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### Columnist's opinion article lands a spot on county board agenda

BY AMY HAUSMAN  
amy@friendsentinel.com

The Saline County Board of Commissioners agenda for its regular meeting on Feb. 4 included a discussion item: "Local newspaper opinion article."

A copy of the article was not included in the attachments to the agenda.

The Crete News, Friend Sentinel and Wilber Republican newspapers published a personal column, "Trans-

parency in local government: When the board thinks it knows better than its lawyer," in the Jan. 22 and 29 editions, due to different production schedules.

The column discussed how the board of commissioners voted, in the columnist's opinion, closed session on the newest members of the planning and zoning commission, against the advice of the county attorney, during its meeting Jan. 7.

The columnist urged local governments to be transparent.

The columnist was present at the Jan. 7 meeting, and was informed after the opinion article printed, the meeting was opened back up to the public on Facebook, but the meeting room was not reopened to the public prior to the board chair instructing members to vote by paper ballot for the new members.

The Facebook page, Saline County Nebraska, is used to live stream the board of commissioners meetings to

See **TRANSPARENCY**, page 8



COURTESY PHOTO

The Crete Youth Cabin rests on about 40 acres of land on the Big Blue River about three minutes south of Crete.

### Giving Tree Gala returns for year two

Event Feb. 19 to raise funds for Crete Youth Cabin improvements

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN  
scireporter@sewardindependent.com

Crete's hidden gem is stepping into the spotlight. For the past 70 years, the Crete

Youth Cabin has been a place where scouting groups, organizations and nature lovers come together to create lasting memories.

Now, thanks to a recent land purchase, its future is brighter than

ever.

On Wednesday, Feb. 19, the CYC's second annual Giving Tree Gala invites the community to celebrate this milestone and support

See **GIVING TREE** page 9

### 'His actions were felt worldwide'

Joe Vosoba gave a lifetime of service to his community

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN  
scireporter@sewardindependent.com

Joe Vosoba did not just live in Wilber – he shaped it.

From co-founding the Nebraska Czechs of Wilber to supporting Wilber businesses to teaching English in Prague, he dedicated his 95 years of life to building something greater than himself. Joe died Jan. 15, but his legacy continues in the festival crowds, Czech organizations and community he loved.

The Milford High School graduate grew up on a Saline County farm. Joe and his wife, Kathy, had a son, Timmy, and three daughters, Debbie, Julie and Beth. They

have six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

After graduating from the University of Nebraska, Joe enlisted in the United States Army and trained with the 101st Airborne Division during the Korean War. He then moved to Wilber



Joe Vosoba

and practiced law for 30 years as senior partner at Steinacher and Vosoba

See **VOSOBA** page 9

### 'A special place to work and grow'

Dorchester names Dr. Nick Mumm as next superintendent

BY KEATON BURGESS  
reporter@sewardindependent.com

Dorchester Public Schools found its next superintendent for the 2025-26 school year, and Dr. Nick Mumm is excited to take on the role.

Mumm is currently serving his fifth year as the superintendent at Giltner Public Schools and has been in the education field for 17 years. Mumm said he grew up on his family's farm in Bruning, and was influenced to go into education by his mom's time spent in education.

"My mother was a dedicated teacher at Thayer Central for over 40 years, and her influence greatly inspired my career in education," Mumm said.

Mumm said he earned his bachelors and Masters degrees from the University of Nebraska-Kearney and earned his doctorate at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Mumm said his wife is also an educator and they have a son in second

See **MUMM** page 9



COURTESY PHOTO

Nick Mumm, right, poses with his wife Elizabeth Mumm and son Meredith Mumm. Mumm was named the Dorchester superintendent for the 2025-26 school year.

### Fischer's Beer, Wine & Spirits closing

Long-time Crete business hopes to find new location for store operations

BY HANNA CHRISTENSEN  
scireporter@sewardindependent.com

After nearly 50 years of serving the community— first as Kemper's Liquor, then Elmo's Liquor and finally Fischer's Beer, Wine & Spirits—one of Crete's longtime adult beverage stores is closing its doors.

Although the shelves may be emptying, owner Mike Fischer is grateful for his time at the location and hopes this is not the last call for his

business. Fischer said his landlord is terminating his lease agreement and plans to renovate and sell the property. Fischer's lease on the building ends on April 30, so he must get everything out before then. He has marked down the prices of more than 60% of the items in the store and will continue expanding on sales until the shelves are cleared.

"When we close kind of depends on how sale items move and what we have here," Fischer said. "I've got employees, and I want to keep on payroll as long as I can. So, we'll kind of play it by ear, but I'm thinking we'll probably stay open at least until the middle

See **FISCHER'S** page 9

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Shaw FLOORS

# McGinnis steps down as head CHS football coach

Information taken from archived files of the Crete News for the second week of February.

### 1925

Crete citizens, with the city council, are planning an intensive improvement program for the coming season, which will involve a considerable amount of paving. Thirteen blocks of new paving are certain. The paving of approximately 25 additional blocks is under consideration, for which petitions, in some instances, are being circulated.

One of the finest of modern plans was given last Friday evening at Sokol Hall by the Doane Players. Mary Jane Tidball was starred, who, in her junior year, has already become a finished actress, approaching the work of the best on the professional stage.

### 1935

A. Eugene Haylett, director of athletics at Doane College, has been appointed to coach all three major intercollegiate sports next year. Haylett has coached basketball and track regularly for the past three years. In assuming football, he succeeds Allie R. Morrison, former Olympic wrestling champion, who coached the team during the 1934 season.

### 1945

One of the largest groups in many months left Wilber Tuesday for Fr. Leavenworth, Kansas, to take physical examinations preliminary to being inducted into military service. The group included 46 Saline

county men.

The Crete Woman's Club, sponsors of the campaign to salvage tin cans, announces that a "salvage day" will be held in Crete soon. At that time, a collection by truck of all tin cans will be made, and housewives are urged to save every can.

### 1955

An increased corn acreage for Saline county farmers in 1955 was announced Wednesday by William Sukovaty, Jr., chairman of the county ASC committee in Wilber. The increase will allow farmers to plant 90,903 acres of corn in the county this year compared to only 83,012 in 1954.

A photo caption read; Charles Tritt, organ professor at Doane College, is shown at the console of the new Wicks ten-rank organ, which was dedicated in special church services at the Congregational church. The new instrument cost the church \$12,000 and is the very latest design in pipe organs.

A 30-year-old former Exeter man has been elected Crete's new superintendent of public schools. He is Richard Whitmore, who is currently serving as the superintendent of schools in Louisville.

### 1965

Dale Dawson Feeken, 15, son of Mr. and Mrs. Delmer Feeken of rural Crete, has been selected to represent Dorchester at Boys State in June.

Two Crete students are among the 75 chosen to attend the Nebraska High School Honor Band this weekend at



Hastings College. They are Cathy Svoboda, flute, and Damon Gross, french horn.

The 1964 Christmas Seal campaign netted \$1,463.30 in Saline County. This is \$193.62 more than was raised during the comparable dates of the previous year.

### 1975

A photo caption read: Construction work on the new high school-junior high building complex is somewhat ahead of schedule, reported Dr. Dale Braynard, superintendent of the School District at Crete. That's good, considering the time of the year under which construction has progressed, he said.

The Dorchester girls had an easy night Monday in racing to a 72-9 win over Geneva North. Dorchester led at the half 51-1 and the starters didn't get to

play after than.

### 1985

Enrollment at Doane College remains stable, according to figures released by Registrar Delbert King. On spring term census day, February 8, there were 683 students, figured on a full time equivalent basis.

Preliminary plans for the creamery property that the City of Crete purchased several months ago were released at a Crete Chamber of Commerce retreat in Grand Island. According to information made available by George Beyer, head of the city utilities department, water treatment and storage appear to be the two prominent plans for the future regarding the site.

### 1995

Senator Bob Kerrey announced this week that \$100,000 in funding has been formally approved to complete construction on the Blue River Family Resource Center in Crete. This will complete Phase II of the project which will provide office space for family service agencies of Blue Valley Community Action, Pioneer Mental Health and the Department of Social Services.

Like a tough pre-historic monster, the yellow caterpillar stretched its long neck into the air and bit into the orange brick of the building that had stood on the corner of 14th and Ivy for the past 106 years. The old St. James Catholic School had been a part of the community's history that had contained the laughter and tears of over four generations of children.

### 2005

Thirty students from Crete Middle School and two Crete Elementary students received a taste of Broadway by being "dancing queens" for a day last Wednesday in Lincoln. The fifth annual even included a three-hour workshop with the cast and crew of the ABBA-infused Broadway musical Mama Mia.

Seniors in Advanced Placement Biology completed a vocational tour of the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Henry Doorly Zoo in Omaha. Members of the class got to see first hand where technology and science is taking us.

### 2015

Crete High School head football coach Chuck McGinnis announced to players and administrators on Monday that he was stepping down after 16 seasons at the Cardinal helm. McGinnis led the varsity red and white to 130 wins and only 49 losses and four state titles in his tenure, stepping away as the most successful coach in the CHS record books.

The Nebraska State Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office is conducting an historic resources survey of Saline County to systematically identify historic buildings and structures throughout the county. The survey is intended to assist citizens and elected officials with historic preservation planning, tourism promotion and economic and community development.



# COME Worship WITH US

Sunday schedules listed unless otherwise noted.

### CRETE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Ninth & Ivy Sts.  
plymouthuccchurchcrete.com  
Pastor Larry Tolen  
Worship ..... 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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

### CLATONIA

**CLATONIA HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
550 Washington St.  
Worship ..... Sat., 7:00 p.m.

**ZION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)**  
11412 W. Highway 41 • (402) 989-4775  
stjohnszion.org  
Pastor Steven Kahrs  
Worship ..... 8:30 a.m.

### DENTON

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

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

### DORCHESTER

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

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

### HALLAM

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

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

### MARTELL

**MARTELL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
2700 W. Martell Road • (402) 486-3677  
Pastor Pam Savery  
Worship ..... 11 a.m.

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

### PLEASANT DALE

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

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

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

### SPRAGUE

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

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

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Submissions are limited to nonprofit, community events. The deadline to submit information is every Friday by 12 p.m.



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The Crete News The Friend Sentinel The Wilber Republican  
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SWEET TEA MEDIA

# Senators hear arguments on death penalty

BY JOSIE GOLKA  
Nebraska News Service

Senators heard arguments to abolish the death penalty at the state level and to allow for execution via nitrogen hypoxia at the Nebraska Capitol on Jan. 31.

In 2009, senators changed Nebraska's method of execution to lethal injection after electrocution was ruled cruel and unusual punishment. In 2015, lawmakers abolished the death penalty, but in 2016, voters reinstated it.

However, drug companies withholding the drugs used in lethal injection have kept the state from executing any death row inmates for the past six years.

Legislative Resolution 15CA, introduced by Sen. Terrell McKinney of Omaha, would amend the constitution to prohibit the use of the death penalty at the state level.

If amended, the constitution would read: "The death penalty shall not be imposed for any offense. For any individuals under a sentence of death, whether before, on, or after the adoption of this amendment, such sentence is commuted to a sentence of life imprisonment." If lawmakers approve the

resolution, Nebraskans would vote on the proposed constitutional amendment in the November 2026 election.

McKinney began the hearing, stating he believes the death penalty is fundamentally inhumane.

"As a society, we must move beyond the outdated and ineffective eye-for-eye mindset," McKinney said.

McKinney said he believes capital punishment does not reduce recidivism, is too expensive and disproportionately impacts minorities and people in poverty.

"Using murder for punishment undermines society's value for life," McKinney said.

Ten Nebraskans appeared to speak in support of LR 15CA, and no one spoke against it. Nebraskans submitted 92 supportive comments and 14 opposing comments.

"Sounds like we should be taking this to the voters," McKinney said. "The government should not be in the business of taking lives."

Marylyn Felion, a Nebraskan who served as a volunteer for Witness for Peace in Nicaragua, recounted her witness of an execution.

"My worst fear was that I might have to stand by helplessly and watch another

human being be killed," Felion said. "Now that never happened in this little war-torn country in Central America. It happened in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1997 when I accompanied Mark Williams to his death in the electric chair. There were six big guards who led us down the hall, military fashion... and they were sobbing. Killing someone was not on their resume."

Representatives from Amnesty International, the Nebraska American Civil Liberties Union, I Be Black Girl and Nebraskans For Alternatives to the Death Penalty spoke in support of LR 15CA, calling on moral and fiscal objections to the state funding executions.

"I don't think it's possible to have a system built by humans that could adequately separate people into two categories, those who deserve life and those who do not," said Benjamin Dughenagen, a Lincoln resident. "We can't train our society to heal loss by deciding who is and is not worthy of life."

The committee then heard Legislative Bill 432, introduced by Sen. Loren Lippincott of Central City, would change the state's execution method to nitrogen hypoxia, or suffocation by nitrogen gas.

Sen. Megan Hunt of Omaha introduced a satirical amend-

ment to LB 432 to instead change the method of the death penalty to "legislative firing squad," defined in her amendment as "a firing squad composed of all members of the Legislature, who shall use firearms to shoot the convicted person."

Lippincott said he believes that LB 432 offers another option for the death penalty, adding that other states are using nitrogen hypoxia. He also submitted a letter of support from the Alabama Attorney General.

"Nitrogen is painless. It is peaceful and plentiful," Lippincott said. "This is not about whether the death penalty should exist but about the ethic in which we treat those who are sentenced to death."

Lippincott said that during his time in the Air Force, he experienced hypoxia, or oxygen deprivation, during training. He said it caused him to fall asleep and that he did not experience pain.

McKinney asked Lippincott if he believed nitrogen hypoxia could be considered cruel and unusual punishment under the 8th Amendment. Lippincott said he believes the method is humane.

No one spoke in support of the bill. Eight people spoke

against it. Ten supportive comments and 78 opponent comments were submitted.

Tom Benzor, executive director of the National Catholic Conference, read a statement from Pope Francis advocating against the death penalty, calling the death penalty against the pro-life ideals. Benzor testified in support of LR15CA and against LB432.

Jason Witmer with the Nebraska ACLU read an account of a witness to a nitrogen hypoxia execution in Alabama, which took 22 minutes, and the final statement of the convicted.

Alex M. Housh with Nebraskans For Alternatives to the Death Penalty testified that execution via nitrogen hypoxia is not a condoned method for veterinarians putting down pets.

Elizabeth Osborne, a Nebraska teacher, testified against LB 432.

"I'm actually very concerned about the soul of the state of Nebraska," Osborne said. "As a citizen and as an educator, it worries me, it infuriates me, it insults me, and I find it embarrassing that we would consider going down this path."

The committee took no action on either measure.

# Never too early to get a community's seeds of progress started

BY JASON TULLER  
Extension educator, Community Vitality Initiative

It's February, have you quit your New Year's resolutions yet?

Don't worry, most people do. The statistics I found said that 80-90+% of people have failed to keep their New Year's resolutions by the end of February. That's almost everyone. But who said resolutions or goals have to be started on Jan. 1.

You can decide to make a change at any time. Your community can decide to make a change at any time.

Perhaps the weather is providing a lot of snow this year, which gives a lot of time inside to think about the future. What is our garden going to look like this year. What about the crops? What about our community? Maybe you saw something impressive in another community during your holiday travels?

Was it something that you could do in your community? What is preventing you from making the same change in your

community? Winter is a good time for community planning. Community members who work in the agricultural industry may have more time to attend meetings.

Many times, when another community meeting is brought up, the question arises. "What makes this meeting different than the last one?" If the same people show up, and the same issues are reviewed again...then the meeting and the results will probably be the same.

Bringing in an outside facilitator may be able to bring the community's ideas to light in a different way. You could also develop an action plan at that same meeting. The people at the meeting are given responsibilities, tasks, and deadlines. This gives your community a path forward.

Rural Prosperity Nebraska is one of several groups in Nebraska that can provide facilitation.

After a successful meeting, your volunteers now have a path forward. Organized volunteers can make a difference in your community, even without

spending much money. Sometimes just some labor can make visual changes that improve a community for the better.

Often in my career, I have seen good ideas derailed by the thought that the project has to be expensive, or it has to take a lot of time. This is not true. Many steps forward can be accomplished just by having volunteers come help.

Sometimes your volunteers have tools or materials that they gladly give to the project. They also bring tools and skills that are very valuable. Don't let perfect be the enemy of good. Any forward progress is worth the effort. Have a good plan and make some steps forward, don't let the lack of a perfect plan or perfect funding be the reason that your community doesn't move forward.

Also, don't pre-plan what the meeting outcome will be. Let those that are attending the meeting plan their own project, even if it isn't the project that you wanted. Sometimes getting any project in a community is

a major accomplishment.

The great thing is that a single project proves to the community that improvements can be made, and it makes finding resources for the next project much easier.


It was announced in late December that one project in each of the 6 Regions 1 Nebraska areas received funding. It will be interesting to see how the projects that did not get funding still make progress with simply a group of volunteers. My hope is that one of the groups has fantastic success with no state funding to show what can be done.

In these cold days of winter, what plans are being launched to improve your community? Are you going to participate? Don't let past failures get in the way of today's hope. Go back into your community and try to make it better.

Seeds planted indoors right now are going to go into the garden in May. Get those seeds of progress started in your community so that in the future you can see the growth.

If your community could benefit from any of the Rural Prosperity Nebraska ideas that I've discussed in this column, please reach out to me.

I'd love to speak to your community about these topics. You can reach me at jason.tuller@unl.edu or at (402) 768-7212.



## CELEBRATION OF LIFE

### *Ann L Kelsall*

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CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE  
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The Annual UWF

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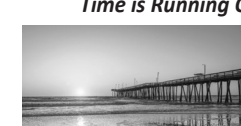
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## The Local Loop: Community events calendar coming soon

BY AMY HAUSMAN  
Amy@friendsentinel.com



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



In small towns like ours, where neighbors lean on each other and local organizations are the backbone of support, a community calendar isn't just a collection of dates – it's a lifeline.

Almost daily, I see signs taped to windows, flyers pinned to bulletin boards and social media posts about upcoming fundraisers, church events and youth sports sign-ups. But too often, these announcements get lost in the shuffle.

A pasta feed to support the local childcare center's construction or a 5K to benefit the local backpack program may go unnoticed by those who would have gladly participated – if only they had known.

That's where a well-maintained community calendar comes in.

A single, reliable place where residents can find information about nonprofit events ensures that no good cause gets overlooked. It connects the people who need help with those willing to give it. It strengthens our county's sense of togetherness, ensuring that when someone organizes a benefit or a clothing drive, they don't do it in vain.

Or worse – alone.

For local nonprofits, a shared calendar means less competition and more collaboration. Instead of two organizations un-

knowingly hosting fundraisers on the same night, they can coordinate for greater impact. For residents, it's a simple way to stay involved—knowing when the next blood drive is happening or when to drop off supplies for the donation drive.

Last year, I was also the editor of the Seward County newspapers, who faithfully print a weekly Happenings Section that has consistent readership and following. How do I know? Because the organizations who include tidbits see results. The people come.

I want this in Saline County, and to be better! So starting in the Feb. 12 edition, we will feature The Local Loop.

BUT ... I cannot do this without you.

Admittedly, a calendar is only as useful as the effort put into maintaining it. It needs to be updated regularly, promoted effectively and easily accessible. The more people who contribute to it, the more valuable it becomes.

**WHO THIS IS FOR:** Support groups, blood

drives, Community Cafes, American Legion and Auxiliary meetings, service organization events, foundations, booster clubs. There are so many THINGS and GROUPS who I want to have included I simply cannot think of them all.

In small towns, where resources are tight and every dollar raised matters, a community calendar isn't just a convenience. It's a necessity. When we share information, we share opportunity. And when we share opportunity, we build something stronger than any single event ever could: a community that shows up for one another.

If you have a public event that helps impacts the community, don't let it slip by unnoticed. Make sure it's on The Local Loop—because in a town like ours, every chance to come together matters.

To submit an event to us, you may either go to cretenewsonline.com or scan the QR code, to be connected to a form to quickly enter the information we need to keep people in the loop about your event.

## In the case of many things, 'Less is More!'

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



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

I ran across these signs you've chosen a "No Frills" airline:

1) You can't board the plane unless you have the exact change.

2) When they pull the steps away, the plane starts rocking.

3) The captain yells at the ground crew to get the cows off the runway.

4) You ask the captain how often their planes crash and he says, "Just once."

5) No movie; you don't need one. Your life keeps flashing before your eyes.

6) You see a man with a gun and he's demanding to be let off the plane.

7) All the planes have both a bathroom and a chapel.

We all like to save money where we can. I always say I won't buy cheap shoes, or car tires, or airplane tickets. All of this brings up the subject of the true value of things. The economy of God's kingdom is often not the economy of this world.

First, we find in God's Kingdom that the most valuable things are not things – they are rela-

tionships. Whenever we attend a funeral, we are reminded the things of greatest value to us are the relationships we have built over the years. The worldly economy puts its value in money and status and power and fame. Super Bowl commercials cost something like a million dollars for a 30-second advertisement just to get us to buy a car or beverage or whatever.

If we live by God's values, we will focus on people and not things. So if someone calls to say they have had a car accident, the first question is not, "How is the car?" Cars can be fixed or recycled but people can't always be repaired. Relationships are gold.

Jesus was asked what was the greatest commandment. He said, "Love the Lord with all

your heart, and soul and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." (Matthew 22:37-39) Loving God and your neighbor and yourself is the greatest thing we can do.

The second important concept in the economy of the Kingdom I have found is this – often less is more!

I often think of the example of prayer. Jesus told his disciples not to say long-winded prayers like the religious leaders said. The Lord's Prayer, which Jesus taught, isn't a very long prayer. Still today, there are religious folks who think long prayers are best.

Lastly I think "less is more" when it comes to weddings. I recently read a study about the expense of weddings and the length of the marriage. There was a strong connection, the more that was spent on a wedding, the shorter the marriage. As a pastor I assumed that was the case, but now there is research to prove it.

Prayer: *Our Lord, we have a pretty goofed-up view of what's important, a lot of us need help in this area. Amen*

### Letters to the editor

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

## My brother is more talented than you

BY KEATON BURGESS  
reporter@sewardindependent.com

If you couldn't tell already by the headline, I think my brother is pretty dang talented.

My older and only brother, Dillon, is not only smart enough to work as an electrical engineer, but he also is able to shred on the electric guitar.

Dillon has been playing guitar since he was young. He's always had a love for music and it translated over to him practicing and eventually, forming a band.

His band, Twisted Chrome, consists of Dillon and Kyle Kleckner (also a weather man for NTV) on guitar, Patrick Bomberger on bass, Dan Decker as the singer and Jeff Johnson on drums. Twisted Chrome is a rock/metal band.

The band plays covers and even has written their own songs and recorded an album. The album is super cool, as recording an album was on my brother's bucket list.

Now you might be thinking, "oh, a musician recorded his own music? They might not be that good."

Guess again. I may be a bit biased, but I think Dillon is one of the best guitar players I've ever heard. The amount that he can play on guitar is absolutely insane.



KEATON BURGESS

**My brother, Dillon, and his band Twisted Chrome play a show at Grey's Keg in Lincoln in 2024.**

One of my favorite things to hear him play on guitar is Van Halen's "Eruption" solo. How fast he gets to playing is ridiculous and will forever amaze me that anyone can play that solo.

Although the main reason I'm writing this is to brag about my brother, I also want to encourage

anyone looking for some good local and live music to check out Twisted Chrome. They mainly play shows in Lincoln, but they do have a Facebook page that you can follow that will give updates on where they are playing.

Trust me, go see a show, it's worth it.

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# Musicians Hall of Fame inducts six new members

Six Nebraska musicians were inducted into the Musicians Hall of Fame during the 25th annual ceremony at Lodge Tabor Hall, rural Dorchester, on Jan. 25.

Throughout the afternoon, musicians entertained a large audience with traditional Czech polkas and waltzes. The event concluded with a dance by Jim Kucera and his five-piece band and Barry Boyce.

All honorees are of Czech descent and have made significant contributions in preserving Czech musical traditions in Nebraska and the Midwest throughout their lives.

Those honored for their dedication to the preservation of Czech music were Jim Bochnicek, Papillion; Robert Mager, Wilber; and Loren Joe Stehlik, Pawnee City. Honored posthumously were Dawn Becwar Mundt, Sprague; Leonard Havranek, David City; and Bob Ohnoutka, Weston.

**James Henry (Jim) Bochnicek** was born Nov. 19, 1945, in Papillion. His parents were the late Henry and Hazel Bochnicek. He attended Fairview Country School south of Papillion through sixth grade, and seventh through 12th graduating at Platteview in 1964. Jim was a member of the school band and was named "Band Man of the Year" in 1962.

His interest in music began at a very early age, always beating on his mom's pots and pans with a steady beat. At age 4, his uncle, who played for one of the top polka bands, gave him an extra set of drums so he could play polka music with his father Henry who played the button accordion.

In 1962, Jim worked all summer to earn money for a new set of drums. He and a fellow classmate began playing for school functions and in August of 1963, Jim began playing with the Thunderbirds, a country and light rock group until 1965.

On New Year's Eve 1965, Jim joined Frankie Remar's band, The Polka Knights. He remained with this band until mid-1970 and also was on the first vinyl recording of this band. It wasn't long before Jim was offered the drum position with the Eddie Janak Orchestra. Unfortunately, Eddie Janak passed away at an early age in 1973 and there was a recording that



COURTESY PHOTO

Six musicians were inducted into the Musicians Hall of Fame during the 25th annual ceremony at Lodge Tabor Hall on Jan. 25. Shown, from left, are Bob Mager, Wilber; Jim Bochnicek, Papillion; Joe Stehlik, Pawnee City; Don Havranek, O'Neill, (brother of Leonard Havranek); Julie Rohrs, Lincoln, (daughter of Dawn Becwar Mundt); Dr. John Ohnoutka and his son Owen Ohnoutka, Omaha, (son and grandson of Bob Ohnoutka).

Jim played on titled "A Tribute to Eddie Janak."

In May of 1973, Jim Visited radio station KOTD in Plattsmouth, and was offered the Polka DJ position for Saturday and Sunday Shows. In May of 1974, Jim, in connection with the radio station held a Four Band Battle Dance featuring the bands of Ernie Kucera, Al Grebnick, Allen Valish and Eddie Janak, under the direction of Helen Janak.

The following year, 1995, a fifth band was added, Frankie Remar. Due to work and family obligations, he left the radio station at the end of 1975.

After leaving the Eddie Janak Orchestra in early 1976, Jim started the Jim Bochnicek Orchestra, consisting of young high school age talent and soon became one of the popular polka bands in Nebraska. This group traveled to entertain at venues throughout the Midwest. They also made three tours to Canada. This band recorded five LP's and in 2001 produced a CD titled "The Best of 25 Years."

Jim was instrumental in promoting polka music as he started in 1976, the Jim Bochnicek Polka Fest at the Sokol Auditorium in Omaha. It was a three-day event that attracted people from all over the Midwest. In 1990 after some conflicts with scheduling of bands and hall availability the festival ended.

In 1984 Jim had the opportunity to purchase the big band music library of the late Skippy Anderson and began booking ballroom dances and events using the name The Jimmy B Orchestra. became the name and was one of the more popular dance bands in Nebraska and Iowa. In the spring of

2001, a CD was produced called, "The Big Band Sounds of The Jimmy B Orchestra."

The orchestra also was asked to cover for a military band for the Friday night concert in the Square at the 2003 Glenn Miller Festival in Clarinda Iowa. It was the largest crowd that the Jimmy B Orchestra ever played for as there was an estimated attendance of 3,000 people from all over the United States and beyond.

Jim has subbed for several bands or trios over the years; Frank Hazuka, Vern Luddington, JK, Sparta, Red Raven, all of Tommy Bishop's Orchestra's and Kenny Shuda, Barry Boyce, Greg Blecha, Dean Hansen, Brad Husak, all trios.

Jim was a charter member of the Nebraska Polka of A's and served on the Executive Board till disbandment in 2016. He was honored to be inducted into Sokol Omaha Polka Hall of Fame in 1994 and currently serves as the Master of Ceremony of the annual event since 2010.

Jim also received the Frankie Award from Polka America Corporation (PAC) in 2014, named after accordion player Frankie Yankovic. Jim was inducted into the Nebraska Music Hall of Fame in June 2019.

In 2016, Jim retired from performing with a farewell dance for the Jimmy B fans at Sokol Auditorium on July 31. The following Sunday a farewell dance for the Jim Bochnicek Orchestra fans was held on August 7, which was the date of the first dance 40 years prior to the date in 1976.

Over the years the bands and trio or combo played 2,193 dances and events, and Jim used 326 different musicians.

Jim's family includes his best friend and companion, Ann Koenig, sons Chris, Tim and daughter Michele Gleason. He has ten grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

**Robert "Bob" Mager** lives and farms near Wilber, with his wife, Cheri. He attended Wilber-Clatonia Public Schools, graduating with the class of 1974. Bob had a rough start in his musical adventure which almost ended before it started. As a youngster his mother enrolled him in piano lessons, but after several lessons the piano teacher refused to teach him, not because he couldn't play, but because he would only play by ear, which frustrated her, but which would turn out to be a gift to Bob later.

In fifth grade, Bob started playing the baritone and eventually learned to read music. Then junior high brought the first of many bands he would play with throughout the years. There was a group of young kids who got together to play polkas and waltzes and later the group had the assistance of their band instructor to help them out.

They called themselves the Kolace Kings and went on trips with the Wilber Czech boosters playing at every stop from Wilson, Kansas, to Winnipeg, Canada, with the main mission to promote the Wilber Czech Festival. This turned out to be a very educational experience for all of them.

Bob played in band all through high school and was also a charter member of the Wilber-Clatonia Czech Alumni Band.

Twenty years ago, he purchased the first of many button accordions and set out with the help of some friends to learn

how to play. Being able to play by ear came in handy at this time as he quickly learned the art of playing the button box. Today you can find Bob playing with the Czechland Trio, The Accordionettes, The Polka Dudes, Jim Mastny and his Merry Musicians, and Vesely Harmonica.

He has also played with Kevin Chelewski, Verse II, The Rokuseks, as well as sitting in with numerous others. Bob continues to play baritone with the Milligan Czech Brass Band, The Clarkson Community Band, and he was instrumental in starting the Blast of Brass Christmas group. They play Christmas music which is a spin-off of Tuba Christmas.

He has played in several official Tuba Christmas events, including Kansas City with 644 other tubas and baritones. During the Christmas season you can also find him playing at the Nebraska State Capitol for Tuba Tuesday.

Bob's true joy is passing on his musical talent to others by teaching them to play the button accordion. Bob introduces the accordion to students at Wilber-Clatonia's Multicultural Day, and during the Wilber Sokol Czech camp for children. You can often find him sending an accordion home with a youngster.

In the end, Bob says it is all about the fun of watching people have a good time, and the friends that he has made that keep this musician playing.

Bob's family includes his wife, Cheri; their

daughter Jessica Damrow and her husband, Derrick; and two grandsons, Brevin and Pierce; and their deceased son, Brian.

**"Loren" Joe Stehlik** started playing with the Table Rock School Band on his Uncle Joe's trombone at age nine. He soon became the proud owner of a shiny new Conn 8-H Trombone with which he was the consistent winner of superior ratings in music contests until his graduation from high school in 1964.

While in high school, he played with the State F.F.A. Band, All-State Band, All-State Orchestra, and was selected to play first trombone at the All State Music Clinic at Kearney.

While a student at the University of Nebraska, he played trombone with the Collegiate, Symphonic, and Marching Band for three years until his graduation with distinction from the College of Business Administration.

He was not quite 12 years old when he started playing with the Trecek's Dance Band on Halloween, 1958. He continued to play with them until they disbanded in 1963. While in college, he purchased and taught himself to play a tuba, for the purpose of playing with the Al Grebnick Orchestra of Schuyler.

He played with the Grebnick Orchestra from 1965 until he received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Nebraska College of Law in 1971. He made six dance tours through Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas; numerous tours to Ohio, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Michigan, and Iowa; and six records with the Grebnick Orchestra. He has also played with the Jolly Gents, Duane Stehlik Combo, Hank and his Melody Masters, Dave Husky, Eddie Janak, Bob and his Bouncing Czechs, and Štastný's Orchestra."

Joe played several times with the Math Sladky Orchestra and played the bass for the Bohemian Aces when Elmer Nemecek could not. Joe also played bass for the Lad Trecek Combo. One dance with Al Grebnick was played on the Belle of Bellevue entirely on a cruise on the

See MUSICIANS, page 16

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## OBITUARY

### Harold R. Spencer II

July 2, 1938 – Dec. 27, 2024

Former Crete resident, Harold Richard Spencer II, 86, died Dec. 27, 2024, at Journey House in Lincoln.

Richard was born July 2, 1938, in Lincoln, to Harold and Dorothy (VanDyke) Spencer. Growing up in the University Place neighborhood, he graduated from Northeast High School in 1956. The summer following high school, he joined the U.S. Navy and served four years as a musician stationed primarily in Naples, Italy.



Richard graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a degree in music education. He taught instrumental music in the Lincoln Public Schools, and was a part-time percussion instructor at the UN-L School of Music in the late 1960s. For 10 years, he owned and operated a Lincoln music store, Sound City, and the adjacent Century Sound Recording Studio.

Richard then worked 21 years at the Nebraska State Historical Society (NSHS), Museum of Nebraska History, as Curator of Education and retired in 2001. While at NSHS, he used his technical skills to help create interactive exhibits that included sound and motion sensor lighting.

Richard's interests were history, traveling, music, gardening, computer technology, repairing old things and canoeing/camping. His canoeing began in the 1950s with Boy Scout trips on the Platte River, Missouri River and Canadian boundary waters. As an adult, he continued canoeing on Nebraska rivers and the Jacks Fork River in Missouri. Camping and canoeing trips were often family activities. For many years, his home was the gathering place for holidays and family events.

Richard had a lifelong entrepreneurial spirit that began in childhood, when he was an award-winning paper boy. As an adult, he engaged in many side ventures, including the Crete Commuter, Crazy Cracker Fireworks (a family favorite), Carnival Bag manufacturing, and an olive oil importing company that he worked on with Italian friends.

As a percussionist, and member of the Lincoln Musicians Union, Richard regularly played with many popular Nebraska bands, including The Mac-Five, Bobby Layne Orchestra, Spencer Trio, and Gene Harding and Friends. He also drummed with various touring bands when they had shows in Lincoln.

Over the years, Richard performed with the Lincoln Symphony Orchestra, Lincoln Municipal Band, UN-L Marching Band, UN-L Orchestra, and many local dance bands and combos. At the recording studio, he pressed numerous local acts to vinyl, and recorded jingles for area businesses who advertised on radio. He also served as sound engineer for numerous live shows. As a U.S. Navy musician, Richard was stationed for two years at the NATO base in Naples, Italy. He visited Italy several times later in life and traveled to many European countries.

Over the years, Richard served as a board member for The Friendship Force of Lincoln, the Wyuka Historical Foundation, the Lincoln Municipal Band and the Grace United Methodist Church in Crete.

Richard is survived by daughters, Sibyl Spencer Hilton (Russ), Jane Spencer, Laura Spencer, Elizabeth Spencer; daughter-in-law, Nancy Spencer; grandchildren, Marcus Murray, Jessica Hanusek (Thomas), Nicholas Hilton, Samantha Spencer, Owen Grenfell, Adella Sisson, and Iris Yates; one great-grandchild; and several cousins, nieces, and nephews.

The Spencer family thanks Joe Grenfell and George Sisson for their unwavering friendship and help in care taking of Richard throughout the years.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Joan Beene; son, Harold Richard Spencer III, and his longtime companion, Jeanne Zwiebel.

A memorial service was held Jan. 4 with interment in Wyuka Cemetery. Memorial contributions are suggested to the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries.

## REAL ESTATE

### Information taken from records filed with the Saline County clerk.

Jan. 17 – 29

Rhonda B. Bulwan to Roy W. Bulwan, Lot 1, Bulwan Addition to Friend. DS exempt

Rhonda B. Bulwan to Roy W. Bulwan, a tract of land in the NE1/4 22-8-1. DS exempt

William J. Plouzek and Kimberly K. Plouzek to Nicholas Mumm and Elizabeth Mumm, Lot 9, Northview Estates Addition Replat to Dorchester. DS \$56.25

Lane Zimmer to Jennifer L. Katuls, Lot B in L.E. Southwick's Second Addition to Friend. DS \$353.25

Mitchel Martin and Marla Martin to David Hochstetler, Jr., Lot 16, Block 144 in Crete. DS \$337.50

Mark Stutzman and Gretta L. Stutzman to Alicia Stutzman, Lot 149 in Friend. DS \$225

Ronald Rezny to Andrew Page, Lots 7-9, Block 190 in Crete. DS \$450

Leland Brozovsky and Karen Brozovsky to David Brozovsky, Lots 59-60 in Wilber. DS \$146.25

Michael L. Hall and Susan N. Hall, Carol L. Bettger and Paul E. Bettger, Richard A. Hall and Douglas D. Hall and Pamela J. Hall to MCRD, LLC, E1/2 SW1/4 and the SE1/4 all in 33-8-1. DS exempt

**PUBLIC NOTICES** *Your Right to Know*

## POLICE

### Information provided by the Crete Police Dept.

Jan. 24

4:05 p.m.—A driver in the 200 block of Main was issued a citation for speeding.

5:46 p.m.—A person was arrested in the 1900 block of Eastgate for domestic assault.

8:10 p.m.—Following a vehicle stop in the 1200 block of Boswell, the driver was cited for driving under suspension.

9:01 p.m.—A report was received of shoplifting in the 1800 block of East 29th.

Jan. 25

5 p.m.—Two chain link fence gates were reported stolen in the 700 block of Oak.

8:18 p.m.—A driver in the 2900 block of Iris was cited for having no operator's license.

10:53 p.m.—A citation for no operator's license was issued to a driver in

the 900 block of Kingwood.

Jan. 26

8:36 p.m.—A cart corral was reported as damaged by a vehicle in the 1800 block of East 29th.

9:03 p.m.—A vehicle was reportedly damaged in the 2200 block of Ivy.

Jan. 27

12:06 p.m.—A report was received of a package being delivered to the wrong address in the 900 block of East 14th.

Jan. 28

12:52 a.m.—A person was cited for trespassing in the 900 block of West 11th.

6:05 a.m.—A report was received of a telephone scam resulting in a financial loss.

10:46 a.m.—Citations for no operator's license and other charges were issued to a driver in the 500 block of Linden.

11:40 a.m.—A driver was cited for

speeding in the 200 block of Main.

5:20 p.m.—A report of child abuse was received.

5:40 p.m.—A person was arrested for child abuse and other charges.

Jan. 28

5:41 p.m.—A citation for shoplifting was issued to a person in the 1800 block of East 29th.

Jan. 29

6:29 a.m.—An arrest was made for criminal mischief and disturbing the peace in the 400 block of Belohlavy.

11:17 a.m.—Following a vehicle stop in the 2400 block of Boswell, the driver was arrested for driving under the influence and other charges.

Jan. 30

7:53 a.m.—Following a non-injury accident in the 1200 block of Hawthorne, a driver was cited for having no operator's license and other charges.

## TRAFFIC

### Information taken from records filed with the Saline County court.

Jorge A. Garcia Mojica, 64, Crete, speeding 11-15 mph county/state, \$75 fine, and fail to use seat belt, \$25 fine.

Josselin Giron Padilla, 39, Crete, no valid registration-truck 41-50 days, \$100 fine.

Austin J. Hatfield, 23, Wilber, speeding 11-15 mph municipal, \$75 fine.

Liliana L. Monterroso Perez, 26, Crete, disobey

traffic control device, \$25 fine, and fail to use child passenger restraint, \$25 fine.

Chase D. Berry, 24, Seward, speeding 6-10 mph county/state, \$25 fine.

Mia M. Knigge, 21, Fremont, improper turn, \$25 fine.

Hau D. Nguyen, 58, Lincoln, speeding 16-20 mph county/state, \$125 fine.

Richard W. Hackett, Jr., 48, Fairbury, speeding 16-20 mph county/state, \$125 fine.

## COUNTY COURT

### Information taken from records filed with the Saline County court.

Preston W. Kelch, 30, Crete, attempt of a class 4 felony, 30 days jail

Hermlinda Miguel Jacinto, 26, Crete, disturbing the peace, \$200 fine.

Jason G. Smith, 50, Lincoln, driving during revocation/impound first offense, \$250 fine, one year probation and two days jail.

Olvin Ventura Maldonado, 34, Crete, driving under

suspension before reinstated, 30 days jail and license revoked one year.

Jordan R. Amen, 31, Crete, disturbing the peace, \$200 fine and \$400 restitution.

Haivyn S. Evans, 39, Crete, driving under suspension before reinstated, \$50 fine.

Evelyn J. Regalado, 28, Crete, no proof of insurance, \$50 fine.

Sonia Lopez, 32, Crete, domestic dog/cat running at large, \$25 fine.

# Legislative floor debates, hearings can be viewed online

BY SEN. TOM BRANDT  
Dist. 32

The 109th Nebraska Legislature is off to a fast start, with floor debate in the mornings and committee hearings in the afternoons.

So far, we have moved quickly through a number of technical and clean-up bills from previous sessions. Committee hearings are expected to wrap up by mid-March, after which we will transition to full-day floor debate.

With a packed agenda ahead, we anticipate a busy and productive session.

Last week, two bills drew a large crowd to the Government Committee. Senators Lippincott and Dorn each introduced legislation to return Nebraska to a winner-take-all system for presidential electors. Sen. Lippincott's bill would change the statute directly, while Sen. Dorn's proposal would place a constitutional amendment on the 2026 ballot, allowing voters to decide.

Regardless of the fate of these two bills, I anticipate that voters will have the opportunity to weigh in on this issue in 2026.

I had a couple of bills that were heard in Natural Resources last week. LB35 was a clarifying bill dealing with private electrical generation facilities near strategic



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

military installations. LB36 would require notice to controlling entities of wellhead protection areas of any proposed land-use, zoning regulation, or building permit requested within the area.

LB377 was introduced by me on behalf of the Natural Resources committee, and this bill would simply increase the term limits for the Game & Parks Board of Commissioners from two four-year terms to three four-year terms.

This week, I've got three bills scheduled for hearings. LB343 would reduce the cost of certain specialty license plates from \$70 to \$40. LB563 would allow owners of commercial fertilizer trailers the option to purchase a permanent license plate for their trailers. Both of these bills will be heard in the Transportation & Telecommunica-

tions committee.

LB489 will be heard in the Natural Resources committee and would clarify which entities may construct, own, operate and maintain future transmission lines in the state and that the Nebraska Power Review Board regulate these lines.

Finally, I'd like to highlight a new feature the Legislature is offering this year. Floor debates and committee hearings have always been broadcast live on Nebraska Public Media TV and their website. Now, the clerk's office is also recording these broadcasts and posting them on the Legislature's website at [nebraskalegislature.gov/](http://nebraskalegislature.gov/). To watch past sessions, visit the Legislative Calendar, select the date you're interested in, and you'll find recordings of the floor session and committee hearings for that day.

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

# Crete police take steps to encourage passenger safety in vehicles

January was Passenger Safety Awareness Month, and Crete Police Officers participated in a safety grant, monitoring traffic and enforcing traffic laws focusing on passenger safety.

During January, officers took enforcement action which included: 51 citations, 97 warnings, 34 equipment repairs and 13 custodial arrests.

These contacts included charges for the following: DUI, False Imprisonment, Strangulation, Sex Offender Registration Violation, Reckless Driving, Driving Under Suspension, Driving While Revoked, Open Alcohol Container, Child Restraint Violation and Use of Handheld Wireless Communication Device. This activity included

three felony arrests. The department also investigated 11 traffic accidents during January, again sending the message that drivers need to be more aware.

The Crete Police Department is currently working to make sure that drivers stay safe on the roads during February. No matter how long or short a drive,

it's critical that drivers and passengers use their seatbelts. Drivers should make sure that everyone in their vehicle is buckled up before a car is ever started.

The Crete Police Department would like to stress the importance of seat belt safety with this essential reminder: Buckle Up. Every Trip. Every Time.

ANNOUNCE YOUR **SPECIAL EVENTS**  
Anniversaries, Graduations, Birthdays, etc.

**THE CRETE NEWS** 402-826-2147 • [cretenewsonline.com](http://cretenewsonline.com)  
1201 Linden Ave., P.O. Box 40 • Crete, NE 68333

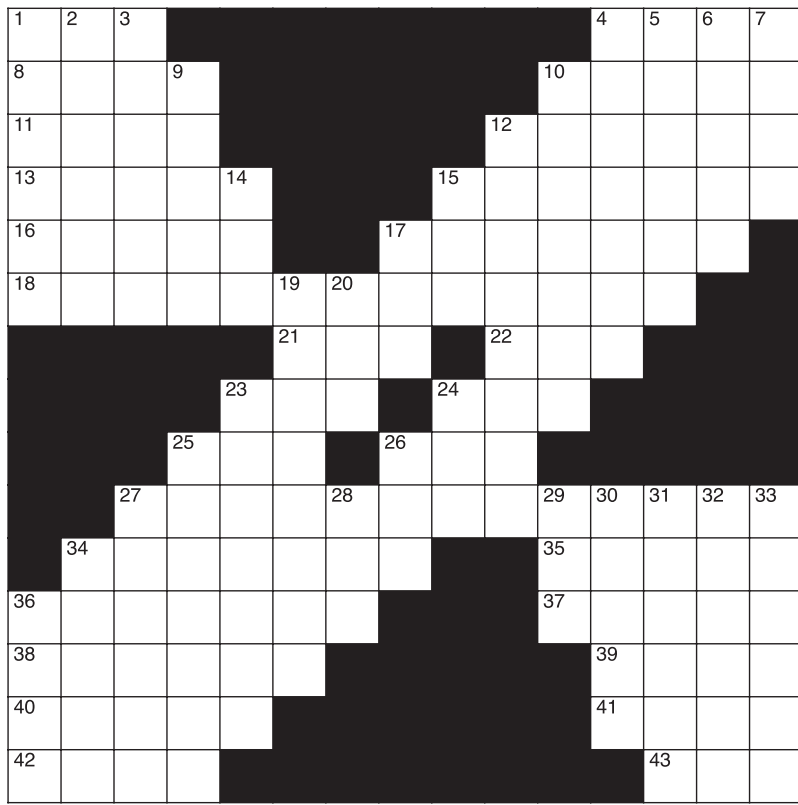
# PUZZLES & PLAY



TRAIN BOTH SIDES OF YOUR BRAIN!

Answers found on page 16.

## CROSSWORD



### CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Racquet sport group (abbr.)
- 4. Norse god of thunder
- 8. Russian industrial city
- 10. What's good for the —
- 11. Round-ish shape
- 12. Baltimore MLBer
- 13. French modernist painter
- 15. Burned with water
- 16. Intestinal issue
- 17. Take the lead
- 18. Prove oneself worthy
- 21. None
- 22. Tax collector
- 23. Swiss river
- 24. Gymnast Raisman
- 25. Baby's dining accessory
- 26. Canadian beer distributor
- 27. Iconic American tourist destination
- 34. More expansive
- 35. Alert
- 36. Popular boots Doc —
- 37. Showings
- 38. Conclusion
- 39. Share a common boundary
- 40. Shooting sport
- 41. Popular side dish
- 42. Global energy firm
- 43. Chronicles (abbr.)

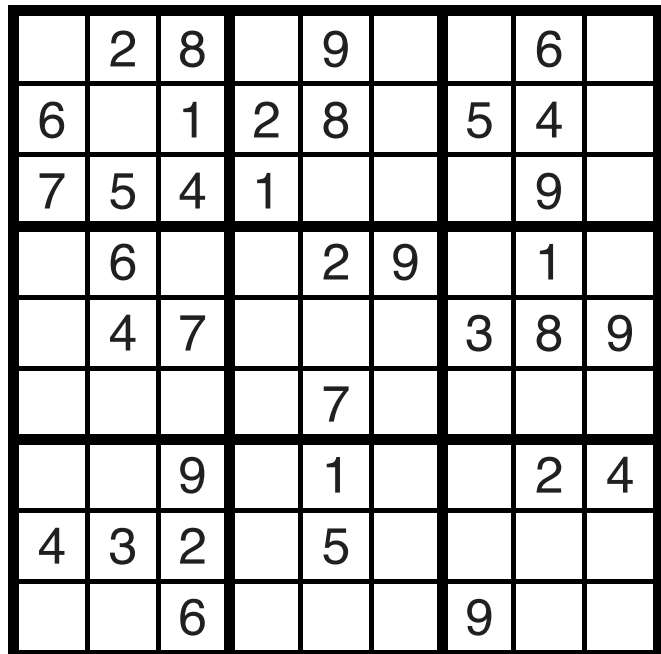
### CLUES DOWN

- 1. Type of bomb
- 2. Polynesian island country
- 3. Heavenly body
- 4. Hard workers
- 5. Covered
- 6. Johns Hopkins Hospital founder
- 7. Plant of the grass family
- 9. Island person of the Bering Sea
- 10. Storehouse
- 12. Scarlet-flowered desert shrub
- 14. A pituitary hormone
- 15. Female sibling
- 17. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
- 19. Empowering
- 20. Space station
- 23. Disorder
- 24. State of fuss
- 25. Footwear for babies
- 26. Nuclear reactor (abbr.)
- 27. Drove
- 28. Affirmative
- 29. Male parent
- 30. Utter obscenities
- 31. Type of verse
- 32. Unpleasant person
- 33. One who settles down
- 34. Founder of source-based history
- 36. A way to snarl

## SUDOKU

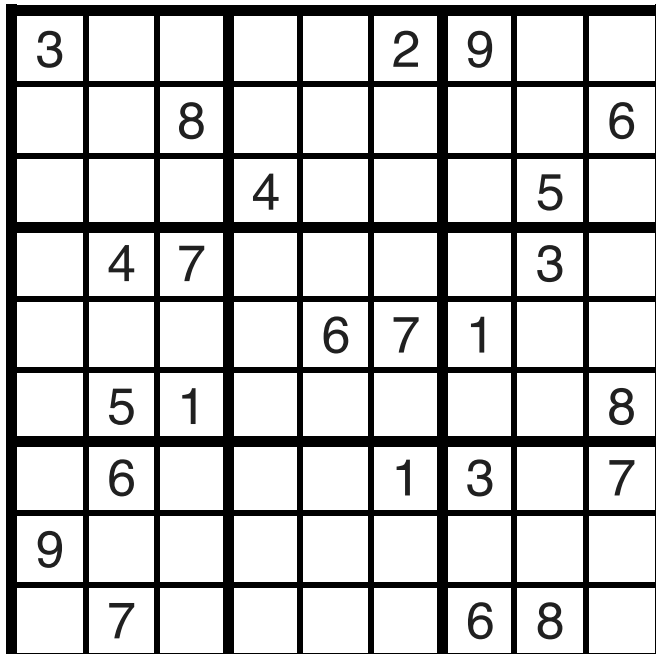
**HOW TO PLAY:** Each 9×9 square must be filled in with numbers 1-9. No numbers may be repeated within each row or column. Each 3x3 square must also contain numbers 1-9 with no repeats within the 3x3 square. **TIPS:** 1) Rule out squares individual numbers can exist within. 2) Keep track of what numbers could possibly go in each square, also paying attention to the entire row, column, and 3x3 group. 3) If all other squares except for one in each row, column, or 3x3 group cannot contain a certain number, then it must exist in the remaining square that could contain it, no matter the other possibilities.

### Beginner



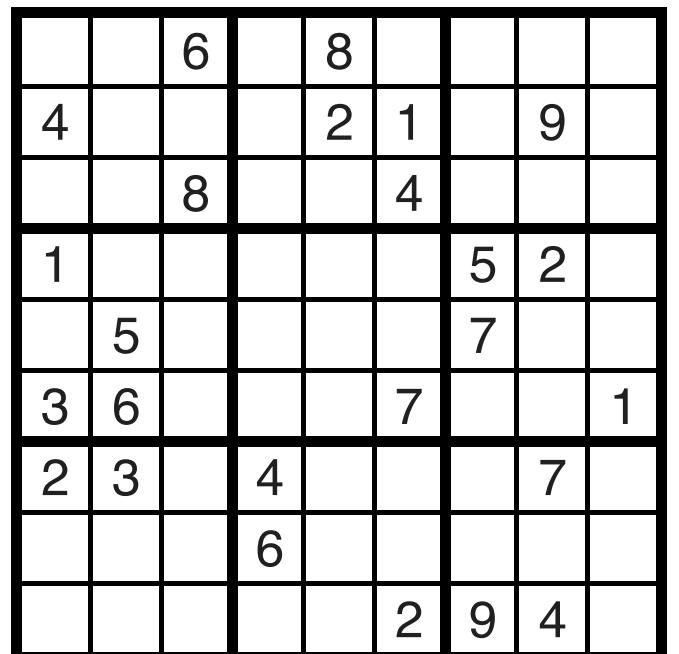
Level: Beginner

### Intermediate



Level: Intermediate

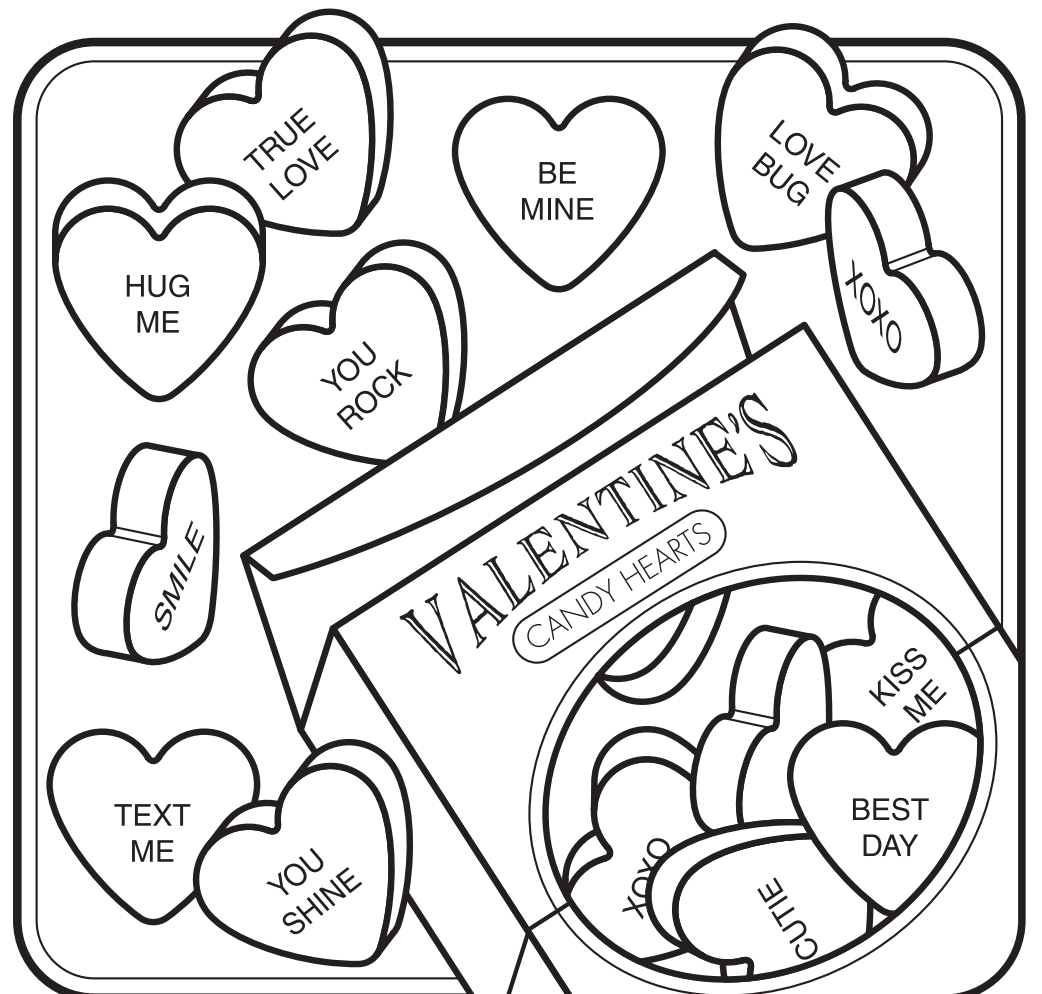
### Advanced



Level: Advanced

# COLORING CORNER!

YOUNG OR OLD, GO CRAZY WITH COLORS!



# Saline County celebrates 4-H Month

*Special dates to spotlight diverse opportunities available*

BY ALEJANDRA FERNANDEZ  
reporter2@sewardindependent.com

February is National 4-H Month, a time to honor the impact of 4-H programs on youth, families, and communities.

In Saline County, the celebration shines a spotlight on the diverse opportunities available through 4-H, from the

State Fair to club activities to community service.

“4-H is about more than just projects or competitions, it’s about building confidence, character, and connections,” said Maddie Werner, Extension Assistant for Saline County 4-H.

With 11 active clubs, Saline County 4-H reached more than 1,550 children in 2024. From livestock to woodworking, clubs allow youth to explore their interests. To celebrate 4-H Month, the Saline County 4-H Program has several activities planned for the kids and plans of other events underway.

Confirmed activities include a coloring contest, a 4-H Spirit Day where members can wear green, which will be Thursday, Feb. 6, and Volunteer Appreciation Day on Thursday, Feb. 13, to thank the many individuals who support the program.

On Give Back Day, scheduled Thursday, Feb. 27, youth will take part in community service projects.

“Many of our clubs are deeply involved in giving back,” Werner said. “One of our Crete clubs helps care for the hanging flower baskets downtown, and others organize food drives or volunteer at

local care centers. These activities teach youth the value of service while making a difference in our community.”

Families interested in joining Saline County 4-H can enroll for \$5, with additional costs for specialized clubs or projects. More information is available at the Saline County UNL Extension Office or online at [saline.unl.edu](http://saline.unl.edu).

“4-H is about building lifelong skills and relationships,” Werner said. “We want every young person to feel welcome, no matter their background or experience.”

Continued from 1

allow interested parties to view meetings remotely or at a later time. Candidates for planning and zoning were interviewed after the board recessed for lunch and the Facebook video for that portion of the meeting is titled “BOE AND BOC MEETING 1-7-2025 CONTINUED.” The length of the video is 1 hour and 17 minutes.

The journalist can be seen entering the meeting, coincidentally wearing a shirt that says “Local. Journalism. Matters, prior to the meeting resuming and audio starting. The four of the five candidates who interviewed for the planning and zoning board are also visible.

Audio for the video begins approximately 15 minutes into the live stream. Then, chairperson Phil Hardenburger can be heard explaining to the candidates that their interviews will be held in open session, will not be streamed on Facebook but that a recording will be made for the clerk to allow her to complete the meeting minutes, although it was printed on the agenda that the interviews themselves would be done during closed session.

“We are in open session because our attorney advised us of that,” Hardenburger said.

When Planning and Zoning candidate Jeff Koll asked Hardenburger how members of the public would know the interviews are in open session, a change from the morning half of the meeting, Hardenburger confirmed the board is meeting in open session and the minutes would reflect that.

Audio for the Facebook live stream stopped at approximately 17 minutes and 20 seconds.

Candidates for planning and zoning entered the hallway to wait for their turn to be interviewed by the board of commissioners, with the exception of Gerald “Jerry” Brown, who was the first to be interviewed.

The columnist was allowed to stay in the meeting assembly room during each of the in-person and telephonic interviews.

Brown, Alan Bruntz, Koll, Dan Zoubek and Mark Due were all interviewed. Following the candidates interviews, Marvin Kohout made a motion to go into closed session for a personnel matter. The columnist notified the board and clerk she would be waiting in the hall.

At one hour, six minutes, the audio for the Facebook live stream resumed. There was discussion between Hardenburger and Russ Karpisek about whether or not video should resume on Facebook. Although Hardenburger disagreed, video resumed because the board was coming back to open session around one hour and eight minutes.

Kohout made a motion to come out of closed session, seconded by Janet Henning.

“We just discussed some personnel matters about planning and zoning board, made no

action,” Hardenburger said. “Now after interviewing the planning and zoning candidates, will you please vote and hand your vote to Diann (Netifee, Clerk) for tabulation.”

After those directions were given, Kohout said, “You might want to open the door for them.”

The clerk is seen opening the door for the assembly room and then returning to her seat as Hardenburger said to her, “If you would tabulate,” then turned to the board and suggested going on with the agenda to discuss the board of adjustment.

Following the discussion and action regarding the Board of Adjustment matter, Hardenburger, with the tabulated votes said, “I am going to say the results in alphabetical order, just like the were interviewed. I am not going to say how many votes they got. So it looks like Alan Bruntz will come on, Mark Due will come on, and Dan Zoubek will come on. That will be the three.”

Kohout moved to accept the appointments to planning and zoning, seconded by Henning. Karpisek voted nay. Kohout, Henning and Hardenburger voted aye.

According to the Nebraska open meeting statute NRS 84-1413(2), “Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the public body in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted or if the member was absent or not voting.”

Which leads to the questions, by statute: are Mark Due, Alan Bruntz and Dan Zoubek members of Planning and Zoning? If the assembly meeting room door is closed, is the meeting open?

The columnist’s personal opinion was that it was not.

The columnist reached out to the clerk and commissioners by email on Feb. 3 to ask why the column was included on the agenda and for comment prior to the meeting.

“Several commissioners, including myself, have received numerous inquiries and criticism concerning its content. I believe Phil and Marv may have already conveyed their thoughts and concerns to you,” Stephanie Krivohlavek, newly appointed chair, said in her email. “I hope that addressing these matters openly during the meeting will help calm down the borage of concerns we are having to deal with.”

As of the time of print, no additional responses to the email have been received.

Hardenburger did contact the columnist last week advising that if she were to watch the Facebook video, it would reflect the board was in open session for the vote. The columnist responded that it is illogical to stream a meeting she is physically at, and it is her opinion that for her and Koll, the meeting at that moment was closed.

Kohout requested a retraction.

# Committees hear testimony on nearly 80 bills

BY OWEN REIMER  
Nebraska News Service

In its third week of the 2025 session, the Nebraska Legislature began its first full week of hearings, with committees meeting to discuss various issues, including the death penalty, winner-take-all voting and daylight savings time.

While many bills have yet to make it to the floor, some have made it out of committee for the first round of votes.

The Nebraska Legislature voted 27-0 Thursday, Jan. 30, to advance LB182, sponsored by Sen. Eliot Bostar of Lincoln, to select file, the Legislature’s second debating and voting stage. The bill expands provisions for a state income tax credit to insurance companies and financial institutions for contributing to child care programs.

The bill would also make non-profits eligible for affordable housing tax credits, which he said would make the credit easier to use for investors, according to the Legislative Update.

Additionally, Niobrara Sen. Barry DeKay’s bill LB 43, which would update provisions to prevent “foreign adversaries” from installing electronics near sensitive military installations in Nebraska. According to the Legislative Update, electric suppliers must already notify the Nebraska Power Review Board when constructing within a 10-mile radius of a military installation.

The bill would expand these requirements to apply to any changes, updates or reconstructions in maintenance. Lawmakers voted 39-0 to advance the bill to select file.

The Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee heard testimony regarding LB 3, introduced by Sen. Loren Lippincott of Central City on behalf of Gov. Jim Pillen, which would change Nebraska’s electoral college system to a winner-take-all system, awarding all five electoral votes to the winner of Nebraska’s popular vote in a presidential election. Currently,

Nebraska is one of two states to split its votes for the electoral college, where each congressional district casts one vote for its winner, with two votes going to the state’s overall winner. During the hearing, which also included a proposal to place a question to reinstate this system on the 2026 general ballot, more than 75 people testified, the majority in opposition to one or both measures, according to the Legislative Update.

The committee also heard testimony on two bills intended to end daylight savings time in Nebraska. LB 302, introduced by Sen. Dave Murman of Glenvil, and LB 34, introduced by Sen. Megan Hunt of Omaha, would both end the practice, with Murman’s bill adopting the practice of permanent standard time and Hunt’s bill adopting permanent daylight saving time.

Both senators said changing clocks negatively impacts health, sleep, workplace safety and productivity, according to the Legislative Update.

The Education Committee heard testimony on a variety of bills, in-

cluding LB 378, introduced by Sen. Bob Andersen of Omaha, which would require all postsecondary institutions to provide quarterly reports regarding any funding of \$50 or more from foreign sources, defined in the bill as any foreign government or an individual who is not a citizen of the United States.

In the hearing, Andersen said U.S. postsecondary institutions received millions of dollars from the Chinese government, which allow them to manipulate the higher education system, according to the Legislative Update.

The Education Committee also heard testimony on LB 282, introduced by Sen. Jason Prokop of Lincoln, which would provide up to \$300 per school year to reimburse teachers for supplies purchased for their classrooms. The committee additionally met for LB 335, introduced by Sen. Danielle Conrad of Lincoln, which would broaden the criteria for children to receive benefits from the Line of Duty Dependent Education Benefit, which is for children of law enforcement officers and firefighters killed in the line of duty, to allow their stepchildren to qualify.

The Judiciary Committee heard testimony on two contrasting measures pertaining to the death penalty: LR 15C, introduced by Sen. Terrell McKinney of Omaha, which would prohibit the death penalty in the Nebraska Constitution if approved by voters in 2026.

The committee also listened to voters regarding LB 432, introduced by Lippincott, which would allow the death penalty to be carried out using nitrogen hypoxia. No one testified against McKinney’s bill, which he said would end a practice that is less constructive and expensive than life imprisonment without parole.

The committee also heard testimony on LB 316, introduced by Sen. Kathleen Kauth of Omaha, which would prohibit the sale of hemp-derived cannabinoids, commonly known as delta-8, containing more than 0.3% of any strain of THC.

Kauth said these products, which she said can cause adverse health effects, are unregulated and unsafe, according to the Legislative Update.

Additionally, the committee heard testimony on LB 165, introduced by Hunt, which would allow any county or municipality’s governing body to operate a syringe services program, which she said in the bill’s statement of intent to improve public health by reducing the spread of infectious diseases, reduce overdose incidences and encourage users to enter treatment.

The Business and Labor Committee heard testimony regarding LB144, introduced by Sen. Victor Rountree of Bellevue, that would broaden the hiring preferences given to veterans seeking employment with the state of Nebraska. Currently, veterans are granted a preference based on prior active duty service, which is extended to spouses of 100% disabled veterans, according to the Legislative Update.

The bill would expand this preference to the spouses of active duty service members and of those killed

in the line of duty.

“Ensuring that military families are financially secure helps our service members carry out their duties confidently without any additional stressors back home,” he said during the hearing.

The committee also heard testimony on LB 100, introduced by Sen. Ashlei Spivey of Omaha, which would create an office within the Department of Economic Development dedicated to entrepreneurship and start ups. The committee also had a hearing on LB 308, introduced by Sen. Teresa Ibach of Sumner, a bill that would require Nebraska’s Department of Labor to create a public database with basic information on each health care staffing agency, including the amount charged for each category of staff members and amount paid to staff members.

The Transportation and Telecommunications Committee heard testimony regarding LB 337, introduced by Sen. Dave Wordekemper of Fremont, which would allow all-terrain vehicles and utility-type vehicles to be registered and driven on county roads. They also heard testimony on LB 23, introduced by Sen. John Cavanaugh of Omaha, to appropriate \$250,000 to establish a grant program for nonprofit organizations that operate bike-sharing programs.

The Health and Human Services Committee heard testimony on LB 310, introduced by Sen. Ben Hansen of Blair, which would allow parents or guardians to refuse newborn screenings for certain diseases or conditions for their infant. The committee also heard testimony on LB 87, introduced by Sen. Myron Dorn of Adams, to provide \$100,000 annually to the Commission for the Blind and Visually Impaired to develop a support services provider program.

According to the bill’s statement of intent, this program would be intended to help a blind or deaf person towards independent living through the help of a human guide, assistance with daily living activities like transportation and whatever services the commission deems necessary.

The Natural Resources Committee heard testimony relating to LB163, introduced by Spivey, which would create the Office of Climate Action within Nebraska’s Department of Environment and Energy to develop climate action initiatives, report on progress and funding for climate action, and create a statewide action plan by July 2026.

Each day of the week, most of the Legislature’s 14 standing committees met in the afternoon to hear public testimony supporting, opposing or speaking in a neutral manner regarding bills before the committees.

Committees heard testimony on 79 bills this week and will continue full days of hearings until each proposed bill can be heard.

After a hearing, committees may vote to send a potentially amended bill to the floor, indefinitely postpone the bill or take no action with it, according to the Nebraska Legislature.

**PUBLIC NOTICES** *STAY CONNECTED...IT'S YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW.*

# Vosoba

Continued from 1

Law Firm.

Joe was elected state senator at age 30 and was chairman of the Judiciary Committee in his second term. He offered pro bono counsel to help create corporations including the Nebraska Czechs, Nebraska Czechs of Wilber, Wilber Bakery, Czech Craft Shop and Wilber Hotel, all without pay.

After the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia, Joe and Kathy lived in Prague for six months while Joe served as an unpaid manager for a volunteer English teaching program. The couple then lived in a cottage in Bohemia for several years before returning to Wilber.

"He's a builder," Nebraska Czechs of Wilber member Sheryl Kastanek said. "His actions were felt worldwide."

Joe was the last surviving founder of the Wilber Czech Festival. Though many people refer to the event as "Czech Days," Joe preferred to call it the "Czech Festival," because he believed every day of the year is a Czech day in Wilber.

"When that festival started in 1962, the founders had no idea what was going to happen, if people would attend," Kastanek said. "Now it is one of the top festivals in the Midwest."

Joe was also the founder of the Saline County Historical Society; chairman of Wilber's library board, which built the Dvoracek Memorial Library, and chairman of the Wilber Housing Authority, which built low-rent housing for the elderly. He was also chairman of the Czech Heritage Program Committee of the University of Nebraska Foundation.

Joe was an administrator and partial owner of Saline State Bank, now First State Bank, for nearly 10 years.

He also spent time as Robert Kennedy's campaign manager for the First Congressional District and was on former President John F. Kennedy's Nebraska advisory board.

Joe and Kathy, dubbed a "dynamic duo" by Kastanek, wrote, directed and narrated the Czech Historical Pageant for 25 years and wrote "Tales of the Czechs: History and



Joe Vosoba served food in the early days of the Czech festival.

COURTESY PHOTO

*"He was just like a dad to everyone. We had a lot of kids come over to the house, and they always felt comfortable there and like it was a welcoming place. Even when I was in college, I would bring back people for the Czech Festival, and they were always like, 'Wow, your family is so fun and warm and welcoming.'"*

Joe Vosoba's daughter, Beth

Legends." They donated all book proceeds to the Nebraska Czechs of Wilber.

"He loved anything Czech," Kathy said. "The music and the people and the country."

Joe also encouraged the creation of a brewery to make authentic Czech beer in Wilber. Wilber Czech Brewery Company Board President Kim Anderson has been involved with the brewery since 2010 and saw Joe as a mentor and friend.

"He increased my confidence by his continuous support and guidance, taught me to keep going no matter what happens and that it's okay to admit that you don't have the answer," Anderson said.

Anderson said every time Joe talked to her, whether it was in person, on the phone or via email, he always made a point to ask about her family and offer her words of encouragement. When her parents passed within months of one another, Joe supported her and offered to try to fill her father's shoes for a while.

"He saw something in me that I didn't even see, and he helped to bring

those things out for me," Anderson said. "Working with him, I've learned the impact of heritage and community, and that that's where you come from and what defines you, and being able to continue to work on projects to help continue his legacy are really important to me."

Kastanek described Joe as a humble gentleman, trusted friend and caring confidant. He was humorous and never slowed down.

"I talked to him 20 hours before he died, and he was still giving me ideas on how to make the festival better," she said.

Beth said her father had many interests, including horses, jewelry making, antiques, Spanish, Native American history and archeology. She admires how curious he was until the end.

Despite Joe's many involvements and passions, Beth said he always made time to prioritize his children and attend their extracurricular events.

Beth said her father always brought her along on his adventures, and her friends always told her how lucky she was to have him as a dad when they visited their home.

She and her siblings were involved in many Czech activities, and she enjoys thinking about the children in Wilber who are enjoying them to this day.

"He was just like a dad to everyone," she said. "We had a lot of kids come over to the house, and they always felt comfortable there and like it was a welcoming place. Even when I was in college, I would bring back people for the Czech Festival, and they were always like, 'Wow, your family is so fun and warm and welcoming.'"

Beth said Joe had a huge vision for what Wilber could become, and she enjoyed watching it come to fruition. Regardless of where she is, she often meets people who, when they find out she is Joe's daughter, tell her a story of how Joe helped them in some aspect of their lives.

Anderson said Joe volunteered purely for the good of others, and his impact will carry on for decades and beyond.

"My biggest thing is, we just all need to learn from him and live our life as he did," Kastanek said. "He's a very honorable man that I will miss."

# Mumm

Continued from 1

grade. "Family and education are deeply interconnected in our lives, and I value the opportunity to help students and staff grow both academically and personally," Mumm said. "Education is rewarding because no two days are ever the same – it challenges me to be a listener, learner and leader every day."

Growing up, Mumm said he spent a lot of time with his mom in the classroom, which gave him an appreciation for the sense of community that a school gives.

"I've always enjoyed supporting others and helping them grow, whether in their education or their lives," Mumm said. "The opportunity to make a positive impact, foster growth and work alongside dedicated individuals who share the same vision for student success is what continues to drive my passion for education. Every day brings new challenges and opportunities, and

I find great fulfillment in working with others to help students achieve their potential."

One of the main reasons Mumm wanted to take the Dorchester superintendent position was the history, reputation and community spirit that resonates with his values as an educator and leader.

"Dorchester has a strong foundation built on the support of its staff, students, parents and the community, and it's clear that this is a district that values collaboration and success," Mumm said. "As a family, one of our top priorities is ensuring our son has access to a wonderful school environment, and Dorchester is exactly that. The proactive mindset and dedication I've seen in this district align perfectly with what I believe is essential for continued growth and success."

One thing that excites Mumm about Dorchester is to be in a school that is deeply committed to

excellence.

"Dorchester's facilities, proactive approach and focus on collaboration make it a special place to work and grow," Mumm said. "I'm looking forward to building relationships with staff, students, parents, and community members, and to continuing the great work that's already being done here. I'm also thrilled about the opportunity to lead while learning from everyone around me as we work together to support and strengthen the district."

Mumm said he also liked the small town charm that Dorchester had and its proximity to larger communities.

"It reminds me of where I grew up, and I'm excited for my son to experience the values and close-knit support that a rural community offers," Mumm said. "Additionally, Dorchester's location is closer to our extended family, which makes it an ideal place for us to put down roots. The sense of

community pride here is something I truly admire, and I'm looking forward to being an active member of the Dorchester community."

Overall, Mumm said he is excited to start at Dorchester and wants to spend his first year focusing on listening, learning and building relationships.

"I want to understand the strengths and needs of the district by working closely with staff, students, parents and the community," Mumm said. "My goal is to support and enhance the excellent work already being done here. Any changes would come from thoughtful collaboration and input from all stakeholders. I'm eager to support the district's ongoing successes while continuing to build on the strong foundation that makes Dorchester Public Schools such an exceptional place."

# Giving Tree Gala

Tickets are \$50 per person or \$250 for a table of six. They include dinner catered by Bread and Butter Catering, a drink ticket for the cash bar and a ticket to a small prize raffle. Attendees must purchase tickets by Saturday, Feb. 8. To do so, email [lebke@creteyouthcabin.com](mailto:lebke@creteyouthcabin.com) or visit [creteyouthcabin.com/events](http://creteyouthcabin.com/events).

# Giving Tree

Continued from 1

the cabin's next chapter. The event will be at The 1206 event center in Crete from 5:30 – 8 p.m.

The cabin rests on about 40 acres of land on the Big Blue River about three minutes south of Crete. In 2017, the Crete Youth Cabin Association was formed as the nonprofit organization responsible for maintaining and improving the grounds to be used by future generations.

The cabin and surrounding land had been on a lease since 1956. Now, the CYCA is celebrating that it purchased the property at the end of December. The CYCA purchased about 25 acres, including the cabin and surrounding trails and wooded area for around \$180,000 to \$200,000.

Now that the CYCA owns the area, it can make more investments in upgrading its facilities. Crete Youth Cabin Board member Laura Ebke said it hopes to build a bathhouse soon and, eventually, a new cabin.

The organization will likely replace the cabin within the next five to 10 years when it has the money.

"We really want to improve the structures and offerings out there so that it can be used more broadly and has more of a four-season kind of availability for folks," she said.

The cabin has traditionally been used mainly for scouting groups, but will now also be available to rent for events such as family reunions, weddings and birthday parties. Ebke said the CYCA plans to also begin offering evening programming for people to learn about the wildlife and nature in the area this summer and events such as campfire nights and trail walks.

"We've got this beautiful outdoor space that's not like anything else we have around Crete," CYC Board member Elizabeth Snyder said. "The trails in the woods, it's not something we have around

here a whole lot, so we just want to share it. We want to get it out there."

Proceeds from the Giving Tree Gala will go toward funding and maintaining these areas and subsidizing the events for the community.

The wilderness-themed event will include discussion of the past and future of the cabin, games, door prizes, a small prize raffle, a silent auction and an awards ceremony.

The raffle will have scented candles, games and other nature-themed items up for grabs. People can choose which items they want to try for with their tickets, which are \$1 at the door.

The silent auction will feature items including wildlife-themed board games, gift baskets, candles and more provided by the CYCA.

The CYCA will also give out three awards – the Trailblazer Award, the Sower's Spirit Award and the Silver Oak Award – to honor individuals and organizations that embody the spirit of giving and volunteerism in Crete.

Ebke said people had a great time at the event last year, and she is looking forward to doing it again.

"It's just great to have the community together and to celebrate those who really have done great things for our community," she said.

Snyder said many people in Crete still do not know about the cabin, and she is looking forward to spreading awareness about it through the event.

"We want to make the cabin bigger and greater, and we always need the funding to do that, but we also want to be a resource in the community and a place that people can come and make memories and have good times, just as people in the past have had," she said. "It's open to everybody, even if they're just curious, enjoy an evening learning about the cabin."

# Fischer's

Continued from 1

of April."

Fischer's sons, Colin and Evan, helped him when he opened the store 12 years ago, but later moved on to follow their own endeavors. The store sells a variety of alcohol and used to also cater some events before COVID-19.

Fischer said the best part of owning the store has been the people he serves and works alongside.

"We've got a really good clientele that comes in here on a regular basis, and we've had a lot of Doane kids that have worked here and helped out," he said. "It's always been nice to work with those young people."

Cashier Michelle Sanchez has worked at Fischer's for more than three years. In addition to running the cash register, she helps with organizing bottles and uses her skills

in English and Spanish to speak with customers.

Her favorite things about her job is being kind to the customers and having positive interactions.

"We get almost the same people every day," she said. "They always get the same thing, and I get to know them."

Fischer is hoping to find a place nearby to reopen Fischer's Beer, Wine & Spirits. If he does find a building, he said it will be a while before he can open it because he must get approval from the Crete City Council, fire marshal, Liquor Control Commission and several state departments.

"We appreciate the 12 years that people have patronized the store," Fischer said. "It's been a blessing to us. Now, we'll just kind of take it a day at a time here and see what we can do."

# CHAMPS

## Cards win conference championship

BY KEATON BURGESS  
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Crete girls' wrestling team hosted the Central Conference tournament on Feb. 1 and won the tournament, which included an individual champion, four second places and three third places.

Addison Woods was the champion at 105, going 3-0 on the day with a win by technical fall over Savannah Leiting of Seward, a win by decision over Gracie Huggins of Grand Island Northwest and a win by decision over Sherlyn Vicente of Schuyler for first.

Kelsey Talkington at 135, Charlotte Sebaaly at 145, Adriana Gomez at 190 and Jaslyn Munoz at 235 all placed second, winning their matches up until the championship



Trinity Williamson of Crete pins one of her opponents during the Central Conference tournament in Crete Feb. 1.

DOUG CARROLL/CN

match.

Ruby VanHorn at 115, Adelyn Brewer at 125 and Trinity Williamson at 130 placed third. Williamson pinned four in all four of her wins.

"Our conference championship on Saturday was truly a team effort," Coach Jeff Steele said. "The team wrestled really well and although we only had one conference champion in Addison Woods, the rest of the team fought hard to find their way onto the podium. Several girls won matches against girls they had lost to previously, which shows they are improving both physically and mentally. I think we are peaking at the right time and hopefully carry our momentum into the District tournament this coming Saturday."

The Cardinals started the week with a dual

against Wilber-Clatonia and dominated the Wolverines 63-12 on Jan. 30.

Wins for the Cardinals came from Elena Olague Martinez at 100, Woods at 105, Yazlyn Quiroz at 110 by pin, VanHorn at 115, Cecelia-Vic Byers at 120, Brewer at 125 by pin, Williamson at 130, Talkington at 135, Sebaaly at 145, Meleni Linares-Chavez at 155 and Grace Anderson at 170.

"Wilber/Clatonia has a small team but we matched up well with equally experienced wrestlers and it allowed some of our first year wrestlers to get a competitive match in front of the home crowd," Steele said.

Crete was scheduled to wrestle at Beatrice on Feb. 4, and host district wrestling on Saturday, Feb. 8, starting at 9:30 a.m.



Carson Kotil of Crete goes up for a jumpshot with a York defender in his face on Jan. 28.

KEATON BURGESS/CN

## Cardinals fall short in championship, take second in conference tournament

BY KEATON BURGESS  
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Crete boys' basketball team came into the Central Conference tournament as the second seed and finished second place after taking down York 62-45 in the first round on Jan. 28, taking down Adams Central 55-51 on Jan. 31 in the second round, but losing to first seeded Aurora 57-48 in the championship on Feb. 1.

Against York, Crete jumped out to a lead in the first quarter, but York went on a run to end the first quarter with a 19-12 Crete lead.

York continued to cut into Crete's lead throughout the second quarter and Crete led 34-31 at

halftime.

At the start of the third quarter, York took a one point lead, but Crete went on a run in the third and gained its lead back and continued to build its lead as the game went on.

"We had a good win against York," Coach Tony Siske said. "We played them not too long ago and they came out very aggressive against us. We played better defense in the second half and were able to pull away."

Against Adams Central, the Patriots held a 35-31 lead at halftime, but Crete took over in the second half. With roughly 5:30 left in the third quarter, Crete trailed 40-33, but the Cardinals went on a 8-0 run to end the third quarter up 41-40.

With 4:30 left in the

fourth, AC took a 47-46 lead and held a 51-46 lead with three minutes left, but Crete went on a 9-0 run to end the game.

"The game was very fast paced in the first quarter and both teams were shooting the ball well," Siske said. "They were switching up defenses on us and our players did a good job of attacking whatever defense they were playing. It was a back and forth game and we were able to get some defensive stops late and a game winning shot by Carter Reznay in the final seconds to win the game. It was a fun game to be a part of."

Against Aurora in the championship game, Crete found itself in a hole early, trailing 18-4, but Crete cut into the lead to

make it a 22-16 game with roughly six minutes left in the second quarter.

With roughly 3 minutes left in the second quarter, Crete cut the lead to two as they trailed 27-25, but Aurora kept its lead at halftime.

"Aurora came out and hit six three pointers to start the game," Siske said. "We were able to fight back and make it a very competitive game."

Crete kept the game within two points in the second half, but Aurora kept its lead and extended it for the win.

Crete (13-4) was scheduled to host Schuyler on Feb. 4, play at Wahoo on Thursday, Feb. 6, starting at 7:30 p.m. and play North Platte on Saturday, Feb. 8, starting at 5 p.m.

## Cards take third

BY KEATON BURGESS  
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Crete girls' basketball team came into the Central Conference tournament seeded fifth and ended up third place in the tournament. The Cardinals started with an upset 51-44 win over fourth seeded Adams Central on Jan. 28, lost to first seeded York 38-27 in the second round on Jan. 30 and upset third seeded Grand Island Northwest 54-46 on Feb. 1.

"We were really excited with how the week went," Coach Britt Ehlers said. "We came into it on a three-game slide, so to win two games as the lower seed and end up third was a good testament to how our team has developed and grown throughout this year."

Against Adams Central, Ehlers said the Cardinals did a nice job being aggressive both on offense and defense. After Adams Central took a small four point lead in the first quarter, the game was tied at halftime and at the end of the third quarter, but Ehlers said Crete started to make inside shots to help them pull away in the fourth quarter.

"Unfortunately, we just didn't do a great job finishing around the basket or making free throws until the fourth quarter when we were able to turn it around," Ehlers said. "As soon as we did that, we stretched out a lead and didn't give it back."

Kylie McMillan led the Cardinals with 17 points and Camry Draeger scored 12. Cassidy Egge grabbed seven rebounds.

Against York, the Dukes jumped out to a 12-4 lead at the end of the first quarter, but Crete scored 11 in the second quarter to make it a 20-15 game at halftime. Unfortunately, the second half didn't go Crete's way as the Cardinals found themselves struggling to score.

"Once again, the team did a good job taking advantage of where we had mismatches against York, but once again, we missed a lot of interior shots that we got with our height advantage and didn't shoot the ball well from the free throw line," Ehlers said. "Against a good team like York, we just couldn't overcome those things. The team played incredibly hard though and really gave York all it could handle."

Draeger led the Cardinals in scoring with eight points followed by McMillan and Ariana Heusinkvelt with five points each.

After trailing GINW 27-20 at halftime and 43-34 at the end of the third quarter, the Cardinals outscored the Vikings 20-3 in the fourth quarter to take the dominant win.

Ehlers said the Cardinals didn't find good shots in the first three quarters.

"We jumped out to a nice lead in the first quarter, but then lost our momentum in the second and third," Ehlers said. "We settled for a lot of outside shots in the second that didn't fall, and their shooters were able to get good looks from behind the three-point arc and convert them. That continued until about two minutes left in the third quarter."

After that, Crete amped up its defensive pressure and made its shots.

"It was a great comeback by our team and the culmination of an entire week of great effort in every game," Ehlers said. "I am really proud of how everyone competed."

McMillan led the Cardinals in points with 17. Sierra Crist scored 11 points and Draeger had 10.

Crete (7-10) was scheduled to host Schuyler on Feb. 4, travel to Wahoo on Thursday, Feb. 6, and travel to North Platte on Saturday, Feb. 8, for a 3 p.m. game.

# Longhorns take third in conference tournament

BY KEATON BURGESS  
reporter@sewardindependent.com

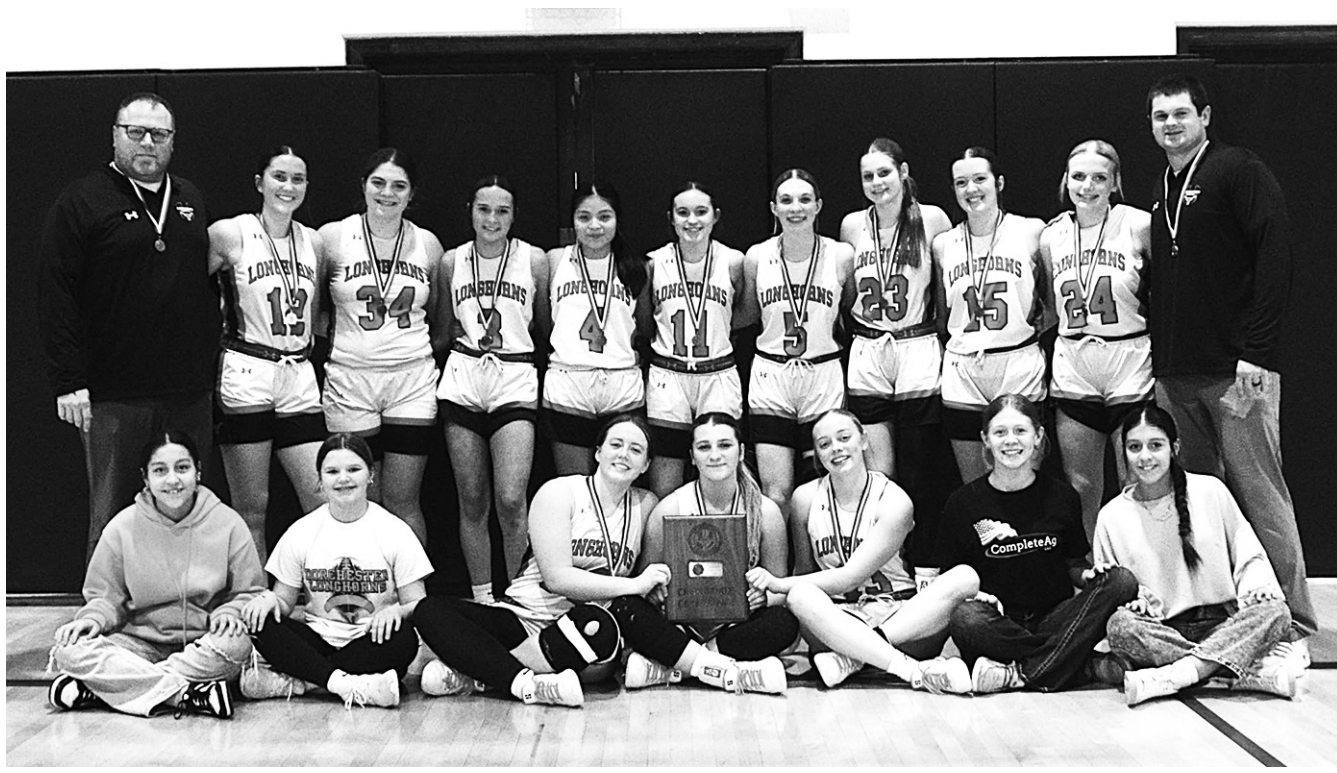
The Dorchester girls' basketball team had an interesting Crossroads conference tournament as the Longhorns played three close games, defeating Twin River 45-44 on Jan. 27 in the first round, losing to Bruning-Davenport/Shickley 37-30 on Jan. 30 in the second round and defeating High Plains 38-37 on Jan. 31 for third place.

"Our conference tournament was a mix of emotions for us," Coach Brandon Bruha said.

Against Twin River, Dorchester led 24-14 at halftime, but Twin River cut into Dorchester's lead and eventually took the lead late in the fourth quarter.

"With 38 seconds to go we were down five," Bruha said.

Bailey Theis hit a three pointer to put the Longhorns back within two. On the inbound, Dorchester pressed and got a steal and Lily Lehr made a basket to tie it up. "Unfortunately we



The Dorchester girls' basketball team poses with its plaque after finishing third place in the Crossroads conference tournament.

fouled and put Twin River to the line, where she made one of two and put them up one with 19 seconds to go," Bruha said. "On the inbound we broke the press and Bailey Theis missed a jumper but Lily Lehr rebounded the ball and put it back

up to give us a one point lead with eight seconds to go. We were able to force a turnover on the next inbound that sealed the win for us."

Bruha said it was fun to be in a game like that.

"It was nice to see our girls respond the way they

did," Bruha said. "They never gave up and fought all the way to the end."

Theis led the Longhorns with 23 points.

Against BDS, Dorchester led 20-17 at halftime, but Bruha said the Longhorns ran out of steam and struggled to score in

the second half.

"BDS played a great game defensively and they made it difficult for us," Bruha said.

Gabby Theis, Livia Schweitzer and Atley Zoubek each led the Longhorns with eight points each. Against High Plains,

the Storm tied the game at 37 with 40 seconds left in the game. After a Dorchester turnover, High Plains called a timeout, but it turned out to be costly for the storm as Schweitzer stole the inbound pass and was fouled on her layup attempt. After Schweitzer made one free throw, High Plains turned it over again, which gave the Longhorns the one point win.

"In all, I am very pleased with how the tournament went for us," Bruha said. "We pulled out some huge wins when it easily could have gone the other way. Hopefully we can keep the wins coming as we start to close the end of the regular season."

Gabby Theis scored 17 points and Zoubek had 12.

Dorchester was set to host College View on Feb. 4, play at Nebraska Lutheran on Thursday, Feb. 6, starting at 6 p.m. and host Twin River on Friday, Feb. 7, starting at 6 p.m.

COURTESY PHOTO

# VanHorn, Sundling lead Cardinals at conference

BY KEATON BURGESS  
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Crete boys wrestling team hosted the Central Conference tournament on Feb. 1 and finished eighth as a team including a second and third place individual finish.

Lyle VanHorn was the runner-up at 138, going 2-1 on the day, winning his two matches by pin. Ashton Sundling took third place at 175, going 3-1 on the day and winning all three of his matches by pin.

Other Cardinals who wrestled at the meet include Alex Bernabe placing fifth at 106, Juan Tercero-Rafeal placing fifth at 113, Adolfo Paiz Ramos at 126, Liam Boldt placing fifth at 132, Nicolas Simon at 144, Sam Lopez at 150 and Jackson Stehlik placing sixth at 157.

"We had a similar lineup to what we had on Thursday night, again with lots of young guys in the lineup," Coach Aaron Wagoner said. "I was really happy with our performance. Consistency during a tournament has plagued us all season, but I felt like a lot of our guys showed up and were better mentally prepared match to match."

The Cardinals started the week hosting Tri



DOUG CARROLL/CN

Crete 144-pounder Nicolas Simon pins Isaak Daugherty of Columbus Lakeview at the Central Conference tournament championship Feb 1 in Crete.

County and Wilber-Clatonia for a triangular on Jan. 30. Crete lost to TC 61-9 and to WC 54-28.

Against TC, Crete only picked up two wins, VanHorn at 138 and Alonzo Blanco at 175 by pin.

"Coach (Jerod) Spahr has done a great job with that program and has a really solid team this year that will be preparing for the state duals," Wagoner said. "This was the most disappointed I've been in our team all season. Our guys didn't wrestle with much fight or heart and really seemed to be going through the motions.

After the dual we got together as a team and I made sure they knew my feelings on the effort they showed. At this time of the year, there are no excuses. Everyone has to be ready to step in; everyone has to be ready to battle through some pain; everyone has to be mentally ready to go, and we weren't."

Against WC, the Wolverines controlled the heavy weights, with Crete wins coming from Bernabe at 106, Zachery Delano at 113, Tercero-Rafeal at 120, VanHorn at 138, and Sundling at 175 by

pin. Wagoner said he felt the team responded well after the TC match.

"Even in the loss, we competed, which is all I ever want from our guys," Wagoner said. "We wrestled with more intensity and grit. Wilber also has a really solid lineup, even though they were a little beat up with the flu, and has some individuals that are simply a little further along right now than some of our younger guys."

The Cardinals are off until they host districts on Saturday, Feb. 15, starting at 9:30 a.m.

# Longhorn wrestlers compete at RC, DT

BY KEATON BURGESS  
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Dorchester girls' wrestling team competed at the Raymond Central Invite on Jan. 30 and the Doniphan Trumbull Invite on Feb. 1.

At Raymond Central, none of the Longhorns earned a place, but Emilia Perez picked up a win at 140 against Azbejaim Pena of Omaha South by pin.

At Doniphan Trumbull, Perez won the 140 pound class, but didn't have to wrestle any matches, earning the Longhorns two points. Briana Tellez placed third at 110 and AyLynn Schwisow placed fourth at 190 but neither girls picked up wins.

For the boys' team, Justin Dixon wrestled at DT at 144, but both of his matches were cut short to a forfeit by injury.

The boys' team will wrestle next at East Butler on Thursday, Feb. 6, starting at 4 p.m. The girls will wrestle at districts at Falls City on Friday, Feb. 7 and Saturday, Feb. 8.

## OPINION

### If you aren't yet, start watching Creighton women's basketball

BY KEATON BURGESS  
reporter@sewardindependent.com

If you aren't watching any Creighton women's basketball this season, you need to be.

Crete alumna Morgan Maly is in her senior season with the Bluejays, and she is having a monster season.

Before Creighton's game against UConn, Maly was averaging 19.2 points per game, and continues to put up games where she usually scores more than 20 points and grabs multiple rebounds.

Before starting my job at the Crete News, I never really watched much women's college basketball or knew who Maly was, but now that I'm here, I added the Creighton women to my list of favorite teams on ESPN and I find myself tuning in to the Bluejays when I can.

I find it so cool that someone like Maly comes from Crete and is showing everyone that she and anyone who comes from Crete can make an impact in whatever they choose to do.

I also love how influential Maly is for people



in Crete. I constantly see at least one Maly jersey at the Crete basketball games and anytime you bring up her name within the Crete community, everyone knows who she is.

One of my favorite games I've gotten to see this year was Maly's game against Marquette. Maly scored 28 points while making 90% of her shots from the floor and 88% from the three. Maly took over that game and was a big reason the Bluejays defeated the Golden Eagles.

So, take my word for it, if you haven't tuned in to a Creighton women's basketball game this season, I would highly recommend you doing so. I know I will be watching quite a few more.

# Longhorns drop final game in tournament

BY KEATON BURGESS  
reporter@sewardindependent.com

The Dorchester boys' basketball team played in its final game of the Crossroads conference tournament on Jan. 28 and couldn't hang with Meridian, falling 70-36.

Coach Corey Bird said the Longhorns were down a member of the team because of injury. With Max Novak out, Sophomore

Javier Munoz was called to step in.

"We have a player who is still developing their skills and has to step in and play meaningful minutes for us," Bird said.

Mason June led the Longhorns with 14 points. Thor Nerud scored 10, Chase Tachovsky scored five, Owen Vyhalek scored four and Munoz scored three.

"We came together as a unit and had good

moments during each of the games we played this week," Bird said. "There were growing pains with this as well, but for the most part we did a better job of shooting the ball with more confidence, and also making sure we were playing with what the defense was giving us. Where we continue to need more development is on defense, we continue to have to work on shifting as the ball is

being skipped to avoid an easy drive to the lane. We will continue as we move into the next week of the season."

Dorchester was set to host College View Academy on Feb. 4, play at Nebraska Lutheran on Thursday, Feb. 6, starting at 7:30 p.m., and host Twin River on Friday, Feb. 7, starting at 7:30 p.m.

# Shots from the area



DOUG CARROLL/CN

Crete 105-pounder Addison Woods gets her hand raised after winning the 105-pound championship at the Central Conference tournament in Crete Feb. 1.



LEESA K. BARTU/CN

Avery Tuttle of Exeter-Milligan-Friend fights her way to the hoop against Pawnee City Jan. 31 in the EMF win.



STEPHANIE CROSTON/SCI

Wilber-Clatonia's Aven Smith drives into the lane against Milford Jan. 31.

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## SIDELINE SUMMARY

*This week in sports...*

### CRETE

#### Girls' Basketball

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#### Boys' Basketball

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#### Girls' Wrestling

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#### Boys' Wrestling

The Crete boys wrestling team hosted the Central Conference tournament on Feb. 1 and finished eighth as a team including a second and third place individual finish. Lyle VanHorn was the runner up at 138, going 2-1 on the day, winning his two matches by pin. The Cardinals started the week hosting Tri County and Wilber-Clatonia for a triangular on Jan. 30. Crete lost to TC 61-9 and to WC 54-28.

### DORCHESTER

#### Girls' Basketball

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#### Boys' Basketball

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#### Girls' Wrestling

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### EXETER-MILLIGAN-FRIEND

#### Girls' Basketball

The EMF girls went 1-1 on the court last week, falling to Heartland 53-47 Jan. 30 and beating Pawnee City 36-29 Jan. 31. Taylin Schluter scored 16, Kiley Oldehoeft 13 and Aniston Meints 11 against Heartland.

#### Boys' Basketball

The Exeter-Milligan-Friend boys defeated Heartland 51-37 Jan. 30 and Pawnee City 63-51 Jan. 31. Zach Vossler led the Bobcats with 15 points and 10 rebounds against Heartland. Grady Bresson scored 30 and grabbed 11 boards against Pawnee City.

#### Girls' Wrestling

The EMF girls competed at the Warcat Invitational Feb. 1. Kyler Sladek finished second at 120 pounds, and Aubrey Bachle was fifth at 135.

#### Boys' Wrestling

Dayton Kremer and Hunter Svehla took the top spots at 165 and 190 pounds, respectively, at the Freeman Invite Jan. 31. Kremer was 5-0 with four pins, and Svehla was 4-0 with three pins.

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### TRICOUNTY

#### Girls' Basketball

The Tri County girls went 2-1 in their games last week. The Trojans opened with a 44-28 loss to Thayer Central, then defeated Freeman 58-41 and Fillmore Central 57-40. Isabelle Peters scored 23 against Fillmore Central. Sayber Hoesche and Macey Gronemeyer put up 17 each against Freeman and Hoesche notched a double double against FC with 12 points and 10 rebounds.

#### Boys' Basketball

It was a week filled with close calls for the Tri County boys' basketball team. The Trojans lost to Thayer Central 54-49 Jan. 29 and to Fillmore Central 55-53 Jan. 31. Drew Siems led the Trojans with 28 points against both teams, and Jason Wehrman added 11 against Fillmore Central.

#### Wrestling

Tri County won both duals Jan. 30, beating Crete 61-9 and Wilber-Clatonia 52-28. The Trojans finished third in the team standings at the Southern Nebraska Conference meet Feb. 1. Cole Spahr (144) and Cooper Stokebrand (215) finished as conference champions. Cade Spahr (113) was runner-up.

### WILBER-CLATONIA

#### Girls' Basketball

The Wilber-Clatonia girls are taking steps in the right direction but are still looking for their first win. The Wolverines lost to Palmyra 39-29 Jan. 28 and to Milford 80-20 Jan. 31. Kariss Rosenthal and Haleah Schuerman both reached double figures scoring against PHS with 12 and 10 points, respectively.

#### Boys' Basketball

The Wilber-Clatonia boys' basketball team picked up a pair of wins last week, topping Palmyra 42-33 Jan. 28 and holding off Milford 53-49 Jan. 31. Aiden Zajcek paced WCHS with 12 points against Palmyra. Cash Keslar led the way with 20 against Milford.

#### Girls' Wrestling

The WC girls lost a dual to Crete 63-12 Jan. 30 and had two finish in the top six at Raymond Central Jan. 31. Faith Klabenos was the runner-up at 190 pounds with a 3-1 day. Matilda Koll was sixth at 135, going 2-3.

#### Boys' Wrestling

The Wilber-Clatonia boys went 1-1 in duals against Crete and Tri County Jan. 30, beating Crete 54-28 and losing to Tri County 52-28. The Trojans finished third in the team standings at the Southern Nebraska Conference meet Feb. 1. Zaiyahn Ornelas (120), Iverson Mejia (150) and Ty Roesler (157) were champions. Grant Eschiti (132) and Logan Zimmerman (144) were runners-up.



PHOTOS BY KEATON BURGESS/CN

## Tigers fall to NW

ABOVE: Macy Holtz of Doane drives the lane against a Northwestern defender on Feb. 1. Doane lost 59-55.

LEFT: Megan Chambers of Doane puts up a wide open layup against Northwestern on Feb. 1.



DOUG CARROLL/CN

## Take down in Crete

Doane's Matthew Terrence looks to score against William Penn's Lane Scorpil in a battle of top 25 rated wrestlers at 133 pounds, with Terrence earning a 12-11 victory.



KEATON BURGESS/CN

## Tigers see fast times on track

Addison Croghan of Doane clears the final hurdle of the 60m hurdles on Feb. 1.

Read the Doane sports stories at [www.doaneathletics.com/landing/index](http://www.doaneathletics.com/landing/index)

# Public Notices

### ORGANIZATION

#### STATE OF NEBRASKA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY CERTIFICATE OF ORGANIZATION OF K & K CDL, LLC

First: The name of the limited liability company is K & K CDL, LLC  
Second: The street address and mailing address of its designated office in the State of Nebraska is 923 280th RD Lot 30, Seward, NE 68434-7614.

Third: The street address and mailing address of its agent for service of process in the State of Nebraska is 923 280th RD. Lot 30, Seward, NE 68434-7614. The name of its agent for service is Alan D. Kortmeyer.

Fourth: The personal liability of the members and managers of the company for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty shall be eliminated to the fullest extent permissible under Nebraska law. The company is authorized to indemnify its members and managers to the fullest extent permissible under Nebraska law. IIN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned has executed this Certificate of Organization on the date below.

Dated: October 14, 2024  
/s/ Alan D. Kortmeyer  
Organizer  
CR — February 05, 12, 19, 2025  
ZNEZ

#### HANSON, HROCH & KUNTZ CRETE, NEBRASKA NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Flaska Farms Legacy, LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company is organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with its principal place of business at 211 Sycamore, Friend, NE 68359, and the registered agent for service of process of the Company is Ricky A. Flaska, at 211 Sycamore, Friend, NE 68359.

The general nature of its business to engage in and to do any lawful act concerning any and all lawful business, other than banking and insurance, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of Nebraska; including all purposes authorized by law, to the same extent as natural persons might or could do. A limited liability company was formed on December 19, 2024

and will continue in perpetuity. Its affairs shall be conducted by Managers pursuant to an Operating Agreement duly adopted by the Company.  
Ricky A. Flaska, Manager  
211 Sycamore  
Friend, Nebraska 68359  
CR — January 29, February 05, 12, 2025  
ZNEZ

### MINUTES

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025 6:00 PM PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARY 506 W. 9TH STREET DORCHESTER, NE 68343-0007

Notice of the time and place of the Dorchester Board of Education meeting was published in a newspaper of general circulation within the district. Newspapers of general circulation in the district include, but are not necessarily limited to, the Crete News, the Lincoln Journal Star, or the Omaha World-Herald. Notice is also posted in at least three prominent places within the school district which may include the following: Dorchester Public Schools, Farmers Coop, First State Bank, and the Village Office. Individual board members received in advance the meeting agenda and meeting materials. Pursuant to Section 84-1412 of the Nebraska Statutes, the public is hereby informed that a current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted in the Board meeting boardroom.

Matt Bolton: Present  
Matthew Hansen: Present  
Shelly Lehr: Present  
Carol Schnell: Present  
Matt Smith: Present  
Steve Vyhnalek: Present  
1. Call to Order and Announce Open Meetings Act Verification  
The regular board meeting was called to order by President Steve Vyhnalek. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.  
2. Roll Call  
Also present were Superintendent Curt Cogswell, Principal Jake Wiese, and Jen Bond.  
3. Receive Visitors and Announce Open Forum for Public Comment  
Chelsea Smith, Nick Mumm, and Elizabeth Mumm were present.  
4. Request for Change of Agenda  
No request for a change of agenda.  
5. Approval of the Minutes of the Last Meeting(s)  
Motion to approve the reading of the last meeting minutes passed

with a motion by Carol Schnell and a second by Matthew Hansen.  
Matt Bolton: Yea, Matthew Hansen: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Matt Smith: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea  
6. Oath of Office  
The Oath of Office was given to and signed by the two new members, Matt Bolton and Matt Smith.  
7. Reorganization of the Board of Education by Nomination and Roll Call or Ballot Vote  
Steve Vyhnalek was nominated for School Board President passed with a motion by Carol Schnell and a second by Shelly Lehr.  
Matt Bolton: Yea, Matthew Hansen: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Matt Smith: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea  
Matt Bolton was nominated for School Board Vice President passed with a motion by Matt Smith and a second by Shelly Lehr.  
Matt Bolton: Yea, Matthew Hansen: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Matt Smith: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea  
Matt Bolton was nominated for School Board Secretary passed with a motion by Carol Schnell and a second by Matthew Hansen.  
Matt Bolton: Yea, Matthew Hansen: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Matt Smith: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea  
Matt Bolton was nominated for School Board Treasurer passed with a motion by Carol Schnell and a second by Shelly Lehr.  
Matt Bolton: Yea, Matthew Hansen: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Matt Smith: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea

8. Financial Report  
Motion to approve the financial report passed with a motion by Matthew Hansen and a second by Carol Schnell.  
Matt Bolton: Yea, Matthew Hansen: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Matt Smith: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea  
9. Reports  
9.1. Principal's Report  
In December we had Longhorn Line-up, the elementary Christmas concert, and the elementary excellence rally. This month we had health screenings and the secondary excellence rally.  
9.2. Superintendent's Report  
Precision Signs came back over the break and made sure all the wall mats were properly secured. Bus 17 was taken to Geneva Tire and Auto to get aligned. The Blue River Coort was held on January 6th. Argonne National Laboratory did the air quality testing over the

break. We have not received the results yet.

10. Discussion Items  
10.1. Tax Statement Explanation  
Dr. Cogswell explained that The School Tax Credit now reduces your property tax on your statement - you no longer need to claim it when you complete your taxes.  
10.2. 2025-2026 School Calendar  
The calendar was given to school board members to look over.  
10.3. School District Classification  
Dorchester is classified as a Class One District as per the State Statute 79-104  
10.4. Teach Nebraska Scholarship  
Dr. Cogswell discussed with the board that a para would like the school to sponsor her for Teach Nebraska

11. Action Items  
11.1. Appointment of Board Committees for 2025: Public Relations, Committee of American Civics/Curriculum, Buildings/Ground, Negotiations, Wellness, and Transportation  
Motion to approve committees for Public Relations, American Civics/Curriculum, Building/Grounds, Negotiations, Transportation, and Wellness passed with a motion by Matthew Hansen and a second by Shelly Lehr.

Matt Bolton: Yea, Matthew Hansen: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Matt Smith: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea  
11.2. Consider retaining the following as the official designees for 2025: 1) Representative for State and Federal Programs - Superintendent, 2) School Attorneys - KSB Law, 3) Newspaper - Crete News, and 4) Depository of District Funds - First State Bank, Dorchester Branch.  
Motion to retain the following as the official designees for 2025 passed with a motion by Carol Schnell and a second by Matthew Hansen.

Matt Bolton: Yea, Matthew Hansen: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Matt Smith: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea  
11.3. New Superintendent Contract  
Motion to approve the 2024-2025 superintendent contract for Nick Mumm passed with a motion by Carol Schnell and a second by Matt Bolton.  
Matt Bolton: Yea, Matthew Hansen: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Matt Smith: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea  
12. Board Committee Reports  
No committee reports  
13. Closed Session (as necessary per statute)

Closed session not needed  
14. Establish Future Board of Education Meeting Date and Time  
The next scheduled board meeting is Monday, Feb. 10th, at 7:00 pm  
15. Adjourn  
Motion to adjourn at 6:57 pm passed with a motion by Shelly Lehr and a second by Matt Bolton.  
Matt Bolton: Yea, Matthew Hansen: Yea, Shelly Lehr: Yea, Carol Schnell: Yea, Matt Smith: Yea, Steve Vyhnalek: Yea  
Shelly Lehr, Secretary of the Board of Education  
CR — February 05, 2025  
ZNEZ

### ESTATES

#### SVEHLA LAW OFFICES, P.C., L.L.O. NOTICE

#### IN THE COUNTY COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA ESTATE OF ALLAN ROHRIG, Deceased Estate No. PR 25-5

Notice is hereby given that on January 23, 2025 in the County Court of Saline County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Probate of the Will of said Decedent and that Kathryn Ricenbaw, 2232 Stone Creek Loup N, Lincoln, NE 68512 and John Ricenbaw, 2232 Stone Creek Loup N, Lincoln, NE 68512, were informally appointed by the Registrar as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate. Creditors of this Estate must file their claims with this Court on or before March 30, 2025, or be forever barred.  
/s/ Joshua K. McDougall  
Clerk of the County Court  
Address of County Court: County Court of Saline County, Nebraska  
204 South High Street, Wilber, NE 68465  
Kelly M. Thomas, Bar I.D. # 18233  
Svehla Law Offices, P.C., L.L.O.  
408 N. Platte Ave., Ste. A,  
York, NE 68467  
(402) 362-5506  
kthomas@svehlalaw.net  
CR — January 29, February 05, 12, 2025  
ZNEZ

#### KALKWARF AND SMITH, ATTORNEYS AT LAW NOTICE

#### CASE NO. PR25-7 ESTATE OF RUBY HULSE

Notice is hereby given that on the 29th day of January, 2025, in the County Court of Saline County,

Nebraska, Brian Hulse, whose address is 6200 Deerhaven Drive, Lincoln, NE 68516, was appointed as Personal Representative of the Estate.

Creditors of this Estate must present their claims on or before the 5th day of April 1st, 2025, or be forever barred. You have the right under Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 30-2413 (Reissue 1995) to demand notice of any order or filing pertaining to the Decedent's Estate or the right under Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 30-2221 (Reissue 1995) to waive such notice.  
/s/ Joshua K. McDougall  
Clerk of the County Court  
CR — February 05, 12, 19, 2025  
ZNEZ

### HEARINGS

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the City Council of the City of Crete, Nebraska, will hold a hearing on February 4th, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall located at 243 East 13th Street, Crete, Nebraska, to hear testimony in favor of and in opposition to and to answer questions in relation to the review of the C-2 Special Exception request at

#### 1575 Blue Acres Drive Crete, Nebraska To allow individuals to use the space as a church

The City Council will conduct a regular session after the hearing to take action as needed. The agenda for the meeting is on file at the City Clerk's Office. Said meeting will be open to the public.  
Nancy Tellez  
City Clerk  
CR — January 29, February 5, 2025  
ZNEZ

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Board of County Commissioners of Saline County, Ne. will hold a public hearing on a proposed one (1) and six (6) year Highway Improvement Program for Saline County, at the Courthouse, Commissioners' Room, Wilber, Nebraska on the 18th, day of February, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. The proposed program will be on file with the County Clerk and available for public inspection after February 3rd, 2025. By order of Chairman and Board of Commissioners  
SCI/MT/CR/FS/WR — February 05, 2025  
ZNEZ

MEETINGS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
The February meeting of the Board of Educational Service Unit 6 will have a remote option available on Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 6:00pm.

NOTICE

The Saline County Courthouse will be closed Monday, February 17, 2025 to observe President's Day.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
FEBRUARY 13, 2025
CITY OF CRETE, NEBRASKA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Airport Advisory Board of the City of Crete, Nebraska, will meet on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 8:15 a.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers, 243 East 13th Street, Crete, Nebraska.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2025
CITY OF CRETE, NEBRASKA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Library Advisory Board of the City of Crete will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 12:00pm at the Library, 1515 Forest Ave., Crete, Nebraska.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2025
CITY OF CRETE, NEBRASKA

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a meeting of the Crete Volunteer Fire Department of the City of Crete will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. at the Fire Hall, Crete, Nebraska.

NOTICE

The Saline County Planning Commission will meet on February 18th 2025, at 7:00 P.M. The meeting will be in the assembly room of the Saline County Courthouse in Wilber, Nebraska.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Early Childhood Planning Region Team [PRT] for the ESU 6 service area will be held on Monday, February 17, 2025 from 12:00 [Noon] to 2:30 pm at ESU 6 in Milford. The ESU 6 PRT holds six meetings throughout the

year for local school providers, DHHS, Head Start and Early Head Start, families, and others to assist in collaborative planning and problem solving to serve young children with disabilities and their families.

GENERAL NOTICES

GROPP LAW AND MEDIATION, LLC, ATTORNEY NOTICE OF CREDITORS IN THE COUNTY COURT OF SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA ESTATE OF REUBEN E. PRIBYL, DECEASED. ESTATE #PR25-9

Notice is hereby given that on January 29, 2025, in the County Court of Saline County, Nebraska, the Registrar issued a written statement of Informal Appointment of Personal Representative in Intestacy, and that Robin L. Dittmer, whose mailing address is P.O. Box 399 Western, NE 68464, has been appointed Personal Representative of this estate.

ORDINANCES

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF ORDINANCE 2231

Public Notice is hereby given that at a meeting of the Mayor and City Council of the City of Crete, Nebraska (the "City") held at 6:00 p.m. January 21st, 2025 there was passed and adopted Ordinance 2231 entitled: AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CRETE, NEBRASKA RELATING TO THE SALE OF REAL ESTATE OWNED BY THE CITY;

All of the alley that abuts lots 7-12, Block 3, West Crete Addition, Crete, Saline County, Nebraska. The sale of said real estate shall be to Cruz Chanchavac Sanchez and Marybeth Chanchavac for the amount not less than Two Thousand Four Hundred and Forty Dollars (\$2,440.00).

INCORPORATIONS

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION OF ROSS WEBER FARMS, INC.

- 1. The name of the corporation is Ross Weber Farms, Inc.
2. The address of the initial registered agent and office is: Christin P. Lovegrove, 179 N 9th Street, PO Box 311, Geneva, County of Fillmore, State of Nebraska
3. The aggregate number of shares which the Corporation shall have authority to issue is One Thousand (1,000) shares of common stock.
4. Ross Weber Farms, Inc. commenced existence on December 19, 2024, by recording its Articles of Incorporation with the Secretary of State and it shall have perpetual existence.

PROPERTY SALES

BONIAL & ASSOCIATES, P.C. 12400 OLIVE BLVD SUITE 555 ST. LOUIS, MO 63141

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

The following described property will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder on 02/24/2025, at 1:00 p.m. at the West front doors of the Saline County Courthouse, 215 South Court Street, Wilber, NE 68465: LOT 61, WESTWOOD ESTATES, CRETE, SALINE COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

and (6) ground leases of record. The purchaser is responsible for all fees or taxes. This sale is made without any warranties as to title or condition of the property. By: Shawn M. Scharenborg, NSBA #27817 Bonial & Associates, P.C. 12400 Olive Blvd Suite 555 St. Louis, MO 63141 Phone: 314-991-0255 Fax: 972-764-5752 First Publication 01/15/2025 , final 02/12/2025 Published in the Crete News BPC Filename: WIPALSMS THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR AND ANY

INFORMATION WE OBTAIN FROM YOU WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. CR — January 15, 22, 29, February 05, 12, 2025 ZNEZ

NAME CHANGE

NOTICE KALKWARF & SMITH LAW OFFICES, L.L.C., NOTICE OF FILING NAME CHANGE COMPLAINT ANDREW CARL POHLMAN On January 23rd, 2025, Plaintiff Andrew Carl Pohlman, filed a Complaint in the District Court

of Saline County, to change his name as follows: from Andrew Carl Pohlman to Andrew Carl Christian Meyers. The Complaint will be heard in the Saline County District Court, Saline County Courthouse, 204 South High Street, Wilber, Nebraska, on February 24, 2025, at 9:45 a.m. or as soon thereafter as the same may be heard. The matter will be heard by the Honorable David J.A. Bargaen. Shaylene M. Smith, NSBA#20419 Kalkwarf & Smith Law Offices, L.L.C. CR — January 29, February 05, 12, 19, 2025 ZNEZ

NOTICE OF DELINQUENT TAX SALE

The following is a list of lands and lots in Saline County, Nebraska, upon which taxes are delinquent for the year 2023 and prior tax years.

The amount set opposite each description is the amount of delinquent tax, but does not include interest and applicable costs thereon.

Therefore, notice is hereby given that I, Debbie Spanyers, Treasurer of Saline County, Nebraska, will on the first Monday in March, 2025 offer at public sale, all of the taxes on the following described lands and lots for the amount of taxes assessed thereon, together with such interest and applicable costs. Said sale to take place on the first floor of the Courthouse. The sale will begin at 9:30 o'clock am and continue from day to day until all such taxes on said lands and lots have been offered for sale. Each individual/entity bidding, must pay a \$25 nonrefundable registration fee and pre-register on or before 4:30 pm on Thursday, February 27, 2025. Registrations will be accepted starting Monday, February 10, 2025.

Witness my hand and seal this 3rd day of February, 2025.

Debbie Spanyers, Saline County Treasurer.

(SEAL)

dspanyers@salinecountyne.gov salinecountyne.gov

Table with 5 columns: Parcel, Name, Property Address, Legal, Unpaid Principal. Contains a comprehensive list of delinquent tax properties in Saline County, Nebraska, including parcel numbers, owner names, addresses, legal descriptions, and unpaid tax amounts.

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**AUCTION**

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**6.53 ACRES**  
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Corner of 2100 & D Road  
Crete, NE



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# Musicians

Continued from 5

Missouri River. In recent times, Joe has enjoyed the opportunity to play with one of the more recent ensembles, Trey Blecha and his band.

Joe plays the piano but mostly as an accompanist over the years for his three daughters, Jennifer, Elizabeth and Valerie, as they were in vocal performances growing up for ZCBJ Christmas programs and other social occasions. Each daughter also plays piano or keyboard, and flute, clarinet or trumpet respectively.

He has been a long-time member of the Czech Brass Band on trombone that has provided traditional music for Memorial Day Services at the Czech National Cemetery southwest of Humboldt. Joe is proud that his teenage grandson, Mason Ladman, joined the band on trumpet five years ago. For over 30 years, beginning in 1992, Joe has additionally been the keynote speaker every Memorial Day at the Cemetery.

Joe also plays the button accordion, but never professionally, and just for family reunions and other such gatherings.

Joe has been a long-time member of the Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation, as a

member of the Board of Trustees since 2011, as a member of the Board of Directors since 2013 and subsequently as a member of the Executive Board for several years.

Joe has over 53 years of general legal practice in the rural Nebraska community of Pawnee City. He has formed many Nebraska Non-Profit Corporations and obtained federally tax exempt 501(c)(3) status determination from the Internal Revenue Service for 40 such organizations. Five of which are specifically related to furthering and promoting the Czech and Slovak culture and heritage. Namely:

1. The Czech Language Foundation in 1993, was established in response to the UNL Board of Regents action to "kick" instruction of Czech Language into the Continuing Studies Division with diminished credit standing from Modern Languages.

2. The Czech and Slovak Educational Center and Cultural Museum in 2004, which was formed to provide for a cultural and educational center similar to the National Czech and Slovak Museum in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

3. The Josef Stepán Family Foundation was formed in 2004 to provide perpetual ownership

of a now 482 year old religious relic, a postilla, emblematic of the Protestant teachings of Jan Hus and to provide an appropriate venue for public exhibition of the Postilla and for its preservation, security and custody.

4. The ZCBJ Jan Kollar Lodge No. 101 Foundation in 2023.

The four foregoing named non-profits were also co-founded by Joe.

5. Joe assisted in forming the recently established Czech Culture and Education Foundation of Nebraska in 2023, for which he was awarded Founding Member Status.

One other non-profit organization deserves a separate and special mention. It is the Pawnee County Promotional Network, although co-founded by, Joe in 1990, with the five-fold mission and goals at promoting tourism, economic development, historic preservation, cultural events, and educational projects within and around Pawnee County.

Thanks to the hard work and effort of Sharla Sitzman Cerra, it has established in the most recent four years of its 34 year existence promotion of the Czech culture by initiating and partially funding as needed free matinee polka dances the last Sunday of the first four months of each year at the ZCBJ Lodge Hall, rural DuBois, featuring the leading bands and or-

chestras from throughout the state.

The program has been well received and well attended by the public and is a recognized and successful promotion and celebration of the Czech Culture. Joe personally or through his office has further sponsored at least one orchestra each season.

Joe was also one of the sponsors to bring Molly B and her band to a well-attended public concert performance and show in the Village Park in Table Rock in 2023.

Joe is proud to be a member of the American Legion, Thomas Little Post #168 in Pawnee City; he served in the United States Army Reserve from 1971 until his honorary discharge in 1979, having attained the rank of Captain.

Back in his college days, he was President of the Komensky Club and State President of the Nebraska Czechs in 1970.

His legal career included 12 years as Pawnee County Attorney (1975 to 1987) and 32 years as Pawnee City Attorney (1987 to 2019).

One dance changed Joe's life! PlaMor in West Lincoln was a popular venue and one which the Grebnick Orchestra played every month. Such was the case on March 8, 1969. Joe was told at intermission to see his first cousin who was a longtime secretary at the

Nebraska State Patrol headquarters in Lincoln and who had a booth and table next to the stage.

She brought to the dance to meet cousin Joe, Katherine Crowson, a coworker and Union College graduate, and pretty brunette originally from Louisiana. The wedding was the following Sept. 6.

Since 1975, Stehlik Law occupies a two-story native limestone building constructed in 1886 as a bank building, complete with the original stained glass windows, at the corner of 7th street and Highway 50 in Pawnee City, and features speakers mounted on the exterior frontage broadcasting Czech music for the benefit of passersby and occupants of the seating provided by large pine flower and planter boxes along the front and side.

One of Joe's prized family possessions on display near his residence in Pawnee City is the restored Stehlik Orchestra trailer complete with its original Model A rims with wooden spokes which was used by the Stehlik Orchestra for 3 tours in Kansas and Oklahoma in 1939 and 1940, and included radio broadcasts from KFBI in Abilene, Kansas.

Joe thanks the Musicians Hall of Fame Committee for their dedication and for taking the time and effort to recognize musicians involved in preserving the Czech

musical heritage in south-eastern Nebraska.

Joe would like to personally thank Kathy and Jennifer, Elizabeth and Valerie and the rest of his family for their love and support over the many years.

**Dawn Eloise Becwar** Mundt was born in Salina, Kansas, on March 10, 1956, to Leonard and Delores (Witfoth) Becwar, both of whom are prior inductees in the Musicians Hall of Fame.

As a young child, the family moved to Fairmont, where Dawn attended K-1. After moving to the family farm near Milligan, Dawn attended second grade at Rural District #6 school. The remainder of her education in grade school and high school was at the Milligan Public Schools. Dawn graduated from Milligan High School in 1974, along with 15 classmates.

Her school years were filled with sports and music. She participated in volleyball, track, cheerleading, and in many instrumental and vocal groups during that time. After high school graduation, she worked in Lincoln, at the Aunt Betty Bread Company, prior to attending Grand Island School of Business (GISB).

She graduated with a secretarial degree in

## Ak-Sar-Ben Pioneer Family Award applications being accepted

Nebraska has a history of families who have been farming and keeping traditions alive for decades.

Each year, the Ak-Sar-Ben Foundation partners with the Nebraska Farm Bureau and the Nebraska Association of Fair Managers to present the Pioneer Farm and Heritage Farm Awards.

This program recognizes farm families in Nebraska whose land has been owned by members of the same family for 100 years (Pioneer Award) and 150 years (Heritage Award).

A family may receive one award at a time – either the 100-year or the 150-year award.

The farm's current minimum size required to submit an application is 40 acres, unless the original deed or homestead documents state the

original homestead was less than 40 acres.

The same family must have continuously owned for a minimum of 100 or 150 years.

Ownership from the original buyer has passed through children, grandchildren, siblings, nieces, and nephews, through marriage or adoption.

For 2025 nominations, request an application by contacting Theresa Vernon, Saline County

Ag, Society, Phone: (402) 826-4787. Completed applications should be mailed to Theresa Vernon, 1407 Idaho Road, Crete, NE 68333 or you can also complete the online application at: <https://aksarben.org/farm-families/>

The deadline to apply for 2025 is March 20. Any applications submitted after the deadline date of March 20 will be awarded the following year.

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## STUDENTS

### Wayne State College

Wayne State College has named its students on the Dean's list for exemplary academic achievement during the fall 2024 semester. Students listed on the Dean's list are full-time undergraduate students who have achieved a GPA of 3.5 or above on a 4.0 scale for the semester. An asterisk (\*) denotes a

4.0 GPA for the term. Students on the Dean's list from this area include:

- Crete—Jaidyn Mann\*, Maria Raymond, Sinthia Rivas, Marli Stones and Quinlan Vondra
- Hallam—Jaiden Rohr
- Dorchester—Mackenzie Jirsa

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

Puzzles & Coloring found on page 7.

1	6	8	1	7	4	2	9	3	5
4	3	2	9	5	8	1	7	6	
5	7	9	6	1	3	8	2	4	
9	1	3	8	7	4	6	5	2	
2	4	7	5	6	1	3	8	9	
8	6	5	3	2	9	4	1	7	
7	5	4	1	3	6	2	9	8	
6	9	1	2	8	7	5	4	3	
3	2	8	4	9	5	7	6	1	

Beginner Sudoku

R	H	C	S	S	E	H			
E	C	R	I	C	E	T			S
T	A	B	U	T	N	D	I	N	E
S	O	M	S		G				M
E	A	W	A	R	E	M	I	O	R
N	G	S	I	D	O	W	L	L	H
				L	D	B		B	I
				L	A	R		A	V
				S	I	R		L	N
				D	A	R	D	S	T
				R	E	E	N	O	P
				D	E	A	L	D	E
				O	R	I	O	L	E
				G	O	O	S	E	T
				T	H	O	R	A	T

Cross Word

1	7	4	2	9	3	6	8	5	
9	8	3	7	5	6	4	2	1	
5	6	2	8	4	1	3	9	7	
2	5	1	9	3	4	7	6	8	
8	3	9	5	6	7	1	4	2	
6	4	7	1	2	8	5	3	9	
7	2	6	4	1	9	8	5	3	
4	9	8	3	7	5	2	1	6	
3	1	5	6	8	2	9	7	4	

Intermediate Sudoku

6	8	1	3	7	2	9	4	5	
7	9	4	6	1	5	8	3	2	
2	3	5	4	9	8	1	7	6	
3	6	9	2	5	7	4	8	1	
8	5	2	1	4	9	7	6	3	
1	4	7	8	3	6	5	2	9	
5	2	8	9	6	4	3	1	7	
4	7	3	5	2	1	6	9	8	
9	1	6	7	8	3	2	5	4	

Advanced Sudoku

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