIN UP \$12,650.00; KIDWELL SERVICE AGMT \$1,720.65; LINCOLN WINWATER WORKS 2X20 PVC SCH80 PE PIPE \$1,288.89; MAX I WALKER UNIFORM & APPAREL UNIFORMS \$165.34; MCI VERIZON TOLL FREE LINE \$22.07; NE PUBLIC HEALTH ENVIRONMENTAL LAB LAB \$669.00; NORTHERN SAFETY CO. INC. WEATHERPROOF REFLECTIVE PARKA \$715.02; SAPP BROS, INC PROPANE \$819.50; SIR NAY MOO UTILITY OVERPAYMENT \$13.95; UNION BANK & TRUST HSA FEES \$42.00; UPS POSTAGE \$10.63; VERIZON WIRELESS CELL PHONE \$454.62; WASTE CONNECTIONS PUBLIC WORKS \$43,298.37; WINDSTREAM NMPP \$94.36; NE DEPT OF REVENUE SALES TAX \$34,445.37; NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT ELECTRICITY \$9,452.92; QUADIENT FINANCE USA INC POSTAGE \$550.00; NE DEPT OF REVENUE MOTOR FUEL TAX \$135.00; CITY PAYROLL FUNDS WAGES \$111,937.50; UTILITY FUNDS SUBTOTAL \$224,169.88; 911 CUSTOM

Crete. Unanimous
Approved the Clevette Administrative Subdivision. Unanimous
Officers' Reports
Chief of Police Gary Young stated the following:
The Nebraska State Patrol did an audit of the tracking from initial arrests through the jail and back to the state. They did great with that and Young stated he sees it being further enhanced with the records management.
The Police Department has hit a major milestone with completing a 300-task list for the records management system transition. Officer Noah Zac is going to be working to supplement as a School Resource officer.
Building Inspector Trent Griffin stated the following:
Senior Villas are about completed and just waiting on the elevator inspection.
The Crete Apartments that Joe Nerud is building are going to get done sooner than planned.
Attended a Flood Plain Administrator's Conference. City Administrator Tom Ourada stated the following:
Will be in Kearney Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025 for committee meetings and Thursday, January 23rd, 2025 for the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska (MEAN) Board of Directors Meeting in which he is the Chair.
There will be a 9% whole sale power cost increase. The City of Crete is conducting a rate study. Possibly going to spread the rate increase by a couple years 4.5% each year.
Council member Ashley Newmyer reminded the council of the Community Cafe on January 22, 2025. Council members Ashley Newmyer and Dale Strehle and Mayor Dave Bauer stated they were planning on attending. Ourada stated that the City of Crete has hired a new Human Resources Coordinator and she will be starting on Monday, February 3rd, 2025.
Ourada stated that some of the bills being discussed in the legislature of being exempted on sales tax on electricity and waste water. That would be about \$100,000 to \$150,000 a year that would cost the City.
Mayor Dave Bauer stated that there are openings on boards and committees in the City and think of recommendations of people who might be interested on serving on them.
The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

**SALINE COUNTY
BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**
The 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 21, 2025, by Chairperson Phil Hardenburger. Present were Hardenburger, Russ Karpisek, Ray Rohrig, Brian Pribyl and Stephanie A. Krivohlavek Commissioners, David Solheim, County Attorney and Diann Nettifee, County Clerk. Notice of said meeting was posted in the County Clerk's office and published in all three county newspapers on January 15, 2025, in compliance with State Statutes. Hardenburger advised those present of the open meetings act posted at the back of the room and all proceedings are electronically recorded; Approved agenda as presented; Approved minutes of the January 7, 2025 regular meeting; Correspondence: None
Business for action:
9:25 a.m. Opened public hearing, vehicle exemption, Doane University;
9:26 a.m. Closed public hearing, vehicle exemption, Doane University;

WEDGE XT BLACK \$97.00; AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES VIDEO CONFERENCE CAMERA \$2,210.16; APPLIED CONCEPTS INC UNIT #7-RADAR UNIT REPAIR \$107.50; BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS/MAGAZINES \$206.88; BAUERMEISTER, ERICA REFUND OF HOTEL STAY \$441.28; CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC SERVICE CONTRACT \$529.34; CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT BOOKS/MAGAZINES \$269.07; CITY OF BEATRICE QTRLY 911 SERVICE FEE \$75,971.84; CITY REVENUE FUND CASE OF TOILET PAPER \$4,293.06; CITY REVENUE FUND SALES TAX \$73.93; CRETE ACE HARDWARE MARKING PAINT MARKERS \$515.60; CRETE FOODMART JANITORIAL SUPPLIES \$11.22; CRETE VETERINARY CLINIC BOARD - DOG \$607.93; CULLIGAN WATER SERVICE WATER COOLER RENTAL \$32.50; CUMMINS SALES AND SERVICE MAINTENANCE \$671.19; EAKES OFFICE SOLUTIONS OFFICE SUPPLIES \$1,109.30; EGAN SUPPLY CO JANITORIAL SUPPLIES \$62.65; EXECUTIVE ANSWERING SERVICEANSWERING SERVICE \$21.25; FIBER PLATFORM LLC ETHERNET INTERNET/PHONES \$1,033.26; FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA SUPPLIES \$221.38; HAMILTON EQUIPMENT CO BOBCAT REPAIR \$176.74; JAY'S OIL CO UNIT 5 REPAIR \$1,769.10; JEO CONSULTING GROUP INC. 2024 STREET & ALLEY IMPROVEMENTS \$17,930.00; JONES AUTOMOTIVE RADAR REPAIR UNIT 7 \$241.44; KIDWELL SERVICE AGMT \$5,341.78; MACQUEEN WIRE 75# BULK \$533.67; MAYNOR GARCIA PERMIT 24-000112 OVERCHARGED \$4.28; MCI VERIZON TOLL FREE LINE \$48.00; MID-STATES ORGANIZED CRIME 2025 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES \$150.00; NAPAAUTO PARTS TAIL LIGHT \$276.31; NATIONAL LOCK & SAFE COMPANY SERVICE DOOR REPAIR \$250.00; NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSN 2024-25 DUES \$300.00; NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT UTILITIES \$10.09; NORTHERN SAFETY CO. INC. WEATHERPROOF REFLECTIVE PARKA \$715.02; PAT REED PERMIT 24-000095 PYMNT RETURNED \$121.75; PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FINANCIAL PD POSTAGE METER LEASE \$95.37; ROCK ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY DAMAGED BOOK \$16.99; ROEHR'S MACHINERY INC SENSOR \$159.45; SALINE COUNTY REGISTER OF DEEDS FILING FEES \$44.00; SEWARD COUNTY INDEPENDENT ZONING CHANGE \$493.92; SID DILLON FORD OIL & FILTER 2020 F-250 UNIT 3 \$340.09; THE CRETE NEWS PARKS SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL \$30.00; TOG DEVELOPMENT LLC DBA LOCALHOP SERVICE \$518.40; TRANSUNION RISK & ALTERNATIVE TLO MONTHLY CHARGES \$170.00; UNION BANK & TRUST HSA FEES \$76.00; VERIZON WIRELESS CELL PHONE \$809.09; WEATHERCRAFT CO. COATED & FLASHED ROOF EDGE \$1,077.22; WINDSTREAM EMERG MGMT \$76.23; WINTER EQUIPMENT SUPPLIES \$295.99; ONE BILLING SOLUTIONS CRETE AMB SERV \$5,825.23; QUADIENT FINANCE USA INC POSTAGE \$450.00; QUADIENT LEASING POSTAGE LEASE PAYMENT \$379.38; SPECTRUM INTERNET LINE DIU OFFICE \$131.20; CITY PAYROLL FUNDS WAGES \$169,678.40

**Tax Funds
Subtotal - \$297,021.48
All Funds Total \$530,733.67**
CR — January 29, 2025
ZNEZ

This is a synopsis of the Saline County Board of Equalization's January 21, 2025, 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.salinecountyne.gov.

**SALINE COUNTY
BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**
The 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 21, 2025, by Chairperson Phil Hardenburger. Present were Hardenburger, Russ Karpisek, Ray Rohrig, Brian Pribyl and Stephanie A. Krivohlavek Commissioners, David Solheim, County Attorney and Diann Nettifee, County Clerk. Notice of said meeting was posted in the County Clerk's office and published in all three county newspapers on January 15, 2025, in compliance with State Statutes. Hardenburger advised those present of the open meetings act posted at the back of the room and all proceedings are electronically recorded; Approved agenda as presented; Approved minutes of the January 7, 2025 regular meeting; Correspondence: None
Business for action:
9:25 a.m. Opened public hearing, vehicle exemption, Doane University;
9:26 a.m. Closed public hearing, vehicle exemption, Doane University;

WEDGE XT BLACK \$97.00; AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES VIDEO CONFERENCE CAMERA \$2,210.16; APPLIED CONCEPTS INC UNIT #7-RADAR UNIT REPAIR \$107.50; BAKER & TAYLOR BOOKS/MAGAZINES \$206.88; BAUERMEISTER, ERICA REFUND OF HOTEL STAY \$441.28; CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS INC SERVICE CONTRACT \$529.34; CENTER POINT LARGE PRINT BOOKS/MAGAZINES \$269.07; CITY OF BEATRICE QTRLY 911 SERVICE FEE \$75,971.84; CITY REVENUE FUND CASE OF TOILET PAPER \$4,293.06; CITY REVENUE FUND SALES TAX \$73.93; CRETE ACE HARDWARE MARKING PAINT MARKERS \$515.60; CRETE FOODMART JANITORIAL SUPPLIES \$11.22; CRETE VETERINARY CLINIC BOARD - DOG \$6

NAME CHANGE

**NOTICE
KALKWARF & SMITH LAW
OFFICES, L.L.C.,
NOTICE OF FILING NAME
CHANGE COMPLAINT
ANDREW CARL POHLMAN**
On January 23rd, 2025, Plaintiff Andrew Carl Pohlman, filed a Complaint in the District Court of Saline County, to change his name as follows: from Andrew Carl Pohlman to Andrew Carl Christian Meyers. The Complaint will be heard in the Saline County District Court, Saline County Courthouse, 204 South High Street, Wilber, Nebraska, on February 24, 2025, at 9:45 a.m. or as soon thereafter as the same may be heard. The matter will be heard by the Honorable David J.A. Bargen. Shaylene M. Smith, NSBA#20419 Kalkwarf & Smith Law Offices, L.L.C.
CR — January 29, February 05, 12, 19, 2025
ZNEZ

**KALKWARF & SMITH LAW
OFFICES, L.L.C.
NOTICE OF FILING NAME
CHANGE COMPLAINT
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA**
Notice is hereby given that on the 15th day of January, 2025, Lorelei Koeppe, filed a Petition in the District Court of Saline County, to change her daughter's name from Hannah Grace Koeppe to Channer Grace Koeppe. The Complaint will be heard in the Saline County District Court, Saline County Courthouse, Wilber, Nebraska, on February 10, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. or as soon thereafter as the same may be heard. Unless good cause is shown to the contrary, the minor child's name will be changed as requested.
Jennifer S. Craven, #28113 Attorney for the Petitioner
CR — January 22, 29, 2025
ZNEZ

PROPERTY SALES

**BONIAL & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
12400 OLIVE BLVD
SUITE 555
ST. LOUIS, MO 63141
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE**
The following described property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder on 02/24/2025, at 1:00 p.m. at the West front doors of the Saline County Courthouse, 215 South Court Street, Wilber, NE 68465:
LOT 61, WESTWOOD ESTATES, CRETE, SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA.
All subject to any and all: (1) real estate taxes, (2) special assessments, (3) easements, covenants, restrictions, ordinances, and resolutions of record which affect the property, and (4) unpaid water bills, (5) prior mortgages and trust deed of record and (6) ground leases of record. The purchaser is responsible for all fees or taxes. This sale is made without any warranties as to title or condition of the property.
By: Shawn M. Scharenborg, NSBA #27817
Bonial & Associates, P.C.
12400 Olive Blvd
Suite 555
St. Louis, MO 63141
Phone: 314-991-0255
Fax: 972-764-5752
First Publication 01/15/2025, final 02/12/2025
Published in the Crete News BPC Filename: WIPALSMS
THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR AND ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN FROM YOU WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
CR — January 15, 22, 29, February 05, 12, 2025
ZNEZ

GENERAL NOTICES

**FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC
EXPLANATION OF A
PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN
A FEDERAL FLOOD RISK
MANAGEMENT STANDARD
DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN**
To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals
This is to give notice that the City of Crete, Saline County, Nebraska (City), as the Responsible Entity under 24 CFR Part 58, has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NEDED) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, grant #24PWI004. The proposed project(s) is located in the City of Crete, Saline County and is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using 0.2 percent flood approach. The City is preparing to implement a street improvement project within the municipal limits of the City. The project will improve three (3) street segments: 21st Street from Norman Avenue to Oak Avenue, Oak Avenue from 21st Street to 22nd Street, and Oak Avenue from 20th Street to 21st Street (Project). The Project will include the construction of 7-inch Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) paving, 32 feet in width, with an associated storm sewer system. The total Project area covers these three blocks, focusing on enhancing street durability, improving storm

water management, and increasing pedestrian safety. These streets are currently in need of significant repair to maintain safety and accessibility for all users, including pedestrians and vehicles. The street improvement Project will include several key activities: Demolition and removal of the existing street surface; Earthwork, grading, and sloping to prepare the sub-base; Installation of new 7-inch PCC paving to ensure long-lasting road surfaces; Construction of a storm sewer system to enhance drainage and reduce flooding risks; Installation of sidewalks with American Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant detectable warning panels to improve pedestrian safety. The total Project area covers approximately three (3) blocks, or approximately one (1) acre within the FFRMS 0.2 percent annual chance floodplain. The streets are owned and maintained by the City of Crete and are surrounded primarily by residential properties. Project impacts may include temporary road closures, noise, and dust during construction. The City will notify businesses, residents, and emergency services of all road closures and provide alternative routes. All construction activities will be scheduled during normal business hours to minimize disruption. Total Project costs are estimated at \$688,450, including \$480,000 funded by a Nebraska Department of Economic Development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds of which \$25,000 is allocated for general administration and \$5,000 for construction management. A local match of \$208,450 will be provided by the City. The matching funds will be sourced from the city's general fund, and are unobligated and readily available. The project will primarily benefit low-to-moderate-income (LMI) residents by improving local infrastructure and enhancing the overall quality of life in the community. No residents, businesses, or farms will be displaced as a result of the project activities. Construction is anticipated to be completed within thirty (30) months. The City of Crete has evaluated multiple alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts on the floodplain and to restore and preserve its natural and beneficial functions. Below is a detailed explanation of the considerations: (1) No Action Alternative: No repairs or improvements would be made to the roadways. Reason for Non-Selection: This alternative would leave the existing streets in poor condition, leading to ongoing safety hazards for vehicles and pedestrians. Storm water drainage issues would persist, resulting in increased flooding risks. Fails to provide critical ADA-compliant improvements or meet the needs of the LMI community. (2) Alternative Location Outside of Floodplain: Construct new roadways outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplain. Reason for Non-Selection: The streets requiring improvement are pre-existing infrastructure located within the floodplain, making relocation impractical and disruptive to the community. This alternative does not address the infrastructure needs or drainage issues of the project area. (3) Minimal Scope Improvements: Perform only patchwork repairs to the streets instead of full reconstruction. Reason for Non-Selection: This option would not address the underlying structural issues, drainage problems, or safety concerns. It fails to provide long-term benefits and would result in higher maintenance costs over time. The streets identified for the improvement project (21st Street and Oak Avenue) are pre-existing infrastructure within a developed residential area and fall within the 0.2% annual chance floodplain. Relocation of the project is not feasible due to the need to serve these existing areas. The current roadways are in disrepair and prone to storm water drainage issues, leading to localized flooding and reduced safety. Addressing these deficiencies is essential to ensure safe and accessible transportation for residents. The inclusion of ADA-compliant sidewalks with detectable warning panels is necessary to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility for all users. The project primarily benefits low-to-moderate-income residents by improving vital infrastructure, enhancing quality of life, and increasing resilience to flood-related hazards. The following mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce potential adverse impacts and enhance the floodplain's natural and beneficial functions: (1) A storm sewer system will be constructed to improve drainage, mitigate localized flooding, and reduce the overall impact of storm water runoff. (2) Best management practices (BMPs) will be employed during construction, including silt fencing, sediment basins, and timely vegetation restoration, to minimize soil erosion and protect water quality. (3) Construction activities will be planned during dry weather periods to reduce risks of adverse impacts to the floodplain. (4) Residents and businesses will be notified of the construction timeline, temporary road closures, and alternative routes to ensure minimal disruption. During the public comment period, the City received feedback from the Floodplain Management Division of the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources (NeDNR). The comments addressed compliance with floodplain management regulations and identified one public supply well within a 1,000-

foot radius of the proposed project area. The City has acknowledged these comments and will take all necessary steps to ensure compliance with the requirements. Project engineers have reviewed the design and construction plans to ensure the protection of the public supply well and minimizing impacts to floodplain functions. The City will work closely with the local Floodplain Administrator and NeDNR to obtain required permits and ensure adherence to best management practices during construction. The City appreciates the feedback provided by the Floodplain Management Division and will address all considerations to ensure compliance with floodplain management standards and the protection of critical infrastructure, including the public supply well. The City will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local floodplain management regulations, including adherence to Executive Order 11988 and consultation with the local floodplain administrator. Measures taken will ensure minimal disruption to the floodplain's natural and beneficial functions while achieving the goals of the project. The City has reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to floodplain development. Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments. There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplain, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk. Written comments must be received by the City of Crete at the following address on or before February, 7th, 2025: City of Crete, 243 East 13th Street, Crete, NE 68333 and 402-826-4312, Attention: Nancy Tellez, City Clerk. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the address listed above. Comments may also be submitted via email at nancy.tellez@crete.ne.gov.
Date: January 29, 2025
CR — January 29, 2025
ZNEZ

**NOTICE OF GUARDIANSHIP
PROCEEDINGS
IN THE COURT OF SALINE
COUNTY, NEBRASKA,
PROBATE DIVISION**
TO: DOMINGO RAMIREZ PAIZ AND ANY INTERESTED PARTY WITH RESPECT TO THE PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN FOR JUAN DAVID RAMIREZ LUCAS, A MINOR CHILD.
You are hereby notified that on October 23, 2024, a Petition was filed in the County Court of Saline County, Nebraska, Probate Division, Case No. PR 24-59, the object and prayer of which is to appoint a guardian for Juan David Ramirez Lucas, a Minor Child. A hearing on the appointment of a guardian will take place on February 7, 2025 at 2:00 P.M. in Saline County Court, 204 S. High Street, Wilber Nebraska. You are required to appear at the hearing or file a response to this Petition with the Court prior to said hearing or the Court will proceed to consider the relief requested by the Petitioner herein.
MARIA CRISTINA RAMIREZ LUCAS, PETITIONER,
By: Bassel El-Kasaby
Kasaby Schmoke
308 S. 19th Street
Omaha, NE 68102
Ph: 402-884-0700
Attorney for Petitioner
CR — January 15, 22, 29, 2025
ZNEZ

**AVISO FINAL Y EXPLICACIÓN
PÚBLICA DE UNA ACTIVIDAD
PROPUESTA EN UN VALLE
INUNDABLE DESIGNADO
SEGÚN EL ESTANDAR
FEDERAL DE GESTIÓN DEL
RIESGO DE INUNDACIÓN**
A: todas las agencias, grupos e individuos interesados
Por la presente se notifica que la ciudad de Crete, condado de Saline, Nebraska (la ciudad), como entidad responsable según la Parte 58 del Título 24 del CFR, ha llevado a cabo una evaluación según lo exige la Orden Ejecutiva 11988, modificada por la Orden Ejecutiva 13690, de conformidad con las normas del HUD en la Parte 55.20 del Título 24 del CFR en la Subparte C Procedimientos para tomar decisiones sobre la gestión de llanuras aluviales y la protección de humedales. La actividad está financiada por el programa de Subvención para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG) del Departamento de Desarrollo Económico de Nebraska (NEDED),

subvención n.º 24PWI004. El proyecto o los proyectos propuestos están ubicados en la ciudad de Crete, condado de Saline, y se encuentran en la llanura aluvial según la Norma Federal de Gestión del Riesgo de Inundación (FFRMS). La extensión de un valle inundable del FFRMS se determinó utilizando el método de inundación del 0.2 por ciento. La ciudad se está preparando para implementar un proyecto de mejora de calles dentro de los límites municipales de la ciudad. El proyecto mejorará tres (3) segmentos de calles: 21st Street desde Norman Avenue hasta Oak Avenue, Oak Avenue desde 21st Street hasta 22nd Street y Oak Avenue desde 20th Street hasta 21st Street (Proyecto). El Proyecto incluirá la construcción de pavimento de hormigón de cemento Portland (PCC) de 7 pulgadas, 32 pies de ancho, con un sistema de alcantarillado pluvial asociado. El área total del Proyecto cubre estos tres bloques, centrándose en mejorar la durabilidad de las calles, mejorar la gestión de las aguas pluviales y aumentar la seguridad de los peatones. Actualmente, estas calles necesitan reparaciones importantes para mantener la seguridad y la accesibilidad para todos los usuarios, incluidos los peatones y los vehículos. El Proyecto de mejora de calles incluirá varias actividades clave: demolición y eliminación de la superficie de la calle existente; movimiento de tierras, nivelación y pendiente para preparar la subbase; instalación de nuevo pavimento de PCC de 7 pulgadas para garantizar superficies viales duraderas; Construcción de un sistema de alcantarillado pluvial para mejorar el drenaje y reducir los riesgos de inundaciones; Instalación de aceras con paneles de advertencia detectables que cumplan con la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA) para mejorar la seguridad de los peatones. El área total del proyecto cubre aproximadamente tres (3) cuadras, o aproximadamente un (1) acre dentro de la llanura de inundación con una probabilidad anual de inundación del 0.2 por ciento de FFRMS. Las calles son propiedad de la ciudad de Crete y están rodeadas principalmente por propiedades residenciales. Los impactos del proyecto pueden incluir cierres temporales de carreteras, ruido y polvo durante la construcción. La ciudad notificará a las empresas, residentes y servicios de emergencia sobre todos los cierres de carreteras y proporcionará rutas alternativas. Todas las actividades de construcción se programarán durante el horario comercial normal para minimizar las interrupciones. Los costos totales del proyecto se estiman en \$688,450, incluidos \$480,000 financiados por fondos de Subvención para el Desarrollo Comunitario (CDBG) del Departamento de Desarrollo Económico de Nebraska, de los cuales \$25,000 se asignan a la administración general y \$5,000 a la gestión de la construcción. La ciudad aportará una contrapartida local de \$208,450. Los fondos de contrapartida se obtendrán del fondo general de la ciudad, no están comprometidos y están disponibles de inmediato. El proyecto beneficiará principalmente a los residentes de ingresos bajos a moderados (LMI) al mejorar la infraestructura local y mejorar la calidad de vida general en la comunidad. Ningún residente, negocio o granja será desplazado como resultado de las actividades del proyecto. Se prevé que la construcción se complete dentro de los treinta (30) meses. La ciudad de Crete ha evaluado múltiples alternativas y medidas de mitigación para minimizar los impactos adversos en el valle inundable y restaurar y preservar sus funciones naturales y beneficiosas. A continuación, se incluye una explicación detallada de las consideraciones: (1) Alternativa de no acción: no se realizarán reparaciones ni mejoras en las carreteras. Motivo de la no selección: esta alternativa dejaría las calles existentes en malas condiciones, lo que generaría peligros de seguridad constantes para vehículos y peatones. Los problemas de drenaje de aguas pluviales persistirían, lo que aumentaría los riesgos de inundaciones. No proporcionar mejoras críticas que cumplan con la ADA ni satisface las necesidades de la comunidad de LMI. (2) Ubicación alternativa fuera de la llanura aluvial: construir nuevas carreteras fuera de la llanura aluvial con una probabilidad anual del 0.2 %. Motivo de la no selección: las calles que requieren mejoras son infraestructura preexistente ubicada dentro de la llanura aluvial, lo que hace que la reubicación sea poco práctica y perjudicial para la comunidad. Esta alternativa no aborda las necesidades de infraestructura ni los problemas de drenaje del área del proyecto. (3) Mejoras de alcance mínimo: realizar solo reparaciones parciales en las calles en lugar de una reconstrucción completa. Motivo de la no selección: Esta opción no abordaría los problemas estructurales subyacentes, los problemas de drenaje ni las preocupaciones de seguridad. No proporciona beneficios a largo plazo y daría lugar a mayores costos de mantenimiento con el tiempo. Las calles identificadas para el proyecto de mejora (21st Street y Oak Avenue) son infraestructura preexistente dentro de una zona residencial desarrollada y se encuentran dentro de la llanura de

inundación con una probabilidad anual del 0.2 %. La reubicación del proyecto no es factible debido a la necesidad de dar servicio a estas áreas existentes. Las carreteras actuales están en mal estado y son propensas a problemas de drenaje de aguas pluviales, lo que provoca inundaciones localizadas y una menor seguridad. Abordar estas deficiencias es esencial para garantizar un transporte seguro y accesible para los residentes. La inclusión de aceras que cumplan con la ADA con paneles de advertencia detectables es necesaria para mejorar la seguridad peatonal y la accesibilidad para todos los usuarios. El proyecto beneficia principalmente a los residentes de ingresos bajos a moderados al mejorar la infraestructura vital, mejorar la calidad de vida y aumentar la resiliencia a los peligros relacionados con las inundaciones. Se implementarán las siguientes medidas de mitigación para reducir los posibles impactos adversos y mejorar las funciones naturales y beneficiosas de la llanura aluvial: (1) Se construirá un sistema de alcantarillado pluvial para mejorar el drenaje, mitigar las inundaciones localizadas y reducir el impacto general de la escorrentía de aguas pluviales. (2) Se emplearán las mejores prácticas de gestión (BMP) durante la construcción, incluidas las cercas de sedimentos, las cuencas de sedimentación y la restauración oportuna de la vegetación, para minimizar la erosión del suelo y proteger la calidad del agua. (3) Las actividades de construcción se planificarán durante los periodos de clima seco para reducir los riesgos de impactos adversos en la llanura aluvial. (4) Se notificará a los residentes y las empresas sobre el cronograma de construcción, los cierres temporales de carreteras y las rutas alternativas para garantizar una interrupción mínima. Durante el período de comentarios públicos, la Ciudad recibió comentarios de la División de Gestión de Llanuras Inundables del Departamento de Recursos Naturales de Nebraska (Nebraska Department of Natural Resources, NeDNR). Los comentarios abordaron el cumplimiento de las normas de gestión de llanuras inundables e identificaron un pozo de suministro público dentro de un radio de 1000 pies del área del proyecto propuesto. La Ciudad ha reconocido estos comentarios y tomará todas las medidas necesarias para garantizar el cumplimiento de los requisitos. Los ingenieros del proyecto han revisado los planes de diseño y construcción para garantizar la protección del pozo de suministro público y minimizar los impactos en las funciones de la llanura inundable. La Ciudad trabajará en estrecha colaboración con el Administrador de Llanuras Inundables local y el NeDNR para obtener los permisos necesarios y garantizar el cumplimiento de las mejores prácticas de gestión durante la construcción. La Ciudad agradece los comentarios proporcionados por la División de Gestión de Llanuras Inundables y abordará todas las consideraciones para garantizar el cumplimiento de las normas de gestión de llanuras inundables y la protección de la infraestructura crítica, incluido el pozo de suministro público. La ciudad cumplirá con todas las regulaciones federales, estatales y locales aplicables para la gestión de llanuras aluviales, incluida la adhesión a la Orden Ejecutiva 11988 y la consulta con el administrador local de la llanura aluvial. Las medidas adoptadas garantizarán una interrupción mínima de las funciones naturales y beneficiosas de el valle inundable al tiempo que se logran los objetivos del proyecto. La ciudad ha reevaluado las alternativas a la construcción en la zona de inundación y ha determinado que no tiene una alternativa viable al desarrollo en la zona de inundación. Los archivos ambientales que documentan el cumplimiento de la Orden Ejecutiva 11988, modificada por la Orden Ejecutiva 13690, están disponibles para inspección, revisión y copia del público a pedido en los horarios y lugares delineados en el último párrafo de este aviso para recibir comentarios. Hay tres propósitos principales para este aviso. Primero, las personas que pueden verse afectadas por las actividades en un valle inundable y aquellas que tienen un interés en la protección del medio ambiente natural deben tener la oportunidad de expresar sus inquietudes y brindar información sobre estas áreas. En segundo lugar, un programa adecuado de avisos públicos puede ser una herramienta educativa importante para el público. La difusión de información y la solicitud de comentarios públicos sobre las llanuras aluviales pueden facilitar y mejorar los esfuerzos federales para reducir los riesgos e impactos asociados con la ocupación y modificación de estas áreas especiales. En tercer lugar, por una cuestión de equidad, cuando el gobierno federal determina que participará en acciones que se llevan a cabo en zonas de inundación, debe informar a quienes pueden estar expuestos a un riesgo mayor o continuo. Los comentarios por escrito deben ser recibidos por la ciudad de Crete en la siguiente dirección antes del 7 de febrero de 2025: Ciudad de Crete, 243 East 13th Street, Crete, NE 68333 y 402-826-4312, Atención: Nancy Tellez, Secretario Municipal. También se puede revisar una descripción

completa del proyecto de 8:00 a. m. a 5:00 p. m. en la dirección indicada anteriormente. Los comentarios también pueden enviarse por correo electrónico a nancy.tellez@crete.ne.gov.
Fecha: 29 de enero de 2025
CR — January 29, 2025
ZNEZ

ORDINANCES

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
OF ORDINANCE 2231**
Public Notice is hereby given that at a meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Crete, Nebraska (the "City") held at 6:00 p.m. January 21st, 2025 there was passed and adopted Ordinance 2231 entitled:
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CRETE, NEBRASKA RELATING TO THE SALE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED BY THE CITY; TO DIRECT THE CONVEYANCE OF SUCH REAL ESTATE; AND TO PROVIDE NOTICE AND PUBLICATION OF THE SALE.
All of the alley that abuts lots 7-12, Block 3, West Crete Addition, Crete, Saline County, Nebraska. The sale of said real estate shall be to Cruz Chanchavac Sanchez and Marybeth Chanchavac for the amount not less than Two Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Dollars (\$2,440.00).
CR — January 29, February 5, February 12, 2025
ZNEZ

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
OF ORDINANCE 2230 IN
PAMPHLET FORM**
Public Notice is hereby given that at a meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Crete, Nebraska (the "City") held at 6:00 p.m. January 21st, 2025 there was passed and adopted Ordinance 2230 entitled:
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CRETE, NEBRASKA RELATING TO THE VACATION OF STREETS OR ALLEYS; TO VACATE THE ALLEY ABUTTING LOTS 7-12, BLOCK 3, WEST CRETE ADDITION, CRETE, SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA; AND TO RESERVE TITLE AND THE UTILITY EASEMENT TO THE VACATED PROPERTY.
CR — January 29, 2025
ZNEZ

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION
OF ORDINANCE 2231 IN
PAMPHLET FORM**
Public Notice is hereby given that at a meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Crete, Nebraska (the "City") held at 6:00 p.m. January 21st, 2025 there was passed and adopted Ordinance 2231 entitled:
AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CRETE, NEBRASKA RELATING TO THE SALE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED BY THE CITY; TO DIRECT THE CONVEYANCE OF SUCH REAL ESTATE; AND TO PROVIDE NOTICE AND PUBLICATION OF THE SALE.
CR — January 29, 2025
ZNEZ

INCORPORATIONS

**NOTICE OF INCORPORATION
OF
ROSS WEBER FARMS, INC.**
1. The name of the corporation is Ross Weber Farms, Inc.
2. The address of the initial registered agent and office is: Christin P. Lovegrove, 179 N 9th Street, PO Box 311, Geneva, County of Fillmore, State of Nebraska
3. The aggregate number of shares which the Corporation shall have authority to issue is One Thousand (1,000) shares of common stock.
4. Ross Weber Farms, Inc. commenced existence on December 19, 2024, by recording its Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State and it shall have perpetual existence.
Ross Michael Weber, Incorporator
586 County Road 200
Friend, NE 68359
HEINISCH & LOVEGROVE
LAW OFFICE, PC LLO
179 North 9th Street
PO Box 311
Geneva, NE 68361
CR — January 22, 29, February 05, 2025
ZNEZ

HEARINGS

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**
that the City Council of the City of Crete, Nebraska, will hold a hearing on February 4th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall located at 243 East 13th Street, Crete, Nebraska, to hear testimony in favor of and in opposition to and to answer questions in relation to the review of the C-2 Special Exception request at
**1575 Blue Acres Drive
Crete, Nebraska**
To allow individuals to use the space as a church
The City Council will conduct a regular session after the hearing to take action as needed. The agenda for the meeting is on file at the City Clerk's Office. Said meeting will be open to the public.
Nancy Tellez
City Clerk
CR — January 29, February 5, 2025
ZNEZ

PUBLIC NOTICES



SWEET TEA MARKETING
Sweet Success. Starts Here.

Branding solutions to help your business thrive.

From digital strategies, to promotional print items, to traditional newspaper ads, to practical print products, and logo & branding options.

Call today to get started!
402-643-3678



STATEWIDES

SWITCH AND save up to \$250/year on your talk, text and data. No contract and no hidden fees. Unlimited talk and text with flexible data plans. Premium nationwide coverage. 100% U.S. based customer service. For more information, call 1-877-768-5892

DENTAL INSURANCE from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. Coverage for 350 plus procedures. Real dental insurance - NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-855-490-4149 www.dental50plus.com/81 #6258

ADVERTISE STATEWIDE for \$225/25 word classified ad. Over 140 newspapers with circulation of more than 237,000. Contact your local newspaper or call 1-800-369-2850.

HELLO NEBRASKA! Introducing www.nepublicnotices.com, a new public notice website presented as a public service by all Nebraska newspapers. Free access, fully searchable - because democracy depends upon open government and your right to know.

GET DISH Satellite TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-877-688-4784

SAFE STEP. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-877-933-0188

WE BUY Houses for Cash AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-855-714-0010

WE BUY 8,000 cars a week. Sell your old, busted or junk car with no hoops, haggles or headaches. Sell your car to Peddle. Easy three step process. Instant offer. Free pickup. Fast payment. Call 1-855-910-0760

BANKRUPTCY RELIEF! Help stop Creditor Harassment, Collection Calls, Repossession and Legal Actions! Speak to a Professional Attorney and Get the Help You NEED! Call NOW 844-215-3629

AFFORDABLE PRESS Release service. Send your message to 155 newspapers across Nebraska for one low price! Call 1-800-369-2850 or www.nepress.com for more details.

DOES YOUR basement or crawl space need some attention? Call Thrasher Foundation Repair! A permanent solution for waterproofing, failing foundations, sinking concrete and nasty crawl spaces. FREE Inspection & Same Day Estimate. \$250 off ANY project with code GET250. Call 1-844-958-3431

HELP WANTED

THE VILLAGE OF GRESHAM is taking applications for Maintenance Supervisor. The Maintenance Supervisor would be responsible for maintenance of the water, sewer, streets, parks, buildings, and equipment. Duties would also include mowing and snow removal. Skills: Advanced leadership and team management skills, Attention to detail and problem-solving skills. Ability to operate equipment, i.e. tractor, bobcat, lawn mowers. Strong written and verbal communication, expertise in a specific industry, knowledge of company policies, time management, and organizational skills. The successful applicant would need to be State certified in water and wastewater operations or willing to become certified after 1 year of employment. Must have a valid Nebraska drivers license, a high school diploma or the equivalent, pass a drug test. Experience a plus. Qualified candidate will work 32-40 hours per week, will earn between \$23-\$28 per hour, determined by applicants experience, and receive a \$200 per month stipend for insurance of their choice. Apply at yntjobseekers.com, or pick up an application at the Gresham Village Office, 310 Elm Street, Gresham, NE 68367 or by calling 402-366-5940 with questions. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Village of Gresham is an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, veteran status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, marital status or disability (in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act) with respect to employment opportunities.

- **Weekend RN:** Day or Evening Shifts
- **Nurse (Full Time):** Evening (M-F)
- **Nurse (Part Time):** Evening (Fri) or Nights (Fri)
- **Weekend CNA:** Day Shift | Day/Eve (every other wknd)
- **CNA (Part Time):** Evening & Night Shifts
- **Med Aide (Part Time):** Evening Shift
- **Weekend Med Aide:** Day/Evening Shifts



FOR MORE INFO or TO APPLY VISIT:
SUNRISECOUNTRYMANOR.COM/CAREERS
610 224th Road, Milford
Ph: (402) 761-3230 ext. 224

REAL ESTATE

NEW LISTING ACREAGE LAND FOR SALE

6.53 ACRES
\$120,000.00

LOCATION:
Corner of 2100 & D Road
Crete, NE



FOR AN APPOINTMENT FOR VIEWING, CONTACT:
Troy Novak (402) 641-1526, Real Estate Sales Person

Century
Real Estate
Broker • 402-792-2820



FOR RENT

1, 2 and 3 BEDROOM APARTMENTS. 30-day lease. No pets. No smoking. Also garages for rent. Located at 22nd and Ivy-Crete. 402-310-8030

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.



All SERVICES advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, family status, or national origin, or an intention, to make such preference, limitation or discrimination." Family status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians; pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18. The Crete News will not knowingly accept any advertising for SERVICES which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-642-6112. http://www.nol.org/home/NEOC.

SERVICES



Ryan Skillet
402-499-3416
skilletconstruction.com

MILFORD AIR CONDITIONING

309 1st Milford **402-761-2433**
• Air Conditioning
• Heating
• Sales & Service
Bill Saltzman **DAIKIN** Air Conditioning & Heating

CASTEEL TREE SERVICE LLC

JAY CASTEEL
Trimming • Removal
Stump Grinding
140 County Rd. 2050 • Crete, NE
402-326-2999
Licensed Arborist
Insured

Pribyl Plumbing & Heating
New Construction • Remodels
Bathrooms • Drain Cleaning
Roto-Rooter
Sewer Camera and Locating
Furnace and A/C Repair
Brian Pribyl
826-3045 • 826-0192 (Cell)

Hosanna Home Care In Nebraska LLC
We believe you can stay in your own home and get all the help you need with our Personalized Home Care Services!
Accepting Applications to Join Our Team!
Licensed and Insured
(402) 826-7148
hosannahomecare@gmail.com

WILBER PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR
(402) 821-3043
103 West 3rd • Wilber

- Financing at 0%
- HVAC and Plumbing Master Licenses
- Residential and Commercial Service
- Invested in You
- 24-Hour Service

MOST COMPETITIVE DEALER in the surrounding area on name-brand equipment. Let us earn your business today!

Efficient. Reliable. Exceptional Service.

LENNOX-RUDD
Dealer Since 1949

AUCTION

Farmers National Company A-10132
FOR SALE BY BIDS
150.68± Acres • Lancaster County, Nebraska
BIDS DUE | February 13, 2025, at 10:00 AM

-- Excellent location just north of Lincoln! --
-- Productive dry land farm ground! --
-- Ideal site for a home acreage on the outskirts of Lincoln! --
For more information on property details, please contact:
Paul Hubert, Agent | Phone: (402) 710-9976
PHubert@FarmersNational.com
www.FNCRealEstate.com

Announce Your SPECIAL EVENTS in The Crete News!
Anniversaries, Graduations, Birthdays, ETC!
402-826-2147
1201 Linden Ave P.O. Box 40
Crete, NE 68333

WANTED

Top Dollar Paid for Aluminum Irrigation Pipe. We pick up, we pay CASH. Fully Insured. Call 402-433-5413



In print weekly and online.

Ads must be prepaid unless you have pre-approved credit. Cash, personal check, Visa, Mastercard or Discover are welcome.

CLASSIFIED LINE AD RATES

25 words or less: \$19 per week for three weeks; fourth week is free. Includes placement in online classifieds.
FREE "For Sale" ads for subscribers.
Private party ads • \$200 or less • One/customer/week
Contact our office for classified display ad pricing.

HOW TO PLACE YOUR AD

Call: 402-826-2147 • Email: creteofficemgr@gmail.com
Online: cretenewsonline.com • In person: 1201 Linden Ave., Crete, NE

AD DEADLINE: NOON FRIDAY*
FOR ALL PUBLICATIONS

* Subject to change on holidays

POLICIES: Advertisers should check their advertisements in the first issue and report any error to The Crete News at 402-826-2147. We will be responsible for only a one-time error or omission.

Your ad appears in SIX newspapers and reaches readers in two counties!



cretenewsonline.com



sewardindependent.com



milfordtimes.net



friendsentinel.com



wilber-republican.com



connectionsewardcounty.com

MARKETPLACE

OBITUARIES

Joe T. Vosoba Jan. 15, 2025

Joe T. Vosoba, retired lawyer, former state senator, and Czech leader died Jan. 15, 2025. He was 95.

Joe practiced law at Wilber and Crete for 30 years as senior partner in Steinacher and Vosoba, Attorneys, before health problems forced his early retirement. He and his wife, Kathy, spent winters in Arizona until establishing residence at The Landing in Lincoln.

For nearly 10 years, he was a vice president, director and one-third owner of Saline State Bank in Wilber, now First State Bank.

Vosoba was elected state senator in 1968 at the age of 30, defeating the incumbent. He was reelected unopposed and was chairman of the Judiciary Committee his second term.

He was the last survivor of the four founders of the Nebraska Czechs, which sponsored the Wilber Czech Festival, and was the first president of the organization. Until his retirement, he was pro bono counsel, creating corporations Nebraska Czechs, Nebraska Czechs of Wilber, Wilber Bakery, Czech Craft Shop, Wilber Hotel, among other legal services, all without pay.

With his wife, Kathy, he wrote, directed and narrated the Czech Historical Pageant for 25 years. They also wrote the book "Tales Of The Czechs," Czech history and legends, with all sales proceeds donated to the Nebraska Czechs of Wilber. In his later years, he was a leader in promoting Czech language and culture at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, serving as Chairman of the Czech Heritage Program Committee of the UN Foundation, which included sending UNL students to study expense-free in Prague.

He encouraged creation of a brewery to make authentic Czech beer in Wilber, and proposed creation of the Czech Music Center of America in Wilber. In 2011, at the 50th Czech Festival, he was honored with the Founder's Award by the Wilber Czechs.

Vosoba was founder of the Saline County Historical Society and its first president. In Wilber, he was chairman of the library board which built the Dvoracek Memorial Library and chairman of the Wilber Housing Authority which built the "Czech Village" low-rent housing for the elderly.

After the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia, he and his wife volunteered to help the Czech people convert to democracy. They lived in Prague for six months while he served as unpaid manager of "Education For Democracy/USA," a volunteer English-teaching program. He placed more than 40 volunteers to teach English in Bohemia and Moravia provinces. They later renovated and lived in a cottage by a forest in Bohemia for several years.

Born on the family farm in Saline County, he graduated from Milligan High School. Vosoba worked his way through the University of Nebraska as a full-time student while working full-time for six years for The Lincoln Star as reporter, feature writer and photographer. He earned Bachelor of Science and Juris Doctor degrees in those six years.

Upon graduation, he voluntarily enlisted during the Korean War to serve in the U.S. Army as an infantryman. He trained with the 101st Airborne Division, the "Screaming Eagles." After the Korean War ended, he was honorably discharged and settled in Wilber and practiced law.

A 60-year member of the Nebraska Bar Association, he served twice in the Bar's House of Delegates, twice on the Executive Council, twice on the Judicial Council and many years on the Disciplinary Review Board. At the age of 38, he was one of three lawyers recommended by a nominating commission for appointment to the Supreme Court of Nebraska. He took pride in the fact that, in 30 years of active practice, there never was an ethical complaint, or even a letter of inquiry, raised about his ethics.

As senator, he introduced the constitutional amendment, approved by the voters, to permit Industrial Development bonds, and then introduced the legislation creating the Industrial Development Act (IDA) authorizing bonds to build factories in the state. Many millions of dollars of new industry resulted.

Other legislative achievements were passing the point system to prevent repeated traffic violations, the merit system to select judges on merit instead of by political popularity, and creation of the Nebraska Industrial Research Institute, which never got funding, but was designed to serve like UNL's present Innovation Campus on the former fairgrounds.

He always felt his best work as senator was to lead and win the fight (with few exceptions) against heavy national lobbying by the billboard industry to keep billboards off the interstate highway, so that travelers could see the beauty of Nebraska.

A liberal and lifelong democrat, he was Robert Kennedy's campaign manager for the First Congressional District and was on John F. Kennedy's Nebraska advisory board.

He loved horses all his life and for over 20 years was a breeder of purebred Arabian horses.

He is survived by Kathryn, the wife he loved for 68 years; daughters, Debbie Wagner of Topeka, Kansas, and Beth Vosoba of Washington, D.C.; grandchildren, Anna Wagner McHale, Lee Wagner, Madeline Wagner, Rachel Schad, Andrew Joseph Plamann, and Rohini Mauk; six great grandchildren; two nephews; and many friends in the United States and Czech Republic.

Half his ashes will be scattered in the Czech Republic and half interred with his widow at the Wilber Czech Cemetery, where ashes of their daughter, Julie Vosoba, and their son, Timmy Vosoba, are buried.



Carey G. Sasek Aug. 14, 1956 – Dec. 21, 2024

Carey Grant Sasek was born Aug. 14, 1956, in Fairbury, to Clarence and Arlene (Matzke) Sasek.

He attended Western Public Schools through the eighth grade and continued his education at Tri County High School, DeWitt, graduating in 1974. He attended Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas, studying botany. On Sept. 2, 1978, he married Beverly Blair. To this union, two children were born, Dustin James and Samantha Marie. Carey worked at Travenol in Hays for eight years. They moved to Liberty, Missouri, in 1987, when Carey started working for Marion Laboratories (Sanofi), a pharmaceutical company in Kansas City, Missouri. He worked there for 30 years, doing pharmaceutical testing. They later divorced. He worked for another medical device company for six years before he retired at 66.

Carey learned farming at a young age. When he lived in Liberty, his farming was reduced to growing vegetables and flowers. Flowers became a love of his. He enjoyed growing many unusual varieties and would photograph his own or any that he came across that were beautiful. He framed many of his photos and gave them away as gifts. He created a beautiful flower garden in his front yard with maple trees that his neighbors enjoyed. He also was known for capturing those pesky animals – squirrels, possums and coons. They would eat his vegetables. He made many trips outside of the city to relocate them.

Carey made friends easily and enjoyed life. He kept in contact with many friends from his employment years and when he was sick they came and visited. Many relatives and friends from back home also visited or called Carey during his last weeks. He appreciated everyone.

One of the highlights of his life was his two children, Dustin and Samantha, whom he was so proud of. One year they gave him a dachshund dog as a gift, Sassafra, also known as Sassy, who meant everything to Carey. Then he became a proud grandfather to two beautiful grandchildren. Harper Marie (3) and Nolan Blair (1) were the twinkle in Carey's eyes. He always lit up when he saw them or just talked of them. He wished he could have seen them grow up.

One weekend the family went fishing. Carey wanted to show them how to fish, something he always loved to do. Dustin took his dad to the casino and had a wonderful time together, rubbing his luck off on Dustin. Carey was so grateful for his daughter, Samantha, who helped him with his medical situation the last five months. They spent precious time together.

He was proud of his sisters, Carol, Arlis and Donna. He could go home to Nebraska and visit them. He knew they were always there for him to the very end. From the time he was born, they thought he was the cutest little boy they had ever seen and watched him grow up to be the kindest, fun loving, nicest looking man and were so proud of him. God took one of the best.

He is survived by a son, Dustin (Caitlin) Sasek of Gladstone, Missouri, and daughter, Samantha Sasek of Kansas City, Missouri; grandchildren, Harper and Nolan Sasek; siblings, Carol (Marion) Schmidt of Lincoln, Arlis Sasek of Lincoln, and Donna (Tom) Bartels of Beatrice; nephews, Ryan (Cathy) Filipi of Lees Summit, Missouri, Dan (Barby) Schmidt of Austin, Texas, and Tanner (Missy) Bartels of Lincoln; special aunt, Ruby Sasek of St. Louis, Missouri; and special great-nieces and nephews and many special cousins and relatives. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence and Arlene Sasek; grandparents, Gustav and Anna Matzke and James and Mamie Sasek; aunts and uncles; and former wife, Beverly Sasek.

Carey passed away Dec. 21, 2024, at the age of 68, after a five-month courageous battle with cancer.

A Celebration of Life will be at Liberty United Methodist Church, 100 Rush Creek Pkwy in Liberty, Missouri, on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 2 – 4 p.m.

Burial will be a later date at the Plainview Cemetery in Western



Fredrick H. Weidner Nov. 27, 1932 – Jan. 17, 2025

Fredrick H. Weidner, age 92, passed away Jan. 17, 2025, at the Wilber Care Center. He was born Nov. 27, 1932, in rural Hallam, to Henry L. and Mildred R. (Schernikau) Weidner.

Fred was baptized Jan. 1, 1933, and confirmed on June 23, 1946, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Crete. He attended country school in Seward County and attended Crete High School, graduating with the Class of 1950. After graduation, he farmed and later served in the U.S. Army as a Private First Class from 1953 to 1954 during the Korean Conflict. Returning home from the service, he continued to farm and also worked as a surveyor for the State of Nebraska in the Sandhills, surveying for the highways that were to be built. In later years, he worked at Gooch's Mill, continued to farm and also worked part time for the county assessor's office.

He was united in marriage to Olga Kattau on Sept. 5, 1999, at St. John Lutheran Church in Kramer, where he then became a member. They made their home on the farm near Hallam where they farmed side by side. To this union, Fred inherited (as Olgas' children would say), four children – Denise, Dennis, Deb, Doug and their families.

He was a member of St. John Lutheran Church, the Hallam Legion, Crete VFW and also served on the Kramer Elevator Board, the Kramer of Knights Roundtable enjoying time with his friends and playing the card game Fuchs.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Olga; parents, Henry and Mildred Weidner; and son, Dennis.

He is survived by his children, Denise (Frank) Slama of Dorchester, Deb (Tom) Ourada of Crete and Doug Kattau of Hallam; grandchildren, Victoria Slama, Charles (Codi) Slama, Eric (Blythe) Dewey, Jaclyn Ourada and special friend Jake, Jace Ourada and special friend Mallory and Madison Kattau; great-grandchildren, Dewayne, Henry, Tony, Addison, Caleb, Charlie, Connor, Gwendolyn, Eric Jr., Heath, Harlow, and Petra; and many cousins, neighbors and friends.

The funeral service will be Monday, Feb. 3, at 10:30 a.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Kramer. A private family burial will be at a later date. Memorials contributions are suggested to St. John Church, Kramer Community Hall or the Hallam Rescue.

Arrangements by Kunkel Funeral Home in Crete.

Virginia Krivohlavek Dec. 11, 1934 – Jan. 15, 2025

Virginia Krivohlavek, of Dorchester, passed away Jan. 15, 2025, at the age of 90.

She was born Dec. 11, 1934, to Gladys (Culp) and Herbert McCormick in Fisher, Illinois. She ended up settling in Waverly and worked for Pat Ash, Inc., and Russell Stover's candy company in Lincoln. Virginia's life dramatically changed when she married Harold Krivohlavek, the love of her life, in 1968. Virginia was known for her excellent pies and beautiful oil paintings, but mostly for her kindness, willingness to help others, and especially the love she poured into her husband and family.

She is survived by her children, SueAnn Shaw of Oakdale, Keith Spanyers and Pam Carlin, both of Dorchester, and Karen (Scott) Wiles of Lincoln; and 28 grandchildren.

A family and community fellowship will be Friday, Feb. 28, at 6 p.m. at the Dorchester American Legion. Virginia's Celebration of Life will be Saturday, March 1, at 10:30 a.m. at Calvary Community Church, 4400 N First St, Lincoln. A full obituary can be found and condolences left for the family online at www.zabkaperduefuneralhome.com.

Arrangements by Zabka-Perdue Funeral Home.



COUNTY COURT

Information taken from records filed with the Saline County court.

Hector Y. Rondon Chowin, 34, Crete, DUI-alcohol first offense, \$500 fine, seven days jail, revoked license six months and ignition interlock device ordered. Driving while revoked/impaired (city) first offense, \$150 fine.

Branson D. McDonald, 20, McCook, DUI-alcohol first offense, \$500 fine, one year probation, revoked license 60 days, three days jail and ignition interlock device ordered.

Dalton A. Thomsen, 23, Lincoln, possess marijuana one ounce or less first offense, \$300 fine, and possess or use drug paraphernalia, \$100 fine

Roger S. Galo, 42, Omaha, driving under suspension before reinstated, \$150 fine and license revoked on year, and speeding 16-20 mph municipal,

\$125 fine.

Dionne R. Gorji, 54, Crete, leaving scene of an accident/fail to furnish information first offense, \$200 fine.

Marcos D. Pozo Rodriguez, 37, Exeter, non-resident fail to register withing 30 days, \$25 fine.

Petrona Ramirez Loarca, 25, Crete, no proof of insurance, \$100 fine; no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine; and no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Emely N. Marroquin-Gomez, 22, Crete, possess or use drug paraphernalia, \$100 fine.

Laureano Avalos, 19, Crete, no proof of insurance, \$100 fine; no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine; and no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.

Joel Davila Alaniz, 23, DeWitt, careless driving, \$100 fine; refuse to submit

to pretest, \$100 fine; and fail to dim headlights, \$25 fine.

Eduardo Escobar Osorio, 28, Crete, disturbing the peace, \$100 fine.

Luis M. Fernandez Fernandez, 35, Beatrice, driving under suspension before reinstated, \$150 fine and license revoked one year; non-resident violate 30-day immunity, \$25 fine; and unlawful/fictitious display of plate/renew tab, \$50 fine.

Juan L. Lucas Bernabe, 22, Omaha, speeding 26-30 mph county/state, \$125 fine; no operator's license non-waiverable, seven days jail; no proof of insurance, \$100 fine; and no registration in vehicle, \$25 fine.

Yordanis Vargas Pena, 43, Crete, driving under suspension before reinstated, seven days jail and revoked license one year.

See more records information on page 11.

TRAFFIC

Information taken from records filed with the Saline County court.

Dairon M. Matos Perez, 24, Crete, speeding 16-20 mph county/state, \$125 fine.
 Jimena Perez Franco, 18, Denton, no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.
 Alfredo I. Garcia Escobar, 18, Crete, speeding 11-15 mph municipal, \$75 fine.
 Martin Tziquin Alonzo, 20, Crete, no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine, and no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.
 Travis L. Luzum, 31,

Dorchester, careless driving, \$100 fine, and speeding 21-35 mph county/state, \$200 fine.
 James R. Koch, 44, Wilber, speeding 21-35 mph county/state, \$200 fine.
 Pedro R. Santos Gutierrez, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, Hialeah, Florida, \$75 fine.
 Marlon I. Rivera Mendoza, 28, Beatrice, careless driving, \$100 fine; driving left of center, \$25 fine; and no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.
 Kristen J. Anderson, 57,

Lincoln, speeding 6-10 mph county/state, \$25 fine.
 Adalberto J. Ramos Galan, 30, Crete, no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.
 Natalie M. Scheil, 22, Utica, no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, \$25 fine.
 Dawn M. Soderstrom, 43, Sterling, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.
 Roynel A. Moreno Cruz, 21, Crete, no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.
 Henry Vicente Preez, 21, Crete, no valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan,

\$25 fine.
 Beh Kar, 20, Omaha, speeding 16-20 mph county/state, \$125 fine.
 Pascual Esteba Ramirez Garcia, 18, Crete, no operator's license/waiverable, \$75 fine.
 Visal Vann, 30, Lincoln, speeding 21-35 mph county/state, \$200 fine.
 James C. Kerns, 19, DeWitt, violate no passing zone, \$25 fine.
 Weldon A. Schoenbeck, 70, Western, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine.

POLICE

Information provided by the Crete Police Dept.

Jan. 16
 3:20 p.m.—A report was received of a stolen table and chairs from the 800 block of Juniper
 5:39 p.m.—A driver in the 1800 block of Grove was cited for driving under suspension and other charges.
 8:17 p.m.—A case of shoplifting was reported in the 1800 block of East 29th.
Jan. 17
 12:23 a.m.—A hit-and-run accident was reported in the 2100 block of Grove.
 8:58 a.m.—Following an accident with no injuries in the 1000 block of Boswell, a driver was issued a citation for making an improper turn.
 11:15 a.m.—A person was cited for being in possession of less than one ounce of marijuana.
 6:28 p.m.—A driver was arrested

in the 2300 block of Highway 33 for driving under the influence and other charges.
Jan. 18
 7:36 p.m.—A driver in the 1500 block of Iris was cited for driving under suspension.
 7:53 p.m.—A theft was reported in the 1800 block of East 29th.
 7:55 p.m.—Following a vehicle stop in the 2300 block of Highway 33, the driver was cited for having no registration.
Jan. 19
 2:27 a.m.—Following an accident with injuries in the 600 block of Boswell, a driver was issued a citation for reckless driving.
 8:31 a.m.—A report was received of a damaged mailbox in the 2400 block of Forest.
 10:26 p.m.—A citation for speeding was issued to a driver in the area of

Highway 33 and Cardinal Lane.
Jan. 20
 5:25 p.m.—A person was arrested for shoplifting in the 1800 block of East 29th.
Jan. 22
 2:52 a.m.—A report was received of extortion.
 6:33 a.m.—A report was received of adult abuse in the 2300 block of Westwood.
 5:02 p.m.—A protection order violation was reported in the 100 block of West 13th.
 9:49 p.m.—A theft was reported in the 1700 block of Main.
Jan. 23
 5:35 p.m.—A case of shoplifting was reported in the 1800 block of East 29th.
 9:33 p.m.—A report of child neglect was received.

BIRTHDAY

Siedhoff

Shirley Siedhoff of Crete will celebrate her 90th birthday early next month.
 She was born Feb. 9, 1935, in Crete.
 Family members include the late Clemens Siedhoff; sons Jim and Pat Siedhoff of Hickman and Randy and Betty Siedhoff of Whiteland, Indiana; daughters, Janet and Norm Pavlish of Milford, Judy and Phil Brahm of DeWitt and Sandy and Warren Vyhnalek of Dorchester; 15 grandchildren and 38 great-grandchildren.



Shirley Siedhoff

To help Shirley celebrate, cards may be sent to her c/o The Gardens, 1405 Hickory Ave., Crete, NE 68333.

STUDENTS

Central Community College

Central Community College has announced the names of full-time students who earned spots on the Dean's honor list for the 2024 fall semester, including Tyler Ward of Crete. Students on the Dean's list earned a GPA between 3.5 and 3.99.

University of Nebraska at Kearney

The University of Nebraska at Kearney's Department of Music, Theatre, and Dance welcomed 558 music students from 101 high schools across Nebraska for the annual Honor Band & Choral Clinic on Jan. 27.
 The day-long event brings together young musicians to collaborate and learn under the guidance of UNK faculty and renowned educators from across the state and nation. Participants will rehearse throughout the day in preparation for two public concerts. Participants from Crete included Bryan Zapata-Ramos, Chayton Stejskal, Kira Showalter, Analeigha Huaracas, Katherine Hale and Catarina Nicolas Francisco.

Committee hearings begin in week three for legislative session

BY JOSIE GOLKA
 Nebraska News Service

The Nebraska Legislature wrapped up bill introductions and began committee hearings in the third week of its 2025 session, including proposals to display the Ten Commandments in public schools, end tenure for state university faculty and eliminate online voter registration.
 Lawmakers can introduce bills during the first 10 days of the legislative session, which ended Jan. 22. In total, senators introduced 715 bills and 29 resolutions.
 Bill introductions on Jan. 21 and 22 included legislation dealing with several controversial issues.
 LB 483, introduced by Sen. Jared Storm of David City, would limit legal forms of medical cannabis to liquid tinctures and pills of less than 300 milligrams of delta-9 THC. The measure would change the existing law to include the weight of products like food combined with a cannabis product to equal the 300-milligram limit.
 The measure would also create exceptions for the medical cannabis provisions passed by voters in ballot initiatives last November. However, it does not extend those exceptions to the possession of devices used to ingest cannabis, like vaporizers.
 The bill also would prevent people from serving on the Medical Cannabis Commission who are involved in selling, distributing or purchasing medical cannabis.
 LB 504, introduced by Sen. Carolyn Bosn of Lincoln at the request of Gov. Jim Pillen, would create the Age-Appropriate Online Design Code Act. The act would require online programs and platforms to limit the availability of data and take action to prevent mental illnesses like anxiety and depression

for users under 13.
 LB 512, introduced by Sen. Rick Holdcroft of Bellevue and known as the Chemical Abortion Safety Protocol Act, would create new requirements for healthcare providers and pregnant persons relating to abortion medication.
 The act would require providers to verify that a patient is pregnant and document the reason for the prescription of an abortion pill, along with the point in pregnancy at which the drug would be prescribed, and follow up with the patient two weeks later.
 LB 541, also introduced by Holdcroft, would eliminate online voter registration and limit who can vote early. Currently, Nebraska is a no-excuse state, which means any registered voter can vote early or by mail without a reason. The measure would also require all ballots to be hand-counted.
 LB 594, introduced by Sen. Jason Prokop of Lincoln, would allow police officers to pull over drivers they suspect of using their phones or texting while driving. The bill is similar to one introduced by Sen. Loren Lippincott last session.
 LB 624, introduced by Sen. Rob Dover of Norfolk, would funnel \$10 million of state funds to private school scholarships for low-income students every year. In November, Nebraskans voted to repeal a similar measure via a ballot referendum.
 LB 655, introduced by Sen. Dave Murman of Glenvil, would allow medical providers to deny care based on "sincerely held beliefs" or for religious reasons.
 Critics cited similar measures across the country as a form of discrimination against women and LGBTQ patients, claiming providers should put the needs of their patients above their beliefs.
 LB 691, also introduced by Mur-

man, would require public schools to display the Ten Commandments in all classrooms. While separation of church and state is a core doctrine of United States constitutional interpretation, a similar measure stands in Louisiana despite debate in district courts.
 Senators will focus on debating and passing legislation in committee. Hearings convened in the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs, Judiciary, Health and Human Services, Natural Resources and Revenue committees. Senators debated 48 bills in committee last week.
 The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee considered a proposal to allow school boards and districts to hold elections on bond and property tax issues only during regularly scheduled elections, such as midterms, primaries or the general election.
 Holdcroft, who introduced the bill, said it would allow citizens to vote on issues that affect their property taxes.
 The Judiciary Committee heard a joint proposal expanding legal immunity for those administering opioid overdose drugs beyond just Narcan, which received support from Department of Health and Human Services officials. The state provides Narcan to residents for free, but it is unclear if it would supply other medications included in the new definition.
 The Health and Human Services Committee heard several measures that received no opposition, like increasing the Medicare reimbursement rate for Nebraskans in memory-assistance care facilities.
 The Revenue Committee heard proposals to provide a tax credit for those using sustainable aviation fuel and housing assistance for survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.

OUR AUDIENCE IS YOUR SUPER POWER

Print | Digital | Email | And More

ONEpress
 POWERED BY THE NEBRASKA PRESS ASSOCIATION

Learn more at www.onepressne.com or call (402)476-2851

WHAT IS YOUR RADON LEVEL?

Radon is the #2 cause of lung cancer in Iowa and Nebraska

RADON DEFENSE MIDWEST

LIMITED TIME OFFER

\$50 OFF PROFESSIONAL RADON TEST <small>(REGULAR RETAIL PRICE \$150)</small>	\$100 OFF RADON PROTECTION SYSTEM
---	---

1-866-490-5448
 CALL NOW TO SCHEDULE YOUR FREE ESTIMATE

www.nepublicnotices.com

Nebraska Public Notices are now **MODERNIZED**

Available in Print & Digital
Free-access | Fully searchable

Brought to you as a public service by your local community newspaper.
Because you have a right to know.

Online & In-person workshop for military veterans

Ag Tourism: A Guide to U-Pick Opportunities

Free | February through August

Register at cfra.org/events

info@cfra.org | 402.687.2100 | cfra.org

CENTER for RURAL AFFAIRS
 Equal opportunity provider and employer.

22ND ANNUAL SOUTHEAST NEBRASKA FARM SHOW

SPONSORED BY THE WILBER-CLATONIA FFA BOOSTER CLUB

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 5, 2025
 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.
 SALINE CENTER HALL

FREE TO ALL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS & SUPPORTERS

From Wilber, NE: 11 miles west on HWY 41, then 3 miles north on HWY 15. From Dorchester, NE: 3 miles west on HWY 33 to HWY 15, then 9 miles south on HWY 15 (HWY 15 and County Road M)
 *Snow date: Friday, February 7, 2025



COME Worship WITH US

Sunday schedules listed unless otherwise noted.

CRETE

CLATONIA

HALLAM

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

"Lambs of Christ" Preschool
 Eighth St. & Hawthorne Ave. • (402) 826-4359
 Pastor Ronald Benson
 Cheri Chalupa, Director/Co-Primary Care Provider
 Tiffany Sand, Teacher/Co-Primary Care Provider
 Worship & Communion 9 a.m.
 Sunday School & Bible Study 10:15 a.m.
 Worship & Communion Mon., 6 p.m.

CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH

1430 Hickory Ave. • (402) 904-1118
 cbcrete.org
 Pastor Doug Witzke
 Sunday School 9 a.m.
 Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Bible Study Wed., 7 p.m.

CRETE BEREAN CHURCH

395 Co. Road 2500 • (402) 826-3134
 creteberean.org
 Senior Pastor Dan Williams
 Associate Pastor Travis Frederick
 Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Awana Wed., 6:30 p.m.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

440 E. 12th St. • (402) 826-2039
 Pastor Kelly Tyrrell
 Worship & Adult Bible Study 9 a.m.
 Worship/Sunday School 10 a.m.

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

13th St. & Juniper Ave. • (402) 826-2215
 Rev. Cesar M. Duran
 Fellowship 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:30 a.m.

MINISTERIOS PENTECOSTES MARANATHA

515 E. First St. • Cell: (402) 314-5172; (402) 310-7204
 Martes 7 p.m.
 Jueves 7 p.m.
 Viernes 7 p.m.
 Sabado 7 p.m.
 Domingo 5 p.m.

NEW HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH

2140 Hawthorne Ave. • (402) 826-3370
 newhavencrete.org
 Pastor Dan Botterbrodt
 Sunday School/all ages 10 a.m.
 Worship 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.
 Bible Study Wed., 7 p.m.

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Ninth & Ivy Sts.
 plymouthuccchurchcrete.com
 Pastor Larry Tolen
 Worship 10:30 a.m.

RADIANT SPRINGS CHURCH

1910 W. 12th St. • (402) 826-1040
 radiantsprings.com
 Lead Pastor Dr. Brent Braunberger
 Hispanic Pastor Luis Gomez
 Worship 10 a.m.
 Hispanic Worship 12:30 p.m.
 Discovery Clubs/Youth Wed., 6:30 p.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

13th & Ivy Sts. • (402) 826-2044
 sacred-heart-crete.org
 Father Chris Stoley
 Monday-Friday: Mass in English 8:15 a.m.
 Lunes-Viernes: en español 5:30 p.m.
 Saturday Mass 5 p.m. (Eng.) & 7 p.m. (Span.)
 Sunday Mass 9 a.m. (Eng.) & 11:30 a.m. (Span.)

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

11400 W. Panama Road (rural Crete)
 (402) 826-3883; Cell 402-418-8760
 stjohnkramer.org
 Pastor Maynard Toensing
 Worship (Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays) 9 a.m.
 Adult Bible Study/Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

TRINITY MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

E. 14th St. & Juniper Ave. • (402) 560-0024
 Deacon Christine Grosh
 3rd Sunday of the Month
 Worship with Holy Communion 4 p.m.

CLATONIA HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

550 Washington St.
 Worship Sat., 7:00 p.m.

ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)

11412 W. Highway 41 • (402) 989-4775
 stjohnszion.org
 Pastor Steven Kahrs
 Worship 8:30 a.m.

DENTON

DENTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Conestoga Parish UMC
 9335 W. Third St. • (402) 219-4213
 Pastor Ed Millican
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:30 a.m.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

7105 Cass Ave. • (402) 797-2105
 dentonstmarys.com
 Father Craig Doty
 Vigil Mass Sat., 5 p.m.
 Mass 8 a.m., 10 a.m. & 12 p.m.

DORCHESTER

BETEL WORSHIP CENTER CENTRO DE ADORACIÓN BETEL

707 Washington Ave. • (402) 418-1934
 Pastor Marco T. Flores
 Bilingual Service/Servicio Bilingüe
 Worship Sunday 11 a.m.
 Adoración Domingo 11 a.m.
 Prayer/Bible Study Tuesday 7 p.m.
 Oración/Estudio del la Biblia Martes 7 p.m.
 Worship Thursday 7 p.m.
 Adoración Jueves 7 p.m.

DORCHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

612 Lincoln Ave. • (402) 946-3091
 Rev. Cameron Miller
 Worship 9:15 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:15 a.m.
 Bible Study Wed., 5:30 p.m.

HALLAM CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

205 N. Harrison St. • 402-787-2440
 Pastor Peggy McClain
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Adult Bible Study (Every 1st and 3rd Sun.) 9:30 a.m.
 Choir (Every 2nd and 4th Sun.) 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:30 a.m.

HALLAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

500 Main St. • (402) 486-3677
 Pastor Pam Savery
 Worship 9:45 a.m.

MARTELL

MARTELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2700 W. Martell Road • (402) 486-3677
 Pastor Pam Savery
 Worship 11 a.m.

PRINCETON COUNTRYSIDE ALLIANCE CHURCH

24005 S. 12th Street • (402) 798-7318
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
 Worship 10:30 a.m.

PLEASANT DALE

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH (LCMS)

101 Maple St. • (402) 795-3885
 pleasantdalelutheran.com
 Pastor Timothy Gall
 Worship 9 a.m.
 Sunday School/Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

PLEASANT DALE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Conestoga Parish UMC
 201 Main St. • (402) 219-4213
 Pastor Ed Millican
 Worship 9 a.m.
 Sunday School 10:15 a.m.

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

2244 N.W. 126th St. (rural Lincoln) • (402) 796-2433
 Pastor Jacob Krueger
 Worship 9 a.m.
 Sunday School/Bible Class 10:15 a.m.

SPRAGUE

SPRAGUE COMMUNITY CHURCH

18800 Market St. • (402) 794-4835
 Pastor Keith Morris
 Worship 9 a.m.

To add your church or to update existing information, please contact 402-643-3676 or office@sewardindependent.com



Complex

Continued from 1

be able to host and compete in their facilities. CPS will continue their partnership with Doane University despite the upgrades, McDowell said. "These upgrades will really allow for some flex-

ibility in scheduling and for us to be able to host many of our lower level stuff," McDowell said. "But we don't want to let go of that partnership with Doane, they've been great partners." McDowell said he

hopes to involve high school students in the project management and facility upkeep through the various career pathways. "Our kids can certainly have their fingerprints on it," McDowell said. "It can be a facility that's useful as an educational tool for them, outside of just Ath-

letics and Activities." Mammoth is committed to working with community contractors as they go out for bidding for the project, McDowell said. "Their willingness to work with local contractors where appropriate, just incredible," McDowell said. "It's all they do.

So when it's all they do, the pricing that they can get on all of the things will be better than had we gone a with a traditional general contractor design experience." McDowell said he and the board agreed the improvements are part of building pride at CHS. "We want our kids to

be proud of where they go to school, and a piece of that is the facilities," McDowell said. "As we continue to grow, a place they can call home is meaningful. I want not only our kids and our staff, but our community be proud of the facilities that we have for our kids to participate on."

New apartment complex to open in March

Location at 16th and Ivy is near various local amenities

BY ALEJANDRA FERNANDEZ reporter2@sewardindependent.com

Crete residents will soon have a new option for housing with the completion of Ivy Place Apartments, an eight unit apartment building set to open on March 1. The development, at the corner of 16th and Ivy, is near an array of local amenities and aims to address the growing demand for quality rental housing in the area. "We felt there was a need for rental units in Crete, so that's why we built it," said the developer, Joe Nerud, a Crete area native. "We already have most of the units occupied."

Each apartment features two bedrooms, one full bathroom, in-unit washers and dryers, and high-efficiency heating and cooling systems designed to reduce energy costs. Stainless steel appliances and thoughtful layouts add to the appeal of the units. In addition to the apartments, Nerud is



ALE FERNANDEZ/CN

Joe Nerud, daughter Mallory Nerud, wife Camry Nerud, and son Mason Nerud stand in front of the front entrance to the Ivy Place Apartments two months prior to their expected finishing date.

building a commercial space across the alley, with a Dominos pizza scheduled to open in summer of 2025. Another restaurant space is available, and negotiations with potential tenants are ongoing. The proximity of these dining options is expected

to add convenience for residents. The previous properties on Ivy were considered blight and were demolished by the City of Crete. The City received many offers for the land to be purchased before Nerud's, which all

sought LB840 financial assistance. The offer to purchase the land for re-development from Nerud was lower but an economic review revealed that it was more beneficial for the City to accept because it did not include any other financial incentives Tom Ourada, city administrator, said. Ourada explained the taxes, job creation and development of the projects will bring economic growth to Crete. "The location provides a really good place for people to call home," Nerud said. "It's close to the library, close to restaurants, close to churches, it's all within reach. So it provides a good economic impact because it's close to all those amenities."

The project has relied heavily on local subcontractors and vendors, further supporting the Crete economy. Looking ahead, the team plans to host an open house in late February to showcase the apartments and engage with the community. "This development brings new life to an underutilized part of town," Nerud said. "It's a step toward revitalizing the neighborhood and making Crete an even better place to live."

Crete hospital earns performance award

Crete Area Medical Center announced it has earned a 2024 Performance Leadership Award for excellence in Quality. Compiled by The Chartis Center for Rural Health, the Performance Leadership Awards recognize top quartile performance (i.e., 75th percentile or above) among rural hospitals in quality, outcomes and/or patient perspective. "We are honored to be recognized as a top performer in quality," said Julie Lacy, Interim President and CEO of CAMC. "This award demonstrates the commitment

we have to providing excellent, quality care to each and every patient." The Performance Leadership Awards are based on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX®, a framework for assessing how rural hospitals are performing. INDEX benchmarks are relied upon by rural hospitals, health systems with rural footprints, hospital associations and state offices of rural health to measure performance across multiple areas impacting hospital operations and finance.

Crete police remind drivers, passengers to buckle up

The Crete Police Department will focus on seatbelt safety during February. Officers with the department will be working to make sure drivers stay safe on the roads, reminding drivers and passengers that they need to Buckle Up. Every Trip. Every Time. No matter how long

of short of a drive, it's critical that drivers and passengers use their seatbelts. Do your part to keep everyone safe. Make sure everyone in your vehicle is buckled up before you ever turn on the car. For more information on seatbelt safety, visit www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/seat-belts.

Compassionate care every step of the way

**Currently taking new clients!
Accepting Applications to Join Our Team!**

**Hosanna Home Care
In Nebraska LLC**

(402) 826-7148 • For Espanol 402-314-6355
hosannahome2009@gmail.com

HERE TO KEEP YOU ROLLING

A FEW OF OUR SERVICES:

- Interstate Batteries
- Oil Changes
- Tire Sales

SEE US FOR FUEL DELIVERIES

- Gas • Diesel • Propane

All Automotive Repairs

Jay's 

Oil & Propane

402-826-2980 • 237 West 13th • Crete




Anna Alcalde is delighted to share her art with the people of Crete through her exhibit at the library.

'The EARTH without ART is just EH'

Alcohol ink artist Anna Alcalde brings her unique touch to Crete

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN
scireporter@sewardindependent.com

Step into a world of swirling colors and layered depth at the Crete Library this January and February.

The library's gallery wall features the work of Anna Alcalde, a Lincoln artist who captivates viewers with her use of alcohol-infused inks on recycled tile.

Julie Fahrlander of the Blue River Arts Council has been curating the gallery wall since it opened in January of 2022. The gallery features various artists with ties to the Nebraska Arts Council, and Fahrlander said she works to have a wide variety of art exhibits on the wall throughout the year.

Fahrlander said she hopes the rotating exhibit wall introduces people to art they have never seen before and may find they love.

Alcalde's exhibit features 11 of her alcohol ink pieces and includes landscape, nature and abstract works.

Alcohol inks react to high concentrations of isopropyl alcohol and can then be manipulated. Alcalde sometimes adds resins to the works to create layers that build visual depth and uses recycled tile as a canvas.

"Most people do abstracts by splashing and moving the colors with them, but I've learned how to control them to make landscapes and more controlled art," she said. "I love mixing alcohol inks with other optics, like ground glass,

gold leaf, shells and rocks, and then I resin coat them to give it more of a depth."

Alcalde believes everyone has an artist inside of them just waiting for some gentle guidance. Her philosophy is "The EARTH without ART is just EH."

Alcalde studied marketing at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and had various creative jobs over the years including a graphic artist, florist, marketer, jewelry designer, and K-8th grade art teacher.

"I have had every creative job you can possibly have to avoid working in a grey cubicle from nine to five," she said.

She has now spent the past 13 years owning Urban Legends Art Studio, an interactive art studio in Lincoln. She teaches creative skills to all ages and assorted abilities and especially enjoys working with children, seniors and those on the autism spectrum.

Some people come to lessons believing they cannot do art, but Alcalde always tells them it is like riding a bicycle. Practice makes progress, and she loves seeing people find a medium they are drawn to.

"I love doing my own art and the meditation of doing my own art," she said. "But, I also really enjoy seeing people blossom and learn creativity with art or letting go of the boundaries that they put on themselves."

Alcalde also strongly believes in the importance of giving time, treasure and talent. She donates many of her

pieces to nonprofits for fundraisers and serves as a community art teacher for an assortment of nonprofits.

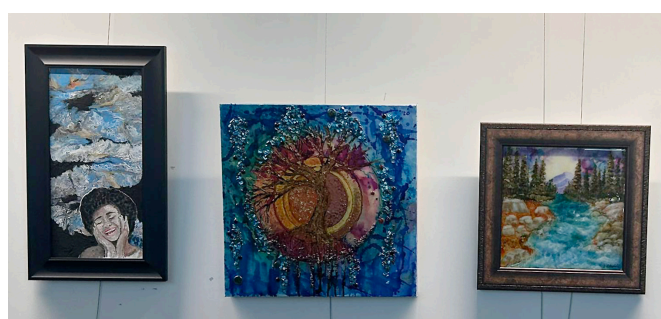
She has sold many of her pieces and has won awards and grants for both her artwork and community impact, including the Tabitha's People's Choice Award, Nebraska Girl Scouts Artist Mentor of the Year and the Lincoln Mayor's Art Award, which she got for teaching teenagers the importance of community empathy through the arts.

Alcalde, who also enjoys working with acrylic painting, watercolor and mixed medium collage, discovered alcohol inks through a friend who took a Kansas City art class about 10 years ago. She fell in love with the medium and studied under Jewel Buhay, a prolific alcohol ink artist in Canada.

"I've tried many different mediums, and the alcohol inks just captured my soul," she said. "I just was enamored with them from the minute I started. I just was obsessed."

Fahrlander described Alcalde as delightful and active in the art world, and she encourages everyone in the community to come look at her pieces.

"Her work is just amazing," Fahrlander said. "When you look at it up close, some of them are so full of depth because she adds different layers of inks and resin and more inks and water that looks very 3-D in some ways, for a 2-D picture. It's amazing."



COURTESY PHOTOS
Left: A portion of Anna Alcalde's art on display on the Crete Library's gallery wall.

Now You Know Fun facts and conversation-starting snippets for curious minds of all ages!

What Are the Roots of Groundhog Day?

Groundhog Day is a lighthearted tradition that millions of people enjoy each February, and the custom may have much older roots than celebrants realize. The American Folklife Center & Veterans History Project notes that folklorist Don Yoder, in his 2003 book Groundhog Day, traced the origins of the holiday to pre-Christian festivals that also led to holidays like Halloween. Yoder asserted the timing of the festival that is now celebrated as the holiday Groundhog Day, which falls in between the winter solstice and the spring equinox, symbolizes how significant and anticipated changes in the seasons were within pre-Christian society. That's one reason why the festival that served as a precursor to Groundhog Day survived when western European societies became Christianized.



COURTESY PHOTO

Wilber-Clatonia students and FFA instructor Cara Holtorf will be available to assist at the Wilber-Clatonia FFA Booster Club's 22nd Annual Southeast Nebraska Farm Show on Wednesday, Feb. 5, at Saline Center Lodge.

Farm Show to cultivate community and growth for W-C ag students

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN
scireporter@sewardindependent.com

It's more than just a farm show – it's a celebration of agriculture, community and the future of farming.

The 22nd annual Southeast Nebraska Farm Show, put on by the Wilber-Clatonia Future Farmers of America Booster Club, is set for the Saline Center on Wednesday, Feb. 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Complete with vendors, food and a silent auction, the event brings members of the local ag world together while raising funds to help FFA students grow.

About 50 businesses and organizations from southeast Nebraska, including seed companies, insurance and real estate agents, local cooperatives, tire service companies, hardware stores and more will be at the event to educate attendees about their products and services.

The businesses will all have booths with information pamphlets and any goodies they want to hand out.

Most vendors will be indoors, but businesses with large items on display, such as auto companies that bring trucks and equipment dealers who bring farm equipment, will be set up outdoors.

Daylight Donuts will be on site from 8 – 11 a.m. and a free-will donation pork luncheon will be available. All attendees will be invited to put their names into a drawing for a DeWalt insulator tool.

There will also be a silent auction going on throughout the day with items such as tools, volleyball and football tickets and more up for grabs. The items are donated by the farm show vendors and other local businesses, and the money raised goes to the W-C FFA Booster Club.

"A lot of businesses in Wilber are gracious enough that even though they aren't tied to agriculture they donate so that those funds are used to go towards the kids as scholarships and events," Megan Horak, the secretary for the Wilber Future Farmers of America Alumni Boosters, said.

The W-C FFA Booster Club serves W-C students by giving out scholarships, sponsoring students to attend conventions and more. Horak said the W-C FFA Booster Club gave out more than 15 scholarships to students last year to help them put their best foot forward out of school, whether they are going into a trade, attending a university or heading

straight to the workforce.

"I really enjoy seeing the kids grow year to year, watching them go from freshmen all the way to seniors and getting to work with them and then award them scholarships that we raise from that money at the end of the year," Horak said.

Horak said she has also enjoyed working with and getting to know the vendors, some of which are newer businesses. The farm show allows them to mingle with their customers, meet new people and increase their customer base.

"A lot of the vendors we've had have been with us from the beginning, and we are eternally grateful for that," Horak said. "They are super supportive of the FFA kids."

Horak recommends that not only anyone who has ties to agriculture or uses agriculture products attend the event, but also anyone who wants to support kids in FFA.

The event has been the W-C FFA Booster Club's main fundraiser for the past 22 years, and Horak said the organization is always excited to continue putting it on. In fact, Horak's husband, Bryce, said he remembers attending these farm shows when he was a W-C FFA student. He is now the W-C FFA Booster Club president.

"It's really about connecting with our community in agriculture," W-C FFA agriculture teacher and FFA advisor Cara Holtorf said.

Several W-C FFA students always attend the event and enjoy getting to know the vendors. Horak said the show helps open students' eyes to all the work opportunities in the area and can lay the groundwork for a student working for one of the vendors in the future.

"The kids help the vendors unload their stuff, and they help serve the meal, and they're really good about that, and they've just been really awesome to work with the last couple years," Horak said. "They're a really good group of kids."

CN The Crete News

Keeping you up-to-date with the local news important to you.


1201 Linden Ave. • P.O. Box 40 • Crete
402-826-2147
www.cretenewsonline.com

INSURE YOUR LIVELIHOOD

- FARM PROPERTY & CASUALTY
- EQUIPMENT INSURANCE
- LIVESTOCK INSURANCE
- PIVOT INSURANCE

It's your farm. It's your life. Make sure you have the right insurance.

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



Precision

Seed & Chemicals, LLC.



647 US Highway 6
Friend, NE
(402) 947-2080

Shaping meat markets worldwide

Dave Bruntz has key position on U.S. Meat Export Federation

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN
scireporter@sewardindependent.com

Friend's Dave Bruntz grew up surrounded by the rhythms of rural life, but his work today takes him far beyond Nebraska's borders.

As vice chairman of the United States Meat Export Federation, Bruntz champions red meat exports and helps bridge the gap between local producers and international consumers.

The USMEF aims to facilitate and grow the export of more red meat – beef, pork and lamb – around the world. Its members include beef, lamb and pork producers; corn growers through national and state organizations; packers; exporters; Soybean Board members and meat purveyors.

Bruntz, president of Bruntz Farming and Feeding in Friend, was the president of the Nebraska Cattlemen in 1997. He served on the Nebraska Corn Board from 2013 to 2022 and was chairman for three of those years.

He has also served as regional vice president for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and been a part of the Nebraska Cattlemen Foundation, the University of Nebraska Foundation, the Friend Area Foundation, Agriculture Builders of Nebraska, the local co-op board and more.

Bruntz got involved



Dave Bruntz of Friend brings decades of agricultural experience to his role as vice chairman of the United States Meat Export Federation.

with the USMEF through his work on the Nebraska Corn Board. He became the co-chairman of USMEF's Feedgrains and Oilseeds Council before being voted onto the organization's executive committee and eventually elected as an officer.

The USMEF's executive committee votes on who becomes an officer. The person elected moves through the ranks every year, going from secretary-treasurer to

vice chairman to chairman-elect to chairman to past chairman.

Bruntz was elected as secretary-treasurer for the USMEF in November of 2023 and is now vice chairman. He participates in officer calls, Zoom meetings and product showcases with the board.

Bruntz said one of the USMEF's current main focuses is keeping tabs on the negotiations of a six-year contract, the

See MARKET page 15



The best thing to happen to crops

SINCE RAIN

Friend Fertilizer, Inc.
102 N Chestnut
Friend, NE
www.friendfert.com

Here for your agriculture needs
402-947-2681



Fueled by passion

Crete grad pushes for E15 freedom at the pump

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN
scireporter@sewardindependent.com

Raised in the Cornhusker State, Cassidy Skillet knows the value of ethanol firsthand.

Now a fourth-year agricultural economics student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the Crete High School graduate is using her education, internship experience and passion to advocate for national year-round access to E15.

Skillet has been interning at a trade association, Renewable Fuels Nebraska, for the past year doing digital marketing and any other tasks the organization throws her way.



Cassidy Skillet

"It's been just the most wonderful experience," she said. "I've spent a year spending a lot of time in the ethanol industry and learning a lot from the industry professionals."

While in a course on the policy and economics of the energy sector,

Skillet compiled research on E15. In its name, the "E" stands for "ethanol" and the "15" refers to the percentage of the gasoline blend that is made up of ethanol, which is a renewable fuel made from corn and other plant materials.

Nebraskans are free to purchase E15 at the pump in the winter, but 43 of the states in the United States have banned the fuel outright.

"It's an outdated law, and it doesn't account for the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions," Skillet said.

Skillet supports E15 access because it is the cheapest choice at the pump due to laws Nebraska has passed to subsidize the industry. It also produces less greenhouse gas emissions than traditional gasoline and its production supports

See SKILLET page 15

Planting seeds of change

An evening with author Kerry Hoffschneider is Jan. 30 in York

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN
scireporter@sewardindependent.com

Take a stroll through the heartland without leaving your seat.

Kilgore Memorial Library in York will host an evening with Kerry Hoffschneider, author of "Hope Stories for the Heartland," on Thursday, Jan. 30 at 6 p.m. With a passion rooted in rural life and a mission to preserve natural resources and the soul of farming, Hoffschneider promises an inspiring gathering with nostalgia and a call to action.

Hoffschneider grew up and still resides on a farm in York County. She always loved being in nature, had a proclivity to family farmers and spent lots of time at her neighbor's farm, one of the smallest dairy farms in Nebraska.



COURTESY PHOTO

Kerry Hoffschneider, author of "Hope Stories for the Heartland," will discuss her love for nature and rural life at her event at Kilgore Memorial Library on Thursday, Jan. 30.

"As I grew up in the 1980s and 90s, I gradually saw the farms change,"

she said. "There were fewer. Moms had to go to work more, not that that

was bad, but there was just less livestock because everybody was working in town to supplement because the farm itself just wasn't going to earn the income.

"I saw this huge change, and I was always on this quest to save the culture that I see slipping away."

She was also inspired by her grandmother, born in 1907, who had a garden and pasture Hoffschneider loved and was the first of her 13 siblings to attend college.

"My grandmother always had the mindset that you always need to keep learning, and especially as women who weren't always afforded the options for jobs then," she said.

Hoffschneider became an agricultural reporter before taking a job at a nonprofit, Epworth Village, which serves Nebraskans with behavioral and emotional health issues. She said this gave her great insight into the challenges facing rural families.

She then worked for a large global seed company, which she said

See SEEDS page 15

'Grassroots' support for sustainable ag

BY RANDY PRYOR
Emeritus Extension Educator and Chair,
Dan Gillespie Soil Health Fund

Healthy soil is the foundation of everything – supporting healthy plants, healthy food and water, and ultimately, healthy people.

And it all begins with the "grassroots" that grow in and thrive from it.

That philosophy guided Dan Gillespie throughout his life. As a longtime Battle Creek farmer and Natural Resources Conservation Service statewide no-till specialist for more than 30 years, Dan didn't just talk about sustainability – he lived it. He shared his passion with farmers and ranchers at field days and conferences while practicing what he preached on his own farm.

Dan's farm was his laboratory, where he experimented with continuous no-till farming and cover crops like winter rye. His work yielded impressive results: Soils rich in organic matter, crops resilient to drought, better water infiltration, and improved irrigation

efficiency.

Sadly, after retiring in 2020, Dan was diagnosed with ALS, a disease that abruptly ended his dreams of enjoying retirement with family while continuing his work in soil health. But even in the face of this diagnosis, Dan chose to "pay it forward," sowing the seeds for future generations to grow sustainable agriculture.

Planting Seeds for a Legacy

In June 2021, Dan and his family launched the Dan Gillespie Soil Health Fund with an initial \$20,000 donation. Today, this Nebraska Community Foundation-affiliated nonprofit endowment has grown to more than \$100,000, providing more than \$3,000 in annual grants to support youth, young farmers and ranchers in their sustainable agriculture journeys.

Recent donations of \$7,500 and \$5,000, respectively, by WK Kellogg Co's Feeding Happiness™ and The Cargill Blair Cares Council will

See GRASSROOTS page 15

AG & RURAL LIFE

Skillet

Continued from 14

Nebraska's economy. The United States Department of Agriculture found that ethanol-blended fuels produce 43% less greenhouse gas emissions than pure gasoline. A later study by the University of Chicago at Illinois found that higher blends of ethanol produce fewer greenhouse gas emissions.

The Clean Air Act restricts the sale of E15 because its Reid Vapor Pressure, which measures its ability to vaporize and form ground-level smog, is higher than that of traditional gasoline.

However, Skillet said ethanol blends only produce slightly more smog than traditional gasoline, and greenhouse gas emissions are considered significantly worse for climate change than smog.

"The Reid Vapor Pressure and the smog forming is definitely one of the cons of E15, but, in my opinion, it's not enough of a con to outweigh all the pros," she said.

Skillet said many people believe ethanol blends trigger the check engine light more often than traditional gasoline. However, a study by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Colorado found this to be untrue and debunked findings in previous studies from sources claiming E15 caused check engine lights to be triggered.

"It's kind of like an urban legend, misinformation type of thing," she said.

Even in Nebraska, E15 is banned during the summer because the fuel produces more smog in higher temperatures. In recent years, the state has only been able to sell it during the summer via



UPCOMING MOVIES

JAN 31 - FEB 9
DOG MAN (PG)



SCAN TO VISIT
creteisistheatre.com

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
 Blue River Arts Council • blueriverartscouncil.org
 For showtimes, see Isis Theatre - Crete on Facebook or www.creteisistheatre.com

Veterans & Friends

(402) 826-2950

Public Is Welcome

Thurs., Jan 30 - Hot Beef

Fri., Jan 31 - Fish or Shrimp

Sat., Feb 1 - Marinated Chicken

a temporary waiver filed with the Environmental Protection Agency.

Nebraska is already taking steps to change this. According to the Office of the Governor, the EPA approved the year-round sale of E15 in Nebraska and seven other states last February, and the new rule will go into effect on April 28.

"This decision is a win for agriculture, ethanol production and for Nebraska consumers," Gov. Jim Pillen said in a press release. "Ethanol is a vital part of our economy. We will continue to ensure consumers have a low-cost option at the pump. Today's actions will result in real savings for Nebraska drivers while producing fewer carbon emissions."

The Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act, introduced by Nebraska Rep. Adrian Smith and Sen. Deb Fischer, would

permit year-round, nationwide access to E15. Skillet said this would stimulate rural economies, boost farmer incomes and create jobs.

Smith and Fischer have introduced the act to Congress the past two years and it is now stuck in a committee. Skillet said it would need to get reintroduced this year for progress to be made on it.

Skillet believes every person is entitled to freedom of choice at the pump and urges people who agree with her stance to contact their local representatives and tell them they support the act.

"Since it can provide such good personal economic benefits, it's a belief of mine that I think consumers should be able to choose E15 all year round to be able to save money for their budget," she said.



Grassroots

Continued from 14

further the work of the Dan Gillespie Soil Health Fund and its efforts to promote soil health and regenerative agriculture.

So far, more than \$10,000 in grants has been awarded. Applications are open twice a year - March 1 and Oct. 1 - at go.unl.edu/dgfund. Recipients include:

- No-Till on the Plains, UNL Extension and the Upper Big Blue Natural Resources District for regenerative agriculture programming.
- Youth-focused initiatives, like Omaha's City Sprouts, which helps urban students explore agricultural careers, and Battle Creek FFA.
- Student research projects, such as a Central City High School study on soil management techniques and their effects on soil aggregation and microbiomes.
- The Prairie Loft Center for Outdoor Education and Agricultural Learning, promoting hands-on learning for students in Hastings.

Grassroots Leadership

The DG SHF thrives

thanks to a dedicated volunteer advisory committee. With over 99% of donated funds going directly to soil health initiatives, it's truly a grassroots effort.

As chair of the advisory committee, my own journey began with a focus on crops and water during my nearly 40 years as a Nebraska Extension Educator. I saw first-hand, as early as 1982, how no-till farming could protect precious topsoil and boost yields in dry years - long before herbicides like Roundup were on the scene.

Fellow committee member Gary Lesoing's story is similarly rooted in sustainable practices. Growing up on a multi-generational farm in Hickman, Gary pursued a PhD in agronomy and dedicated his career to crop production, sustainable agriculture and mentoring new farmers.

Collaborating for Change

The DG SHF is just one "blade" in the growing field of Nebraska's soil health movement. One of our key partners is the Nebraska Soil Health Co-

alition, a dynamic organization advancing producer-centered education and soil health principles across the state.

Dan was a proud supporter of NSHC, even testifying in the Nebraska Legislature about its importance before his health declined. Together, NSHC and its partners are creating a producer-led learning community that fosters on-farm research, mentorship, and sustainable practices to ensure Nebraska's agricultural communities thrive.

Carrying Dan's Vision Forward

Dan Gillespie believed in leaving the land better than you found it. His legacy is a call to action: Support sustainable agriculture, protect our vital natural resources, and ensure future generations inherit healthy soil, water, and communities.

If you share Dan's passion, visit go.unl.edu/dgfund and www.nesoilhealth.org to learn more or contribute to this growing movement. Let's work together to nurture our land and the people who depend on it.

Expertise.

Right Here in Crete.

Twenty four specialists regularly see patients at Crete Area Medical Center. Because quality and convenience matter.

Specialty	Physician	Dates	
Bryan Heart Cardiology	Dr. N Katta	February 10, 17	
	Dr. K. Miller	February 3, 24	
	B. Behrens, PA-C	February 14	
	Dr. N. Hejtmánek	February 25	
	Dr. S. Nagengast	Thursdays	
	Dr. G. Heidrick	February 4, 13, 18, 27	
	Dr. Liz Hanseling	February 4, 13, 18, 27	
	Dr. Kafka	February 20	
	Dr. Bixenmann	February 7	
	Dr. S. Hirschbrunner	February 3, 10, 24	
Dermatology	Dr. C. Peterson	February 14	
	Dr. J. Tilford	February 27	
	Dr. J. Rixen	February 3	
	Dr. B. Seifert	February 26	
	C. Scholtes	Wednesdays	
	Dr. M. Bokemper	February 5, 19	
	Dr. A. Reilly	February 25	
	Dr. M. Williamson	February 4, 18	
	Dr. K. Otto	Tuesdays	
	A. Lovell, LIMHP	Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays	
Ear, Nose, Throat	T. Lang, LIMHP	Thursdays & Fridays	
	Dr. R. Martin	February 3	
	Dr. R. Neamu	February 13	
	Dr. D. Henslee	February 26	
	Dr. Samuel	February 14	
	General Surgery		
Gynecology/Women's Health			
Nerve Conduction Studies, EMG's			
Neurology			
Nutrition			
Oncology			
Ophthalmology			
Orthopedics			
Pain Management			
Podiatry			
Psychology - Adult			
Psychology - Youth			
Pulmonology			
Urology			
Vascular			



Forward. Together.

2910 Betten Drive • Crete, NE • (402) 826-2102

Market

Continued from 14

East Coast Port Union, that would eliminate port shutdowns. Bruntz said about 30-40% of the United States' exported ag products go off the East and Gulf Coasts, and it is vital that ports are open so products can be exported on time.

The USMEF also tracks the trends of U.S. red meat export purchases across the globe.

Mexico is a huge importer of pork. Bruntz said the United States is setting a new record of the amount of pork exports to Mexico every month.

Due to the drought a few years ago, the United States has fewer cows, which impacts the amount of beef available for export.

However, Bruntz said the value of U.S. beef in world markets has increased.

"This tells us that the high quality, U.S. corn-fed beef has a strong demand out there," he said.

"Even though there's a little less product being shipped, the value that the U.S. producer gets back has increased over the last couple of years. It just tells us that the demand for U.S. corn-fed beef is extremely good around the world."

Although the U.S.

exports many high-end cuts of beef to Japan, the bulk of the U.S. beef exports are variety meats, which are made up of lower-end cuts such as heart, tongue, liver, kidney and stomach tripe. These products provide a high source of protein at a low price.

A beef tongue is worth about \$1.50 in the United States but goes for about \$6 in Mexico, which Bruntz said demonstrates the increased value of working in export markets. Selling the exports adds about \$72 in value per finished, processed hog and \$425 in value per finished, processed beef animal.

"The bulk of what we sell are these cheaper cuts that the American consumer does not use," he said. "If we kept all of those variety meat products in the U.S., they just wouldn't sell and we'd end up making them into pet food or maybe even go into the landfill."

"It's a huge benefit to export those products and see them go into these countries that need them."

One of the board's recent areas of focus has been new and emerging markets for red meat exports. Bruntz said one of these markets is Africa.

"Africa is not a big

buyer of products yet from the U.S., but it's gaining momentum," he said. "As their economy improves, and the population there is huge, so if we can at least put a little bit of high quality protein in front of those people, give them the opportunity to try it, we feel that's a new market that we're going to spend more time working on."

Bruntz said being on this board has helped broaden his horizons in the industry, and he has loved working alongside many different people in the industry. For Bruntz, the USMEF is not just about selling products, it is about building relationships, preserving the culture of farming and paving the way for the future of agriculture.

"It takes a lot of people coming together with one goal in mind to make these things happen, and it's just the ability to meet new people and be educated in what they are doing so we understand better, and they ask us questions about how we're producing our products too," he said. "It's just a camaraderie of people leaning on one another with one mission in mind, and that's to sell more product around the world."

Seeds

Continued from 14

demonstrated the great and challenging aspects of corporate agriculture.

She co-founded Graze Master, a group of progressive individuals in agribusiness who promote sustainable farming practices, to address profitability for family farms from the soil up and balance that profitability with caring for nature.

The group puts on events, does consulting and encourages people to make positive changes, even on a small part of their land, such as adding cover crops, going no-till, adding grazing livestock and more.

Hoffschneider then began listening to and gathering inspiring stories of healing the land lived by farmers, entrepreneurs, global busi-

ness leaders, ranchers, Hoffschneider herself and more. Her group members urged her to publish them together as a book, which she did about a year ago.

"It's a book about how we can do agriculture different," she said. "We can implement soil health practices that are maybe from the past and maybe forgotten about, or we're learning new things about the soil we never knew."

Hoffschneider will give a brief talk about her book and how ranchers, farmers and community leaders are working to restore water, soil and rural life. Then, attendees will have the chance to participate in a group discussion about the future of agriculture, rural communities and the environment.

Everyone willing to

learn and take steps to save the Earth's resources fills Hoffschneider with hope. She said she thinks of humans as all being children of the soil that can connect with one another through contact with the ground and using their energy, intellect and action for good.

"If we don't save the soil and conserve water, we can't do any other business under the sun," she said.

Hoffschneider encourages all generations to attend the event to learn from one another. Be prepared to leave the evening feeling inspired, connected and ready to make a difference.

"We need to sit across from each other in the kitchen and talk again," she said.

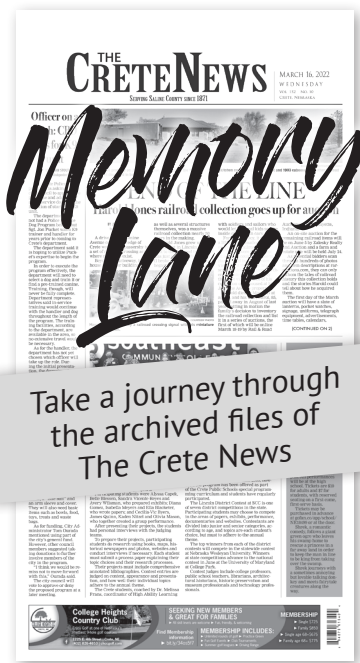


LB840 Economic Development Program half cent sales tax funding helped make this renovation project possible.

CRETE
NEBRASKA
Community
in Motion

No Memory Lane for this week

Editor's note: There will be no Memory Lane feature this week, as on occasion, there are differing calendars. For example, in 1934, there might be a month with five weeks and the same month in 1984 has four. We check back on a four-week per month basis, so in order to keep the calendars equal, from time to time, we will need to skip a week. The feature will return next week.



Take a journey through the archived files of The Crete News

Stehlik

Continued from 1

Dorchester High School and attended events there while attending Doane University from 2003 to 2007.

"(The theatre) always resonates with me," he said. "I love movies. I'm a huge movie and TV buff, so every time I can see new movies here in town without driving to Lincoln is just amazing. I appreciate it very much."

Kristi Capek, president of the BRAC Board of Directors, said the BRAC is fully run by volunteers and is happy to have Stehlik on the team. She believes his connection to Doane University will be a tremendous asset.

"He's very easy to work with," Capek said. "He's willing to help, and he's got great ideas, and just to bring that other perspective to our team has been wonderful."

The board is working to attract more Doane volunteers, and, as a Doane alumni and staff member, Stehlik has been instrumental in this. Many students from athletic groups or Greek life volunteer to work shifts or clean at the theatre.

Members of the fraternity Stehlik advises, Delta Kappa Pi, clean it every Sunday night.

Pryor

Continued from 1

organ at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Wilber.

Pryor's friend, Gary Lesoing of Hickman, had been encouraging him to join the Homestead Harmonizers for years, but Pryor always said he was too busy with work. After Pryor retired, Lesoing asked again, and Pryor realized he had no excuses left.

He came to one of the group's guest nights, and the rest is history.

"I thought I would try it, and I got hooked," Pryor said. "I just really enjoy it and have made a lot of new friends."

Pryor decided to sing baritone with the group, which was perfect because it needed more baritones when he joined.

"I like challenges, and I found baritone really

"It's nice to see the students want to be involved in their community like this," Stehlik said.

Capek said she and Stehlik have talked about many ideas for the future of the BRAC. These include possibly collaborating with the students in the new multimedia design pathway at Crete High School, collaborating with Doane's esports team and hosting a Galentine's event.

The Isis Theatre originally opened in 1926, so Stehlik said there is potential for great 100-year celebrations next year. This summer will mark the one-year anniversary of the theatre's reopening, and Stehlik said the BRAC has slowly been getting everything figured out, such as how to make money and how to bring people into the theater, over that time.

"I'm really, really looking forward to fundraising opportunities, like gala-like opportunities, just ways to bring more people from the community into the theatre to see both movies and the arts," he said. "We have a lot of fun things planned. I don't want to spoil anything, but it's going to be an exciting year."

challenging because you need to be able to sing low and high and mix right in and harmonize," he said.

Darrel Baker, the group's membership vice president, has been in the Homestead Harmonizers for 35 years and said Pryor is an asset to the group.

"He's very thorough on his decisions, he's willing to step up and be with us, and he's just a good guy to be around," Baker said. "And, being with Extension for years and years, he's organized, knows what he's doing and that's always a pleasure to get those kind of people."

Lesoing, the Homestead Harmonizers' current president, is in the last year of his two-year term. In 2024, he asked Pryor if he would like to be the next president and told him he would teach him all he needs to know.



PHOTOS BY DOUG CARROLL/CN

Auctioneer Troy Novak of Dorchester takes bids during the live auction at the Saline County Chapter of Pheasants Forever annual banquet in Wilber Jan. 25.

Pheasants Forever chapter focused on wildlife habitat improvement

BY DOUG CARROLL
For the Crete News

A large crowd packed Sokol Hall in downtown Wilber on Jan. 25 for the Saline County chapter of Pheasants Forever 30th annual banquet.

Featuring raffles, games, and live and silent auctions, as well as a prime rib dinner, the banquet is the primary fundraiser for the organization and went well, according to chapter president Jim Tucker.

"The numbers were good - it was another successful year," he said.

Funds raised by the banquet will be used for such things as wildlife habitat improvement projects in the county and youth hunting opportunities and education, such as the mentored youth hunts the chapter puts on every year.

Tucker said banquet attendance has been a little down the past two years due to competition for people's time, but said preliminary numbers looked good for this year's fundraiser, and the money raised will be used to fund local projects.

Tucker said the key to pheasant, quail and other wildlife populations is proper habitat, and that Pheasants Forever is dedicated to helping farmers create and improve wildlife habitat on their land, as well as teaching kids about conservation and hunting.

"With grasslands at historic lows, pheasants and other wildlife that rely on natural spaces need us more than ever," he said.

Ever since the Saline County chapter of PF was established in 1995, Tucker said, it has invested almost \$200,000 in habitat improvement in Saline County, and it also puts on a mentored youth hunt every fall, teaching young people about firearm safety, wildlife habitat and landowner respect.

At the banquet, the chapter recognized Denny Oelschlager of rural Saline County with an Outstanding Contributor Award for being part of the organization since its inception



Ten-year-old Taylor Niles of Clatonia has some fun with play arrows and her father Josh's smooth head at the Saline County chapter of Pheasants Forever banquet in Wilber Jan. 25.

back in 1995.

"Pheasants Forever is something I got involved with a long time ago to do a better job with wildlife on our property and it's something I really enjoy," Oelschlager said. "Pheasants Forever does a great job and the award meant a lot to me. It was pretty cool."

Tucker said he encourages anyone who cares about wildlife and outdoor pursuits to contact their local PF chapter.

"I would encourage anyone who wants to be part of an organization dedicated to its local community and strong mission to get involved in our great chapter," Tucker said.

He also wanted to thank the chapter's generous underwriters, sponsors and donors that helped put on the banquet.

"Your continued support is greatly appreciated," he said, "and is instrumental in our habitat and youth engagement efforts in the Saline County area."



Denny Oelschlager of rural Saline County poses with his wife, Doris, and the Outstanding Contributor Award he was given at the Saline County Chapter of Pheasants Forever banquet at Sokol Hall in Wilber Jan. 25.

At that same time, Pryor was looking for a new director for the Dan Gillespie Soil Health Fund, as he is the fund's chairman. He knew Lesoing was a former Extension educator with an interest in charity work and soil health practices, so he told him he would be the next Homestead Harmonizers president if Lesoing would be the fund's new director.

"It was a perfect fit," Pryor said. "Help me, I'll help you."

Pryor said he still has

a lot to learn, before he assumes the role but hopes to generate fresh ideas on how to recruit more members when he becomes president.

"It's a good activity for seniors," Pryor said. "There's a lot of research that shows how singing can enhance mental and physical well-being, and I believe it. There's a lot of social connection with this group too, and we all get along well."

The Homestead Harmonizers practice every Monday night in Beatrice,

and many members car-pool to attend from out of town. Pryor encourages men who are high school age or older in Saline County to join and is grateful to the people and organizations in Saline County who have joined the group's donor base.

At their Friend performance, the Homestead Harmonizers sang a variety of upbeat and inspirational songs including an Irish lullaby, "Come Fly With Me," "Winter Wonderland," "You Make Me Feel So Young" and

"Danny Boy."

Pryor said he hopes everyone enjoyed the performance.

"I really enjoy coming to Friend," he said. "After moving three years ago, I haven't seen some people for a while, and so I always enjoy that when I come back and see some farmers and other citizens that I know and some of the folks that I worked with or made relationships with."