



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.

PHOTOS BY DOUG CARROLL/WR

Pheasants Forever chapter focused on wildlife habitat improvement

BY DOUG CARROLL
For the Wilber Republican

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 fire-arm 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.



COURTESY PHOTO

Randy Pryor, former Extension educator, now travels Saline County in harmony since retiring three years ago.

A perfect pitch for retirement

Pryor, Homestead Harmonizers take Friend stage

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN
sireporter@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 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 Lin-

See PRYOR, page 3

Committee hearings begin in week three for Legislature

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

See LEGISLATURE, page 3

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.



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.zabkaperdufuneralhome.com.

Arrangements by Zabka-Perdue Funeral Home.



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



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, Hiialeah, 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.

Royneal 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.

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/im-pounded (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/waiver-

able, \$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.

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Pryor

Continued from 1

coln. 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 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 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. 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 carpool 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."

Legislature

Continued from 1

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 Holdercroft 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 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 Murman, 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. Holdercroft, 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.

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St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church
 501 N. Wilson (402) 821-2689
Father Robert Barnhill
Saturday: 4:00 p.m. Mass
Sunday: 10:00 a.m. Mass

Wilber United Methodist
 215 W. 4th St. (402) 821-2435
Pastor Rai Drake
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:00 a.m. Worship

Clatonia

Clatonia Hope Community Church
 570 Washington St.
Saturday: 7:00 p.m. Worship

Zion Lutheran (WELS)
 11412 W. Hwy. 41 (402) 989-4775
www.zionlutheranchurch-clatonia.com
Pastor Steven Kahrs
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Worship

DeWitt

DeWitt United Methodist
 209 N. Concord (402) 683-5255
Pastor Lori Miller
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Worship
Wednesday: 3:00 p.m. Bible Study

St. Paul's Lutheran Church (ELCA)
 10126 SW 72nd Rd • (402) 683-4645
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Worship

Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)
 209 N. Quince (402) 683-3225
Pastor Travis Panning
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Worship
 Holy Communion - 4th Sunday of the Month

Pickrell

United Methodist
 404 W. Pickrell Rd. (402) 336-7596
Pastor Sketer Makena Riungu and Pastor Charles M. Kitua
Sunday: 8:30 a.m. Worship

Plymouth

Peace Lutheran (ELCA)
 72165 573rd Ave.
Pastor Marilyn Hasemann
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship
 3rd Sunday - Holy Communion
 2nd Sunday - Contemporary Worship

Peace United Methodist
 103 Main St. (402) 683-5255
Pastor Lori Miller
Sunday: 10:00 a.m. Worship

St. Paul's Lutheran (WELS)
 106 E. Hwy. 4
www.stpaulsplymouth.org
Pastor Fred Berger
Pastor Justin Dauck
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Class
 10:00 a.m. Worship

Swanton

Swanton United Methodist
 211 Nemaha St. (402) 683-5255
Pastor Lori Miller
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Worship

Tobias

St. Joseph Catholic Church
 511 Elm St.
Father Robert Barnhill
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Mass

Zion Lutheran (LCMS)
 2245 Co. Road 400
Pastor Gideon Pullmann
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Worship
 10:00 a.m. Sunday School

Western

St. John's United Church of Christ
 Spruce and Bradshaw
Pastor Sandra Denton
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Worship

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

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Specialty	Physician	Dates
Bryan Heart Cardiology	Dr. N. Katta	February 10, 17
	Dr. K. Miller	February 3, 24
	Dr. Behrens, PA-C	February 14
	Dr. N. Hejtmank	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
	S. Hirschbrunner	February 3, 10, 24
	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
	T. Lang, LIMHP	Thursdays & Fridays
	Dr. R. Martin	February 3
	Dr. R. Neamu	February 13
	Dr. D. Henslee	February 26
	Dr. Samuel	February 14

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Family can sometimes be the answer to mental health issues

BY KEATON BURGESS
reporter@sewardindependent.com

If there's one thing people should know about me other than my love for sports, it's that I watch a lot of YouTube.

When I get on YouTube, I usually end up watching a lot of sports related videos, usually on college football, the NFL, college basketball or some sort of running sport such as cross country.

One of the YouTubers that I watch, WyattWorld, covers NFL and fantasy football. This year, he randomly took a few months off and didn't make any videos, which is weird for a full-time YouTuber to do, especially for someone who covers the NFL to do during the season.

YouTubers who don't upload videos for a long period of time can lose out on money and fall out of the YouTube algorithm,



Keaton's Corner
Keaton Burgess
reporter@sewardindependent.com

which is what suggests your videos for others to watch.

About a month ago, Wyatt announced on his channel that he had taken such a long break because of his anxiety and his depression he had been dealing with got to the point where he needed to take a break from making videos.

Wyatt talked about how his anxiety and depression made him not enjoy the things he used to and made him not enjoy being himself. He stated in the video that he would be back to making

videos eventually, but just wasn't ready for it.

He also stated that he realized not uploading videos could lose him money and lose his following, but that his life was more important than entertainment.

Watching this video was heartbreaking for me. To see Wyatt was clearly hurting and knowing it was affecting his channel was a hard thing to see, but the video following it put a huge smile on my face.

The next video on the WyattWorld channel right after Wyatt's update was a weekly game-by-game prediction. Weekly prediction videos are normal for his channel, but what made the video different was that it didn't feature Wyatt, it was his dad.

Wyatt's dad has been featured on the channel before, but never just him on his own. Wyatt's dad

stated at the beginning of the video that Wyatt was doing better, and that he asked Wyatt if he could make a video to get Wyatt started again. Then he went on to predict the NFL games for that week.

Was the video his dad put out up to the normal standards that Wyatt usually uploaded? No, not quite. Even though it wasn't up to that standard, it was a heart warming video to watch. Seeing Wyatt's dad try and do something that he had never done before to help out his son made me so happy to see.

Seeing this video was a great reminder that it's ok to share how your mental health is doing and that there are still good people in this world and people that care about others.

My parents have always had my back, and it's cool to see other parents do the same for their children.

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?

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

I love you, Jimi

BY ALEJANDRA FERNANDEZ
reporter2@sewardindependent.com

A lot of us know what it is like to be alone.

Most of us don't really like that feeling either, of course there are those who prefer to keep to themselves and find comfort in solitude.

I have, like many, felt alone most of my life. Until some years ago, during a very hard moment in my life, I had someone, a very special someone come into it. My cat, Jimi.

I had begged my mom for what felt like forever for us to get a pet. One day while scrolling through the pet page on Craigslist I saw one particular listing. "Sphynx cat available for rehome." Immediately I messaged the seller.

I had just turned 16 at the time, I did not have any money or even a job. So I wasn't too sure what I was thinking when I sent that message, but I am sure glad I did because that day I became the



Alejandra Fernandez
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luckiest girl. That was the day I met Jimi, the day I was no longer alone, the day I met my best friend, but he's become so much more than that.

Eight years later Jimi continues to be my companion through most of the major moments of my life. As I sit here writing this article, he lays beneath my extended arm and with his purrs shares with me his warmth, company and approval.

Jimi has been such a pure part of my life, possibly the one thing that has kept me grounded all these years. If it wasn't



ALEJANDRA FERNANDEZ/CN
Jimi showing off his good side.

for him, I am not sure if I would have ever learned how to embrace solitude, how to have integrity and how to be responsible for a life other than my own. I have come to appreciate those unspoken moments in an exchange of unconditional love.

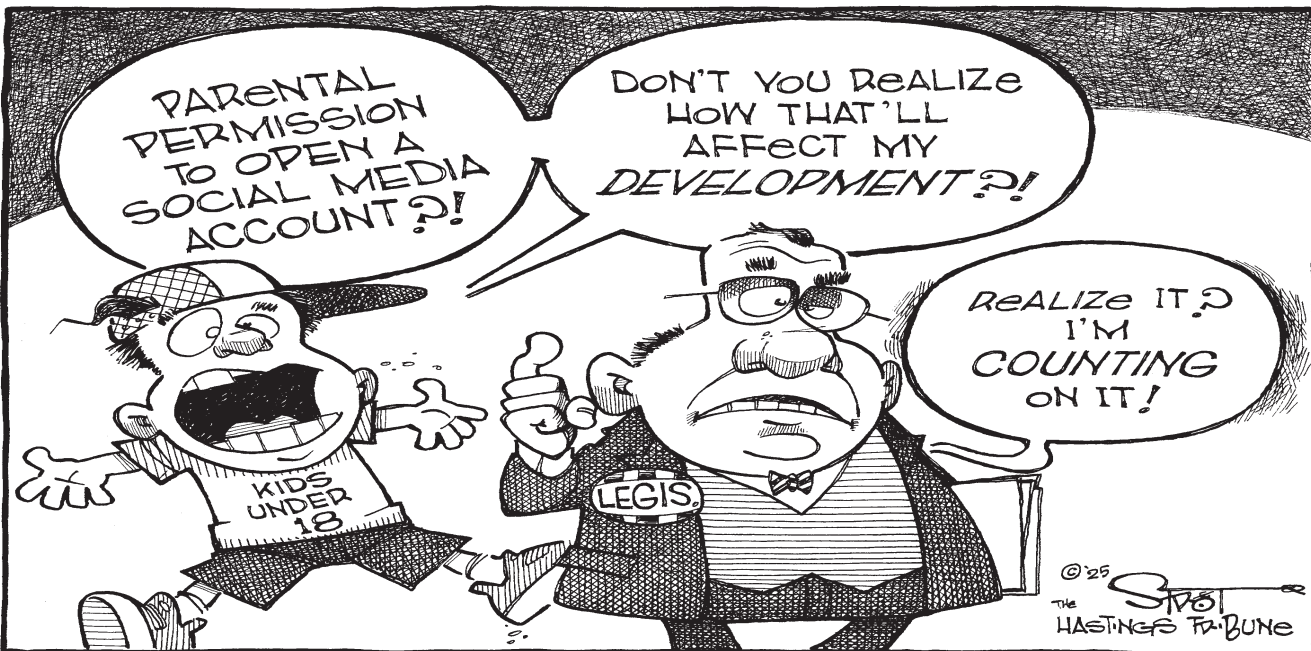
I am a better person because of him and I truly don't know how I got so lucky to have such an

important presence in my life. The love of a pet, of your best friend, of your furry companion is truly an unconditional bond.

Looking back, I realize I may have once taken Jimi's companionship for granted. But now, as he ages and I gain a little more wisdom, I understand just how finite our time together is. His love has taught me to cherish the moments, no matter how small.

It's a lesson I carry with me every day: the love of a pet is a bond like no other, a source of strength and solace that shapes us in profound ways.

Thank you, Jimi, for taking care of me in my worst moments, thank you for being my comfort and my home. I hope I've done the same for you and I will try the best I can to cherish the time that we have.



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Cemetery board to meet

The North Fork Cemetery Board will meet Monday, Feb. 3, at 6 p.m. at the Saline Center Hall.

CORRECTION

The candidates interviewed by the Saline County Board of Commissioners on Jan. 7 were for planning and zoning; not the board of adjustment. The incorrect information was in a column Jan. 22.

Wolverines fall in road battles

BY STEPHANIE CROSTON
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Wilber-Clatonia boys' basketball team lost a pair of road games last week, falling to Freeman 62-32 Jan. 23 and to Auburn 48-37 Jan. 25.

Aiden Zajicek had a big week for WC, scoring 23 against Freeman and 12 against Auburn.

Jameson Conway grabbed seven rebounds and Garrett Nohavec six against Freeman.

At Auburn, Conway added 10 points and six rebounds, with Zajicek recording seven boards.

The Wolverines (8-8) were to host Palmyra Jan. 28 and Milford Friday, Jan. 31, with tip-off at 7:30 p.m.

The Southern Nebraska Conference tournament starts Monday, Feb. 3. WCHS will host David City Monday at 6 p.m. with the winner to play at Thayer Central Tuesday, Feb. 4.



STEPHANIE CROSTON/WR

Meila Gronemeyer of Tri County passes the ball to Isabelle Peters during Jan. 25's game against Centennial.

TC girls go 1-1 on hardwood

BY STEPHANIE CROSTON
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Tri County girls' basketball team went 1-1 in its two games, falling to Elmwood-Murdock 50-42 Jan. 21 and beating Centennial 51-36 Jan. 25.

Coach Mike Larson said the loss to EM wasn't the game the Trojans wanted. The Knights had a double digit lead for part of the game, but TC fought back to cut the lead to eight but couldn't get closer.

Elmwood-Murdock made seven three-pointers, while Tri County made four. Isabelle Peters finished with 17 points and seven rebounds and Meila Gronemeyer added 11 points. Sayber Hoesche finished with five assists and four steals.

"You either win or learn," Larson said.

The team had a three-point lead at halftime against Centennial and outscored the Broncos

27-15 in the second half.

"We were slow out of the gate," Larson said, adding that it seemed like there was a lid on the basket early. "It seemed like a lot of threes were not dropping."

TC finished the game 4-19 from three.

"I felt like the game was never really in hand," Larson said.

Peters led the Trojans with 15 points, 10 rebounds and 10 steals for a triple double. She also delivered seven assists. Macey Gronemeyer added 12 points, and Aubrey Siems scored nine.

The Trojans (10-5) were to host Thayer Central Jan. 28, travel to Freeman Thursday, Jan. 30 and to Fillmore Central Friday, Jan. 31.

TC is the fourth seed in the Southern Nebraska Conference tournament that starts Monday, Feb. 3. Tri County has a bye in the first round and will host the winner of Sutton vs. Wilber-Clatonia Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 6 p.m.

Late rally hands TC road loss

BY STEPHANIE CROSTON
scroston@sewardindependent.com

Tri County led most of the game Jan. 21 at Elmwood-Murdock, but the Knights put together a fourth-quarter rally to edge TC 56-54.

"I thought we controlled the game," Coach Jeremy Siems said. "I liked the way we played."

Rebounding continued to be the Trojans' Achilles heel, he said.

"That kept the door open for them," Siems said. "It got us at the end."

Rebounding has been a focus this season, and Siems said the team needs to get better at reading the ball off the

rim and improving its timing.

"With experience it will get better," he said.

Drew Siems led Tri County with 16 points, and Jason Wehrman scored 12. Henry Kapke and Trevor Kapke added nine each.

After a week of practice, Tri County (4-11) was to host Thayer Central Jan. 28 and travel to Fillmore Central Friday, Jan. 31.

The Southern Nebraska Conference starts Monday, Feb. 3. Tri County will host Fairbury Monday at 6 p.m. The winner will play Centennial at Centennial Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 6 p.m.

Boys win at Thayer Central, girls improve in tournaments

WC headed right direction

BY STEPHANIE CROSTON
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Wilber-Clatonia boys' wrestlers continue to impress. The Wolverines were at Thayer Central Jan. 24 and won the tournament, Coach James Bates said. WC brought home four first-place finishes, one second and a third.

"We had a great week and wrestled really well," he said.

Zaiyahn Ornelas at 120 pounds pinned his way to the finals where he defeated Brody Jensen of Burwell 11-0. Ornelas is currently 36-0. Bates said Jensen bumped up from 113 pounds to wrestle Ornelas.

At 132 pounds, Grant Eschiti pinned his first two opponents and then beat Drew Dawe of Burwell 3-1 to win the class, scoring a takedown with about 15 seconds left to win, Bates said. Eschiti is 25-6 on the season.

Logan Zimmerman was 4-0 with two pins at 144 pounds and beat Drake Troxel of Southern, ranked No. 1 in Class D, 8-1 in the final. Zimmerman has a 31-3 record this season.

Iverson Mejia put together two pins and two technical falls, including a 22-5 win over Brigham Schoenbeck of Norris in the final. Mejia is 36-0 this season.

Ty Roesler earned second place at 157 pounds. He pinned his first two opponents and lost to Dominick Larraga of Shelton, the No. 1 ranked wrestler in Class D, by pin in the final. Roesler has a 23-8 record.

Bates said Roesler threw Larraga to his back but couldn't hold on and got thrown himself.

Ryan Marsh finished



STEPHANIE CROSTON/WR

Faith Klabenes of Wilber-Clatonia takes down her opponent from Sandy Creek Jan. 25 during the Centennial Invitational.

third at 138 pounds. He went 4-1 on the day and beat Alexander Kolman of Norris 9-3 in the third-place match. Marsh is currently 22-8.

The Wolverines won the team title by one point, Bates said.

"Every win was important," he said.

The Wolverines will wrestle Tri County and Crete in a triangular Thursday, Jan. 30, at Crete starting at 5:30 p.m.

The Southern Nebraska Conference tournament is Saturday, Feb. 1, at Sandy Creek.

Girls

The WCHS girls' team was at Thayer Central Jan. 23 and didn't have as good a day. Faith Klabenes was the only medal winner. She won the 190-pound

bracket, pinning all four of her opponents.

"She wrestled well. She's had a good year," Bates said.

The Wolverines had a better day at Centennial Jan. 25, bringing home two medals.

Klabenes finished third at 190 pounds. She won by pin in two of her three wins. She beat Lauryn Mattox of York 2-1 in a tiebreak to place third. Klabenes is currently 16-3 on the season.

Her only loss came to Centennial's Laney Abell, the eventual champion, and Klabenes led the match 9-0, Bates said. Abell was able to roll Klabenes to her back and win by pin.

"That was a tough loss," Bates said. "It's bitter but

a good lesson."

Matilda Koll finished fourth at 135 pounds. She went 2-2 with a pin and lost to Bella Chavarria of Kearney 6-0 in the third-place match. Koll is currently 13-8.

Alysa Zoubek picked up two wins at 120 pounds but finished out of the medals.

Bates said the Wolverines are "still trying to figure out wrestling. It's all about growing and getting better."

He said a lot comes down to mental toughness and confidence in themselves.

"The girls are going the right way," Bates said.

The team will finish the regular season this week and wrestle at districts next week.

Trojans top Raiders in dual

BY STEPHANIE CROSTON
scroston@sewardindependent.com

The Tri County wrestling team picked up a 52-25 win over Southern in a dual Jan. 23 and won four top four places at Thayer Central Jan. 24.

"They are getting better," Coach Jerod Spahr said of the Raiders. "We knew what to plan for, but we still have to stop

them."

The marquee match of the night was at 144 pounds, where Cole Spahr of Tri County used two takedowns and a reversal to defeat Drake Troxel of Southern 8-0.

"He's a good freshman, undefeated coming in," Coach Spahr said.

Silas Sedlacek also wrestled a good match at 126, winning by pin.

Coach Spahr said Sedlacek has bought into the program and is seeing his hard work start to pay off.

At Thayer Central, Tri County was missing four starters for a variety of reasons and still finished just 30 points out of first place, the coach said.

Cooper Stokebrand was the champion at 215 pounds. He was 4-0 with two pins but needed over-

time to win his semifinal match over Rylan Schoenbeck of Norris 1-0. In the final, Stokebrand defeated Cole Vorderstrasse of Thayer Central 20-5. Stokebrand is 37-2 on the season.

"Cooper is so fast. He always has been," Coach Spahr said.

His speed allows him to finish moves you don't often see at the heavier weights, the coach said.

Cade Spahr also picked up a first-place finish, winning the 113-pound bracket. He was 3-0 with three pins on the day and stands at 21-10 on the season.

Riley Kopf brought home second at 165 pounds. He was 3-1 with two pins and lost to Rowan Jarosik of Sandy Creek 18-3 in the final. Kopf has a 26-5 record.

Jason Sullivan earned third at 113 pounds. He was 1-2 on the day.

Henry Holtmeier finished fourth at 132 pounds, going 3-3 on the day with two pins.

Nick Sullivan (190) finished fifth, and Sedlacek (120), Gabriel Alarcon (138) and Keyton Reck (150) each finished sixth.

The Trojans will wrestle Crete and Wilber-Clatonia in a triangular at Crete Thursday, Jan. 30, with matches starting at 5:30 p.m. On Saturday, Feb. 1, TC will be at the Southern Nebraska Conference tournament at Sandy Creek.



STEPHANIE CROSTON/WR

Getting rebounding position

Kaylie Fritz, left, and Haleah Spahrman of Wilber-Clatonia try to box out against Centennial's Cheyenne Tonniges Jan. 21. Centennial defeated the Wolverines 59-18. WCHS lost to Freeman 63-27 Jan. 23 and to Auburn 52-32 Jan. 25. The Wolverines (0-17) hosted Palmyra Jan. 28 and will host Milford Friday, Jan. 31, at 6 p.m. The team will play at Sutton Monday, Feb. 3, at 6 p.m. in the first round of the Southern Nebraska Conference tournament. The winner plays at Tri County Tuesday, Feb. 4, at 6 p.m.

ORGANIZATION

BRADLEY T. KALKWARF, ATTORNEY AT LAW KALKWARF & SMITH LAW OFFICES, LLC
NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF LUMBER MAX TREE SERVICE, LLC

Notice is hereby given that Lumber Max Tree Service, LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with its initial Registered Agent, Bradley T. Kalkwarf at Farmers and Merchant Bank Building, 321 South Main Street, P.O. Box 905, Wilber, NE 68465. The general nature of its business is to do any lawful act concerning any and all lawful business for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The Company is not organized to render a professional service. The Company was organized and commenced on January 22, 2025, and is perpetual. The Initial Designated Office is 504 North Main Street, Wilber, NE 68465. WR — January 29, February 05, 12, 2025 ZNEZ

MINUTES

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;

Approved vehicle exemption application for Doane University; There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:27 a.m. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 4, 2025 at 9:15 a.m., in the Saline County Commissioners' Room, Court House, Wilber NE.

ATTEST: Phil Hardenburger, Chairperson Stephanie A. Krivohlavek, Vice Chairperson Russ Karpisek Brian Pribyl Ray Rohrig Diann Nettifee, County Clerk CR/FS/WR — January 29, 2025 ZNEZ

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 SpIs 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 SpIs 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 SpIs 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; Heath 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 Mulberry Mlg 184.92; Murray Law Atty Fees 1,938.00; NACO Trng 335.00; NACADues 100.00; NCDCA Dues 50.00; NE.gov Cntrct 85.00; A Nicholson Ext Brd 18.35; A Niederlein Ext Brd 23.04; NPPD Utly 231.00; Planet Tech Comm 267.12; Point C Cntrct 347.50; Quill SpIs 171.00; Region V Cntrct 8,639.00; Sack Lumber SpIs 2,430.05; Saline Co Atty Reimb 16.40; Saline Co Cr 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 SpIs 16,723.31; Thomson Reuters Cntrct 179.47; C Thornton Atty Fees 621.50; USPS SpIs 157.50; Unite Comm 6,572.90; Verizon Comm 298.19; T Vernon Ext Brd 29.74; Visa SpIs 3,433.30; Voss SpIs 323.98; Walker SpIs 162.31; A Watson Reimb 26.10; R Weber Ext Brd 57.21; M Werner Mlg 67.27; Wtns Fees-Co Cr Wtns Fees 23.35; Wtns Fees-Dist Cr Wtns Fees 4,611.59; 41 Auto SpIs 1,181.60; AKRS Equip Rpr 955.50; Bartels Body Equip Rpr 962.11; Beatrice Concrete Gravel 7,140.91; Beaver Hardware SpIs 404.72; City of Crete Utly 297.88; Crete Ace SpIs 1,323.48; Crete Auto Equip Rpr 568.34; Crete Lumber SpIs 288.99; Farmers Union Coop Fuel 788.00; Hard Rock Quarries Gravel 3,392.18; KT's Market SpIs 26.58; Linde Gas SpIs 99.96; Matheson SpIs 25.29; Medical Ent SpIs 144.00; MW UlmtD SpIs 200.90; NE IA Ind SpIs 447.26; NMC Equip Rpr 4,549.34; Powerplan Equip Rpr 1,727.16; Shaffer Comm 841.87; Sudria Water Cntrct 350.00; Total Tool SpIs 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 Stougaard 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; 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 Phil Hardenburger Brian Pribyl Ray Rohrig Diann Nettifee, County Clerk CR/FS/WR — January 29, 2025 ZNEZ

WILBER CARE CENTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING DECEMBER 16TH, 2024

Present: Randy Fulton Joyce Wusk Stephanie Hroch Greg Hasenohr Not Attending: Scott Albert Others present: Nicole Lane-Administrator Allison Suden-HR Coordinator Matt Ross- Rural Health Development Visitors Randy Homolka, Maint. Director, WCC Norm Wallman The regular monthly meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Randy Fulton, Board President. Randy Homolka, Maintenance Director at Wilber Care Center, was recognized as a visitor.

The agenda was changed to include a discussion about board member terms, the election of officers and also to add a discussion about the use of medical marijuana and how that will impact the hiring process. A motion was made to approve the agenda with these changes, all in favor, motion passed. A motion was made to approve the November board meeting minutes, all in favor, motion passed.

Current Updates: Current updates-A Day of training was provided to the nurses to go over assessments and other areas that have been a point of concern. The MDS Consultant and the Nurse Consultant also provided leadership training. On December 20th, 2024, Brandy Garrison, the Social Services Director who has been with the Wilber Care Center for more than 15 years, has decided to retire her position with the Care Center. With Brandy leaving, many department employees and Department Heads have stepped up to help fulfill her duties until a replacement can be chosen.

Current Positions Open: MDS Coordinator/Assistant DON. While Wilber Care Center waits for an acceptable applicant, the Care Center has contracted with an MDS company which provides invaluable support to the Care Center to help keep them in compliance with nursing duties as well as social services duties. A Weekend Warrior position remains open. Wilber Care Center has reported that agency use is down in an overall capacity but will remain slightly higher with nursing consulting for the next month or so to prepare for State Survey. The Assisted Living Technicians have received medication training to help with flexibility in job duties to all Assisted Living Technicians. Nicole, Administrator for the Wilber Care Center, remains focused on employee retention and proper training to ensure each job is done with satisfaction and compliance. Future leadership training will be provided to all Department Heads to support strong leadership within the Care Center.

Current projects- The HVAC system is to be installed this coming Thursday. The Care Center is happy to report that the annual holiday party went well and approximately 265 guests came. During the holiday party, the new bell ringing group provided entertainment along with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Clause. Wilber Care Center's Activities department is looking for ideas for family group events, so if anyone has ideas, please send them to the Care Center attention to the Activities Director. On a separate note, as an employee perk, Wilber Care Center has added a "Wallet" feature to their pay period. This feature allows employees who have successfully worked a shift to receive their payment within a day or so of working instead of waiting for their bi-weekly paycheck. The Care Center has found satisfied employees from this option.

Current Census- AL census is at 33 residents with eight having Medicaid and 25 private pay.

There are only two rooms left available in AL with one being held for a resident from the SNF side and a waiting list for the other. A referral was received for a potential admit for SNF, but they may be more appropriate for AL. The DON will be going to the referrals house to assess their condition. SNF census is currently at 37 with 21 having Medicaid, 15 private pay and one on a skilled stay. There is a total of three potential admits, including the one that will be assessed by the DON. The admission process continues to be evaluated to ensure quality care and that all of the needs of potential admits can be met. Work continues on increasing the number of skilled residents.

RHD Update- Matt Ross, RHD Consultant, reported that Vicky, the nurse consultant, will be doing chart audits and survey prep. ERC funds continue to be in limbo. RHD continues to speak with the lawyers and an update should be coming soon.

General Financials: Financial statement-The Medicaid numbers were up due to the amount of Medicaid applications that are still in process. The Medicare numbers are lower than the Care Center would like to see, but this fluctuates with the seasons and competition from other Skilled Nursing Facilities. The Private Pay side of the financials saw an increase due to census being up. Gains/Losses saw an uptick due to the rendering of copper by Randy Homolka, Maintenance Director at the Care Center. Home Delivered Meals were up due to adding a new Senior Center to the list. Salaries stayed consistent compared to previous months.

Aging of Accounts: There are several Medicaid applications out for approval with the State of Nebraska. The Business Office at Wilber Care Center has provided enormous support in assisting the Care Center residents and family members with support to ensure coverage. At the current time, Medicaid is overlooked with applicants and is working diligently to get all applicants enrolled. With the applications of Medicaid on the books the way they are, all applicants are listed as Private Pay, which in turn, makes the numbers higher than what they truly are. Once the Medicaid applications have been approved, we will see these numbers even out and payment come steadily. There are a couple of residents that are significantly behind in paying but Missie Bramhall, Business Office Manager, is working with him and his family to enroll in Medicaid as well as paying his private balance down. The Care Center is also working on drafting new admission paperwork that will include discussion regarding financial assistance.

CDs- Interest rates may drop another quarter and 2025 will most likely continue to see rates decrease. CDs with a longer maturity date are going to be the best option. Greg will provide guidance on how to proceed when the CDs get close to maturity. Motion to approve the Income Section: Motion made by Greg Hasenohr. Motion Passed.

Expense Section: General Expenses: No concerns expressed by the Board of Directors. Motion to Approve Expense Section: Motioned by Stephanie Hroch. Motion passed.

Old Business: Board president Randy Fulton discussed the terms of the board members and what the city councils' expectations would be. When the city council first formed the board of directors, they implemented a term rotation that ensured a continuity of knowledge in the event of a board member leaving. The board members agreed that this process should continue to be followed. Greg Hasenohr made a motion to approve this plan. Motion passed. The discussion about a policy for PTO donation was tabled for the next board meeting, as more information needs to be gathered to decide how to best proceed.

New Business: New legislation about medical marijuana was discussed and how the hiring process will be affected by it. It was decided that the care center will have a zero-tolerance policy in place and a letter from the city attorney would be drafted to inform employees of the care centers stance on this legislation. A motion was made by Stephanie Hroch to approve this decision. Motion passed.

The 2025 room rate increase was also discussed. Nicole had been in contact with a few different LTC facilities to see how much they planned on increasing their rates, but their responses varied with some not having an increase and others increasing as much as 11%. A final decision will be made at the next board meeting on how much the care center will increase their rates and when that will take place.

Election of officers-A motion was made by Stephanie Hroch for all board members to remain the same. Motion passed. Executive session- The board entered executive session at 7:04 pm and came out of executive session at 7:44 pm with no official

action taken. Motion to adjourn made by Joyce Wusk. Motion passed.

Next Board Meeting Date: Monday January 20th, 2025 at 5:30 PM-Wilber Care Center.

Minutes By: Board President Board Secretary WR — January 29, 2025 ZNEZ

This is a synopsis of the regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Wilber. A complete copy of the proceedings, resolutions, agreements, and ordinances are on file at the City Office, 110 W Third Street, Wilber, NE and are available for public inspection during regular business hours.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILBER, NEBRASKA

Tuesday, January 14, 2025 7:00 p.m. Mayor Roger Chrans called the regular meeting to order at the Cultural Center at 110 W Third Street in Wilber, Nebraska at 7:00 p.m. The meeting notice was published in the Wilber Republican on January 1, 2025. The following were present. Mayor Roger Chrans, Councilmember Randy Sasek, Allen Brozovsky, Tim Lempka and Kent Linhart. City Attorney Tad Eickman, City Clerk Lori Rezny, City Treasurer Melissa Beeman, Water/WWTP Operator Jason Ripa, City Superintendent Tim Krivohlavek, Craig Vyhnaelek for Wilber Fire & Rescue, Randy and Heidi Pospisil and June Kucera. The Mayor stated that the open meetings act is posted in the meeting room and is available for public inspection. Roll call shows four Councilmembers are present. The Mayor called for recognition of visitors if anyone in attendance wishes to address the Council. No one addressed the Council. The following motions were moved, seconded and approved by unanimous roll call vote. 1) Approved motion to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2024 regular meeting with the reconsideration of the motion made at the December 10, 2024 meeting to approve the claims list including the claim of Johnson Services of which \$126,689.98 is being paid out of the ARPA funds. The new motion is to approve the claims list including the claim of Johnson Services of which \$125,947.60 is being paid out of the ARPA funds. 2) Approved the list of claims. Claims were as follows. Description of claims for this legal, an-annuity; bond-bond expense, pymt, interest; const-construction; eq-equipment; ex-expense; ga-garnishment; gr-grant reimb; in-insurance; ml-mileage; mi-miscellaneous; pf-professional services; pr-payroll; ps-power supplier; rb-reimbursement; rp-repairs and maintenance; st-sales tax; se-service; sup-supplies; loan-srff/loan pymt; tr-transfer of funds; ut-utilities. 41 Auto Parts, rp, sup, 2186.10; AKRS Equipment, sup, 42.74; Alley Surveying, se, 550.00; Ascensus, an, 3287.80; Beatrice Ready Mix, rp, 2154.60; Black Hills, ut, 502.11; Blue Cross, in, 12,188.01; Bound Tree, sup, 284.03; City of Wilber, ut, 3236.04; pr, 51,100.22; Constellation Newenergy, ut, 222.84; Crete Area Med Center, se, 1200.00; Crete Lumber, ex, 200.00; Culligan of Crete, sup, 18.25; DBL Design, eq, 7974.00; Dvoracek Memorial Library, tr, 20,000.00; Eakes, sup, 219.63; Farmers Elevator, sup, 1823.00; First Natl Bank, sup, ex, 2419.57; F & M Bank, hsa, 1680.00; First State Ins, in, 695.00; Hometown Leasing, eq, 66.77; IRS, pr tx, 10,680.11; JC Slama, rb, 300.00; Jindra Irrigation, se, 555.00; Karpisek's, sup, 60.38; K & G Body, se, 200.00; Lori Rezny, rb, 27.45; Matheson Tri-Gas Inc, sup, 377.49; Melissa Beeman, rb, 161.68; Mutual of Omaha, in, 334.71; Olsson, pf, 696.90; Quadient, ex, 697.00; Sack Lumber, rp, sup, 268.26; Saline Co Jr Leaders, ex, 100.00; Saline Co Clerk, se, ex, 16,891.89; Saline Co Treas, se, 309.17; Schuerman Welding, rp, 484.88; Seward Co Independent, ex 167.85; Sid Dillon, sup, 78.20; Spring Creek, rp, 212.45; Steffes Motors, eq, 22,750.00; Stryker Sales, eq, 96,935.33; Tad Eickman, pf, 2000.00; Verizon Wireless, ex, 163.97; Walker Uniform, se, 34.98; Windstream, 787.46; Zander Enterprise, sup, 4736.00; Border States, rp, 80.26; City of Hickman, eq, 33,025.00; Core & Main, sup, 1513.80; Crete Ace; rp, 92.29; Dutton-Lainson, sup, rp, 7782.01; Echo Group, sup, 40.64; Food Mesto, sup, 27.17; Hydro Opti., se, 250.00; League of Ne Municip., ex, 425.00; Midwest Labs, ex, 174.57; Municip Supply, sup, 798.93; Nebr. Public Health, ex, 268.00; Norris PP, ps, 78,929.96; One Call, se, 13.56; Sargent Drilling, const, 3697.81; Wasteconnections, se, 20,219.38; WAPA, ps, 16,135.03; American Family, in, 601.00; State of Ne., st, 8025.10; wh, 1510.80. 3) Ordinance #984 was read by title. Suspended the rules requiring the ordinance be read three times and approved Ordinance #984. An Ordinance of the City of Wilber, Saline County, Nebraska, relating to sales and use tax as implemented pursuant to Ordinance No. 919, adopted June 14, 2016, to eliminate and

terminate said sales and use tax; directing the publication of this Ordinance and prescribing the time when this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect; and to provide for publication of this Ordinance in pamphlet form. 4) Discussion was held regarding the Physician Medical Director Agreement for the City of Wilber Nebraska Fire & Rescue Department. Craig Vyhnaelek was present to discuss the purpose of the agreement. After some discussion, Council approved the agreement between the City of Wilber Nebraska Fire & Rescue Dept. and Dr. Noah Bernhardson, M.D. at a cost of \$900.00 annually from January 14, 2025 to January 30, 2027. 5) The Fire & Rescue Department held elections of officers and presented those to the Council. Approved to appoint Craig Vyhnaelek as Municipal Fire Chief. 6) The Dvoracek Memorial Library has presented a proposal for new LED lighting at the Library. They do have the lighting project in their budget. Tim Krivohlavek stated he presented the Library Director with a couple of options and after discussion, approved the LED lighting project for the Library at a cost of approximately \$11,397.36. The City employees will be installing the lights for the Library. 7) Tim Krivohlavek reported to Council that Olsson will be doing some core sampling before giving a cost estimate to repair some streets that have been identified as in need of repair. The cost of core sampling will be \$2000.00. Council approved doing the core sampling. 8) Approved the Mayor's appointments of Councilmembers to standing committees for the following departments. Councilmember Sasek to Fire, Ambulance, Fire Sinking and Swimming Pool. Councilmember Lempka to Water, Sewer and Street & Bridge. Councilmember Linhart to Law Enforcement, Sanitation, Department Services and Amusement & Library. Councilmember Brozovsky to Parks, Landfill and Electric. City reports were given after which Council approved to go into closed session for the purpose of the protection of the reputation of persons regarding personnel matters and for protection of the public interest regarding legal strategies. Those attending the closed session were. Mayor Chrans, Councilmembers Linhart, Lempka, Brozovsky and Sasek and City Attorney Tad Eickman. Came out of closed session at 9:00 p.m. 9) Approved hiring Katie VanLaningham as Youth Sports Director at a salary of \$2500.00 per month with an increase of 10% for the second year. 10) Approved placing Caleb Filip, the outgoing Youth Sports Director, on retainer as Youth Sports Consultant for 60 days from January 15, 2025 through March 15, 2025 at a rate of \$2500.00 from January 15, 2025 to February 15, 2025 and \$2500 from February 16, 2025 to March 15, 2025.

Other items of discussion were. Randy and Heidi Pospisil and June Kucera were present to ask the Council to consider painting crosswalks on Hwy 41 at three intersections in the downtown area. The Council agreed to have Tim Krivohlavek contact the State Department of Transportation and to research options for placing crosswalks at the intersections as discussed. Craig stated that the Department is still looking at options for a monitor nozzle for the Ladder Truck and also discussed the invoice for the power cots from Stryker in the amount of \$96,935.33 which was included in the claims list approved by the Council at the beginning of this meeting. The survey for 701 N Shimerda Street was reviewed. It was agreed the property owner will need to move the items that are in the City's right of way. City Attorney Tad Eickman will draft a letter to the property owners regarding this matter. The nuisance property at 606 W 7th Street has not had any improvement. The City will again address the issue with this property in early Spring. Saline County Deputy Lucas Smejdir arrived at the meeting to present the monthly Sheriff's report. The Council asked Deputy Smejdir to relay to the Sheriff to have deputies monitor the speed of vehicles coming through town on both highways. Discussion was held on getting the question on the ballot to reinstate the ½ cent city sales tax which is being eliminated due to the Fire Hall bond being paid off. Tad Eickman will work on language for the ballot question and present it at the February Council meeting. Advertising for sealed bids for the Farm Lease will be published in the Wilber Republican to be opened at the February 11, 2025 Council meeting. Also, advertising for sealed bids for a mini-excavator will be published in the Wilber Republican to be opened at the February 11, 2025 Council meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m. WR — January 29, 2025 ZNEZ

MINUTES

**VILLAGE OF SWANTON
PO BOX 23
SWANTON, NEBRASKA 68445
JANUARY 13, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Chairman and Board of Trustees of the Village of Swanton, Nebraska was held at the Fire Hall in Swanton, Nebraska on the 13th day of January, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. Present were Chairman Runtly, Trustees: Strouf, Likens, Placek, and Bass. Donna Rut, Village Clerk and Alan Krupicka, Water Operator also attending the meeting.

Notice of meeting was given in advance thereof by posting as required by law. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public. The Open Meeting Laws are posted in the meeting room.

A Saline County Sheriff presented the monthly sheriff's report.

The claims, treasurer's report, and minutes were presented. A motion was made by Placek and seconded by Likens to approve the treasurer's report and minutes and pay all claims as presented. Motion carried with Runtly, Likens, and Placek voting aye. Strouf and Bass abstained.

A motion was made by Strouf and seconded by Likens to name First Tri-County Bank as the Village depository. Motion carried with Runtly, Strouf, Likens, and Placek voting aye. Bass abstained.

Discussion was held on the well project. We will go out for bids in the next month. A motion was made by Likens and seconded by Strouf to get an advance on the water loan for \$5,001.00 for the cost of the land. Motion carried with Runtly, Strouf, and Likens voting aye. Placek and Bass abstained.

After discussion on repairing or replacing the pump at the lift station, a motion was made by Bass and seconded by Placek to purchase a new pump for the lift station. Motion carried with all members voting aye.

A motion was made by Bass and seconded by Strouf to approve Ross Strom as a volunteer fireman pending approval by the Fire Department. Motion carried with all members voting aye.

Alan Krupicka, Water Operator gave his monthly report. As there was no further business, a motion was made by Strouf and seconded by Likens to adjourn. Motion carried with all members voting aye.

Claims: Alan Krupicka Wages \$515.91; Donna S. Rut Wages \$463.91; Lindsay Filip Labor-Fire Hall \$50.00; Manning & Associates Budget \$1,708.50; Waste Connections of Ne Garbage \$1,101.15; Windstream Utilities \$91.07; Ne Public Health Env. Lab Water Tests \$256.00; Norris Public Power Utilities \$990.00; Lynn Strouf Christmas Lights \$129.45; Crete News Publication \$69.88; Nebraska Assigned Risk Pool WC Audit \$33.00; Saline County

1st Qtr. 2025 Law Enforcement \$470.00; Gerald Bonertz 4th Qtr 2024 Auditorium \$150.00; Tom Bass Parks-Spraying \$140.00; Saline County Clerk General Election Adv. \$155.20; Swanton Fire Department Firefighter Class-Books \$511.02; Blue Valley Public Safety Inc. Siren Repairs \$929.84; Murray Law PC LLO Legal-New Well \$94.00; Hawks Plumbing & Heating Fire Hall Repairs \$100.00; Internal Revenue Service 4th Qtr 2024 Payroll Taxes \$828.32; NE Works 4th Qtr 2024 Payroll Taxes \$8.36; Nebraska Dept. of Revenue 4th Qtr 2024 Sales Tax \$249.84; Nebraska Dept. of Revenue 2024 Payroll Taxes \$302.34; JEO Consulting Street Superintendent \$600.00; Bill Schwisow Snow Removal \$255.00. Donna S. Rut, Village Clerk
WR — January 29, 2025
ZNEZ

NE 68465, (402) 821-3233. All meetings are open to the public. /s/ Lori L. Rezny
City Clerk
City of Wilber, NE
WR — January 29, 2025
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

A Regular Meeting of the DeWitt Board of Trustees of the Village of DeWitt, NE. is scheduled for 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at the DeWitt Village Office. The Board reserves the right to go into closed session on any agenda items as pursuant to Section 84-1410. An agenda will be available at the Village Office with the Board members reserving the right to modify the agenda when convened. The agenda which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the Clerk's office during normal business hours. Requests to be on the agenda must be made in the Village Clerks' office, 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting. If special accommodations are needed, please contact the Village office @ 209 E Fillmore Ave. DeWitt, NE. Phone 402-683-5025. Meetings are open to the public. /s/ Moria Holly
Village Clerk
WR — January 29, 2025
ZNEZ

MEETINGS

WILBER CLATONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING NOTICE

The Board of Education of Wilber Clatonia Public Schools will meet in regular session on Monday, February 17, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the district office, 900 South Franklin St., Wilber, Nebraska. An agenda for the meeting and public hearing which shall be kept continually current, is readily available for public inspection at the Superintendent's office during normal business hours. Justin Petersen, Superintendent
WR — January 29, 2025
ZNEZ

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Annual Membership Meeting for Olive Branch Assessment Insurance Society of Sprague, NE will be held on Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 1 p.m. at the office located at 18930 Market St., Sprague, NE. Lori Vrchota, Secretary
SCI/MT/CR/FS/WR — January 29, 2025
ZNEZ

MEETING NOTICE

The regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Wilber, Nebraska is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Cultural Center at 110 W Third St. in Wilber, NE. The agenda which shall be kept continually current is readily available for public inspection at the City Office during normal business hours. Council reserves the right to modify the agenda when convened. Council reserves the right to go into closed session on any of the agenda items as pursuant to Section 84-1410. Requests to be on the agenda must be made in the City Office 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting. If accommodations are required, contact the City Office at 110 W Third Street, Wilber,

BIDS

REROOF OF MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL WILBER, NEBRASKA SECTION 000200 - INVITATION TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids will be received for the Re-roof of Wiber-Clatonia Middle / High School, 900 South Franklin Street, Wilber, Nebraska. **Proposals will be received until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, February 13, 2025**, in the Board Room at Wilber-Clatonia District Office, 900 South Franklin Street, Wilber, Nebraska.

The work at the school site may begin on Monday, May 27, 2025 and is to be finished by Friday, August 1, 2025.

A pre-bid meeting will not be scheduled. Contractors shall visit the site and become familiar with the project and existing conditions. Contact the school's administration staff at (402) 821-2266.

Proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud at the above date and time, or shortly thereafter.

Proposals will be received for a single general contract for the Work. Low bid will be based on base bid accepted by the Owner, plus alternates accepted by the Owner. Substitutions will not be used to determine the low bidder. Faxed bids will not be acceptable.

Drawings and specifications will be distributed from the following location: A&D Technical Supply Co., 4320 So. 89th, Omaha, NE 68127

BID DOCUMENTS SHALL BE RETURNED TO THE ARCHITECT: CMBA ARCHITECTS 208 N. PINE STREET, SUITE 301 GRAND ISLAND, NEBRASKA 68801 DO NOT RETURN PLANS TO A&D TECHNICAL SUPPLY COMPANY. IF PLANS ARE RETURNED TO A&D YOUR DEPOSIT WILL BE CASHED.

The following information will be available to view and/or order via the A&D Technical Supply Co. website online plan room at www.adtechsupply.com.

Invitation to Bidders
Instructions to Bidders
Bid Form
Specifications Table of Contents
Construction Drawings Plan Images
Addendums
Drawings and Specifications will be on file at the following locations: CMBA Architects, 208 N. Pine Street, Suite 301, Grand Island, NE 68801
Grand Island Chamber of Commerce, 309 W. 2nd, Grand Island, NE 68801
Omaha Builders Exchange, 4159 So. 94th St., Omaha, NE 68127
Lincoln Builders Bureau, 5910 S. 58th St., Suite C., Lincoln, NE 68516
Hastings Builders Bureau, 301 S. Burlington, Box 1104, Hastings, NE 68902
Kearney Builders Bureau, 1007 2nd Avenue, P.O. Box 607,

Kearney, NE 68848
Columbus Builders Exchange, 764 33rd Ave., Box 515, Columbus, NE 68602

Norfolk Builders Exchange, 405 Madison Ave., Box 386, Norfolk, NE 68702

A deposit in the amount of fifty dollars (\$100.00) payable to CMBA will be requested on each set of the Bidding Documents. The deposit will be returned ONLY if the contract documents are returned complete and in good condition to the Architect within TEN (10) days after the opening of proposals.

ANYTHING HEREIN TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING, THE OWNER IS NOT BOUND TO ACCEPT THE LOW PROPOSAL; THE OWNER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS, AND THE OWNER RESERVES THE ABSOLUTE RIGHT TO SELECT THE FIRM OR TEAM WHICH IS, IN THE OWNER'S SOLE DISCRETION, BEST SUITED TO PROVIDING THE REQUESTED SERVICES ON A COMPETENT, TIMELY BASIS, REGARDLESS OF PRICE.

Five percent (5%) Bid Security is required. One hundred percent (100%) Performance Bond and Labor and Material Payment Bond are required.

FOR PURPOSES OF THESE DOCUMENTS, THE OWNER IS USING THE TERM BID(S), BIDDER(S), BIDDING AS SYNONYMOUS WITH THE TERM PROPOSAL(S). SALINE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT 76-0082 a.k.a. WILBER-CLATONIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS 900 SOUTH FRANKLIN STREET WILBER, NE 68465 JUSTIN T. PETERSEN, SUPERINTENDENT
WR — January 29, 2025
ZNEZ

REQUEST FOR BIDS CITY OF WILBER FARM LEASE

THE CITY OF WILBER, NEBRASKA, is requesting sealed bids for a cash farm lease on the following described real property: Approximately 42.6 acres of crop acres located on the West Half of the Northwest Quarter (W1/2 NW1/4) of Section 21, in Township 6, North, Range 4, East of the 6th P.M. in Saline County, Nebraska (Wilber Airport property).

Term of Lease: 3 calendar years (2025-2027).

Rent payment dates: One-half of the annual rent on April 1 and November 1 of each year, 2025-2027. A written lease will be provided by the City of Wilber. Persons submitting bids shall be required to provide a written, sealed bid in an envelope marked: "City of Wilber, FARM LEASE BID, 2025-2027".

The bid shall require the following information:

- Name, address, phone number, and email address of the bidder.

2. The amount of annual rent proposed to be paid by the bidder for each year. Bids being mailed must be postmarked no later than February 3, 2025, and shall be addressed as follows: Lori Rezny, City Clerk City of Wilber, Nebraska PO Box 486 Wilber, Nebraska, 68465

Bids may also be hand delivered to the Wilber City Clerk, 110 West Third Street, Wilber, Nebraska, no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 7, 2025.

All sealed bids will be opened at the regular meeting of the Wilber City Council to be held at the Czech Cultural Center, 110 West Third Street, Wilber, Nebraska, commencing at 7:00 p.m., on February 11, 2025.

The City of Wilber reserves the right to waive any defects or formalities in any bids received and further reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason.

For further questions, please contact Lori Rezny, Wilber City Clerk, at the address set forth above; phone number: (402) 821-3233. CITY OF WILBER, NEBRASKA Lori Rezny, City Clerk
WR — January 22, 29, February 05, 2025
ZNEZ

REQUEST FOR BIDS CITY OF WILBER, NEBRASKA PURCHASE OF MINI EXCAVATOR AND TRAILER

The City of Wilber, Nebraska, is requesting sealed, written bids for the purchase of a Mini Excavator and Trailer.

Sealed, written bids will be received until 4:00 p.m. C.S.T. on February 7, 2025, at the office of the Wilber City Clerk, 110 West Third Street, Wilber, Nebraska, 68465, (402) 821-3233, and must be placed in a sealed envelope, clearly marked "MINI EXCAVATOR AND TRAILER BID".

Bids will be opened at the regular meeting of the Wilber City Council to be held at the Czech Cultural Center, 110 West Third Street, Wilber, Nebraska, commencing at 7:00 p.m., on February 11, 2025. Specifications may be obtained from the Wilber City Clerk.

No bid may be withdrawn within a period of thirty (30) days after the date fixed for bid opening.

The Wilber City Council reserves the right to waive minor irregularities and errors in any proposal if it appears such errors and irregularities occurred inadvertently and are corrected prior to entering into a contract. The City Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or portions thereof.

THE CITY OF WILBER, NEBRASKA LORI REZNY, CITY CLERK
WR — January 22, 29, February 05, 2025
ZNEZ

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

All real estate 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 Friend Sentinel will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate 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>.

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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

"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. They're a really great group of kids."

W-C FFA agriculture teacher and FFA advisor Cara Holtorf

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 great group of kids."

Blood donations urgently needed

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be in Wilber at the Sokol Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 4, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The Red Cross is encouraging healthy, eligible individuals and their family, friends and co-workers to donate this month to help maintain a stable supply. Donors may donate every eight weeks (56 days).

Donors must be in good health, be at least 16 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, know the names of all medications taken within the month prior to donation, and bring identification (Red Cross blood donor

card or driver's license).

Plan on at least one hour for donating, drink extra non-alcoholic fluids, eat within two-three hours of donating (do not skip meals), get a good night's sleep and know your Social Security number.

Now, 16-year-olds may donate with written parental consent. Consent forms for 16-year-olds are available from Bobbie Ripa or at www.redcrossblood.org and must be signed by a parent or guardian and turned in when the 16-year-old comes in to donate.

BIRTHDAYS

Zimmerman

Meryl Zimmerman will celebrate her 100th birthday next week.

She was born Feb. 6, 1925, on the family farm east of DeWitt, where she has lived most of her life.

Her family members include her husband, the late Russell Zimmerman; children, Dennis Zimmerman and Linda (Zimmerman) Burns; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

To help Meryl celebrate, cards may be sent to her at Wilber Care



Meryl Zimmerman

Center, 611 N. Main St., Wilber, NE 68465. Meryl has resided at the Wilber Care Center since May 2024.

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 Vyhnaek 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.

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REGISTRATION
for 2025-2026
Wilber-Clatonia Preschool Program

We are currently registering for our Preschool program at Wilber-Clatonia schools. This program has limited capacity and will serve students that will be 4 years old by July 31st, 2025.

If you are interested in this program, or know someone who is, please call the Elementary office **821-2266** or email kris.mazza@wilberclatonia.org to request an application. Applications will be due by February 20, 2025.

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