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Valentine MIDLAND NEWS

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STATE OF NEBRASKA

Proclamation

WHEREAS, The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects the right to keep and bear arms; and

WHEREAS, Article I-1 of the Nebraska State Constitution guarantees "the right to keep and bear arms for security or defense of self, family, home, and others, and for lawful common defense, hunting, recreational use, and all other lawful purposes" and states that this right "shall not be denied or infringed by the state or any subdivision thereof;" and

WHEREAS, The State of Nebraska has protected the right of Nebraskans to open carry and conceal carry; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska will stand up against federal overreach and attempts to regulate gun ownership and use in the Good Life; and

WHEREAS, The White House and U.S. Congress have announced their intention to pursue measures that would infringe on the right to keep and bear arms; and

WHEREAS, A growing number of counties in Nebraska have declared themselves as "Second Amendment Sanctuary" counties; and

WHEREAS, Nebraska will continue to take any necessary step to defend our right to keep and bear arms.


NOW, THEREFORE, I Pete Ricketts, Governor of the State of Nebraska, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM the State of Nebraska is a


SECOND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY STATE

and I do hereby urge all citizens to take due note of the designation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the Great Seal of the State of Nebraska to be affixed this Thirteenth day of April, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-One.

Attest:


 Secretary of State


 Governor



Photos by Laura Vroman

Surprise!?!

by Laura Vroman

Were you surprised Monday, April 19? A little bit? Not really? Nebraska's weather is always full of surprises. NOAA weather did forecast from one to three inches of snow - the surprise came with over eight inches!

According to NOAA Weather and the National Weather Service in North Platte, warm ground temperatures may keep accumulations on roadways short-lived. The greatest accumulations will occur on elevated and grassy surfaces.

Two to four inches was forecasted for Monday evening as well, with wind gusting up to 30 mph, which would make for difficult travel.

A warm up to 50 degrees was forecasted for Wednesday on through the rest of the week.

Sunday, April 18, had a high of 70 degrees, and many were out maintaining their lawns, and yards. The overnight low of 27 degrees kept the moisture as snow instead of rainfall.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Cherry County is considered abnormally dry, along with surrounding counties to the east and south. Counties west are in the moderate drought category. North West South Dakota and most of North Dakota are in the Extreme Drought category.

Moisture can be good!



Gov. Ricketts Designates Nebraska as a Second Amendment Sanctuary State

LINCOLN – April 14, 2021, Governor Pete Ricketts announced that he had signed a proclamation designating Nebraska as a "Second Amendment Sanctuary State." The proclamation is symbolic, and reaffirms Nebraska's support for the right to bear arms.

"The White House and U.S. Congress have announced their intention to pursue measures that would infringe on the right to keep and bear arms," says Governor Ricketts'

proclamation. "Nebraska will stand up against federal overreach and attempts to regulate gun ownership and use in the Good Life."

Governor Ricketts' proclamation comes as over 50 Nebraska counties have passed resolutions of support for the Second Amendment that declare themselves as Second Amendment Sanctuary Counties. More information can be found at <https://www.nebraskafirearms.org/>.

Local farmer donates to C-K High School

Cherry County, APRIL 13, 2021 – Local farmer Jerry Fullerton recently directed a \$2,500 Bayer Fund America's Farmers Grow Communities donation to Cody Kilgore High School. Cody Kilgore High School will use the funds toward the Circle C Market, which provides student employees the opportunity to learn a variety of skills and benefits both students and the community.

Since 2010, the America's Farmers programs have awarded more than \$59 million to community non-profits, aspiring ag students, and public schools across rural America. Farmers are leaders in their communities, which is why America's Farmers programs rely on them to help identify the most worthy causes.

Dedicated to making a difference in rural farming communities, the Grow Communities program asks farmers across the country to participate by nominating nonprofit organizations with resources to strengthen their local communities. Last August, farmers entered for the chance to direct a \$2,500 Grow Communities donation to a local eligible nonprofit of their choice. Farmers have directed donations to food banks, emergency response

organizations, schools, youth agriculture programs, and many others that reflect the spirit and support the vibrancy of rural America.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has affected everyone, including those in rural regions, and farmers play a critical role in helping communities overcome challenges, like the ones we're currently facing," said Al Mitchell, Bayer Fund president. "Bayer Fund is proud to work side-by-side with farmers to identify local eligible nonprofit organizations that are able to provide their residents with solutions that leave a lasting impact."

• The America's Farmers Grow Communities program, sponsored by Bayer Fund, partners with farmers to provide grants to local nonprofits to help their communities.

• Through the program, farmers enroll for the chance to direct a \$2,500 donation to a local eligible nonprofit organization of their choice.

• The America's Farmers programs have given more than \$59 million to rural America since 2010.

To learn more about how America's Farmers programs are making an impact, visit www.AmericasFarmers.com.



Photo by Laura Vroman

The tread on these tires shows the diversity of businesses, and industry that is done here in the Sandhills. The consciousness of the people of the Sandhills to find these tires a new home also shows that they're good stewards of the land!

Tire recycling program successful!

by Kim Burge

North Central RC&D along with MNNRD completed a Nebraska Department of Energy and Environment Tire Amnesty Friday, April 16, 2021. The goal of 300 tons was reached mid-afternoon. Kim Burge, Executive Director for RC&D reported 221 loads of tires were hauled to the City of Valentine lot East of Valentine High School. "The event was a huge success. We probably could have asked for a 400 ton limit on the Tire Amnesty Grant with NDEE. It was

hard to decide where to set the goal. The last Tire Amnesty for Cherry County was held in 2004."

Resource Management was awarded the contract to haul the tires to their new destination. Resource Management is located in Brownell, KS. They provide all loading, transporting, recycling, processing and disposal of tires involved in this clean-up. They recycle any tires that are able to be utilized for the available markets – this includes feed bunks, sidewall

rings for silage cover weights, and Alternate Daily Cover for landfills.

The RC&D and MNNRD are appreciative to everyone that gathered their tires to be recycled. Two hundred twenty one loads certainly confirmed the need for this amnesty event. Tire Amnesty, Hansen-Mueller, Little Outlaw Canoe Rental, Union Bank and Trust, City of Valentine, Midland News and KVSH supported with this event.

"The competition for the Tire

Amnesty Grants is tough. While it looks like we could probably host another event next year, it will probably be more like five years before we might be awarded the grant again," reports RC&D Chairman, Mike Burge. "We will apply again so hold on to the tires you didn't get hauled in. Our next focus is electronic recycling with collection events in May. The one time chance to recycle your old heavy tube TV's for free and other electronic devices. Watch for details."

Crowned!

VHS crowns Prom King and Queen

-see page 5

Are you lucky?

4-H Luck of the Draw, April 24

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DISTRICT 43 NEWS

by Tom Brewer

I'm very interested in the creative education reform proposed by Senator Lou Ann Linehan

The Nebraska Constitution requires the Legislature to do only two things: meet on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January, and pass a budget once every two years. Technically, the Legislature only has to pass this package of budget bills and nothing else. Legislatures are two years long. Much of the first session following the election is devoted to the budget. As I write this, we are in the middle of that debate right now.

The proposed budget for the State of Nebraska's 2021-2022 fiscal year is more than \$4.7 billion. It is broken into three broad groups of expenses. Operating the various agencies of state government costs about \$1.6 billion. The largest expense in this category is the university system at almost \$700 million. This category of spending is 2.2 percent more than the last budget.

State aid to individuals is the second category, costing almost \$1.5 billion. Medicaid is the largest expense in this category at almost \$1 billion. This category of spending is 0.6 percent more than the last budget. Nebraska has one of the most generous welfare systems in the country.

State aid to local governments is the third category. The TEEOSA formula (how the Legislature funds K-12 schools) is a little more than \$1 billion. This category of spending has decreased 3.3 percent compared to the last budget.

Lastly we are going to spend about \$40 million on construction in the capitol building to convert the 1930s steam heat system to a modern geothermal HVAC heating and cooling system. This work is progressing on schedule and the contractors are doing a quality job that does justice to our historic state capitol building.

Thirty-one percent of all appropriations are of money we received from the federal government. This worries me because the federal government is printing a breathtaking amount of money out of thin air. According to the Federal Reserve, it has created 20 percent of the total money supply just since last February. All of this monetary inflation will drive up prices, and if the money from the feds ever dries up, the Legislature will face a serious budget crisis.

The efforts we have made to reduce property taxes continues to be my number one priority. I agree with Senator Erdman who likes to say that most of what we have done to reduce property taxes in Nebraska "is just a decrease in the increase."

Property taxes continue to rise because we rely too much on them to fund our schools. To make property taxes just equal to the national average, we would need to appropriate another \$700 million for schools on top of the \$1 billion we already spend. There are not the votes in the Legislature to do this. Senator Erdman's LR 11CA could be the answer in my opinion. I encourage everyone to check out this unique proposal. I am also very interested in the creative education reform proposed by Senator Lou Ann Linehan in her LB 364. That could help us save money and deliver a better education to Nebraska kids.

Please contact my office with any comments, questions, or concerns. Email me at tbrewer@leg.ne.gov, mail a letter to Sen. Tom Brewer, Room #1101, P.O. Box 94604, Lincoln, NE 68509, or call us at 402-471-2628.

Western and central Nebraska

I spent the last two weeks traveling the length of our state, meeting and talking with dozens of Nebraskans. I was so grateful for this chance to hear directly from such a wide range of people. Congress can always use more Nebraska common sense, and these conversations are one way I bring that common sense with me to Washington.

I spoke about my first week of the state work period in last week's column. I visited Blair, Omaha, and Lincoln in eastern Nebraska. Most recently, I visited western and central Nebraska.

My first stop was in Chadron, where I visited a favorite coffee shop, The Bean and Broker, and spoke with a number of residents. Next, I was in Alliance, where I toured the Greenhouse in the Snow. Owner Russ Finch has built an incredible indoor greenhouse next to his house, where he grows a wide variety of plants entirely indoors. He also sells do-it-yourself greenhouse kits, which allow anyone to start their own indoor garden and produce business, no matter where they live.

After spending time in Alliance,

I drove to Scottsbluff, where I stopped by the new SkyView Drive-In Theater on my way into town. The Midwest Historical Theater hasn't returned to their normal schedule yet, and even though they hope to do so soon, they recently had the great idea to show their movies outside. This open-air theater will be such a great attraction for western Nebraska.

tary schools for their after-school programs. Owners Pam and Brian Kiltzau even let me make my own mix, which was a first for me.

While out west, I also met with members of the Keith County Chamber of Commerce, who have gone above and beyond to help local businesses during the pandemic. They didn't let COVID get them down and turned to innovative programs to encourage people to support companies in the Keith County community.

In central Nebraska, I visited Mac's Creek Winery and Brewery, a family-owned business that's proud to be the second-largest winery in Nebraska. Their cooperation with the local government in Lexington is a model of how public-private partnerships can benefit everyone involved — and they also make one of the best root beers I've ever had.

Additionally, I had the privilege of stopping in Kearney to visit UNK's state-of-the-art new STEM center, Discovery Hall. Dr. Tim Jares, the dean of UNK's business school, showed me some of the great work that's taking place at Discovery Hall. I was able to visit with some students about the exciting work they are doing, and I also got to try out their flight simulator, which helps aspiring pilots train for their future careers.

And in Grand Island, I toured the Central Nebraska Regional Airport. I was especially impressed with their brand-new firehouse, which was built by Chief Industries, a local construction company. Most of the work was done by contractors from the Tri-City area, too, and it took them only six months to finish.

It is always informative to travel our state and meet with Nebraskans, listen one-on-one to the problems you may be having with federal agencies, and work to resolve your issues. It is also wonderful to have a meal at Sons of Italy or speak with our Omaha firefighters and learn of their recent accomplishments. I am now back in Washington, ready to put everything I heard these past two weeks to work in the Senate.

Thank you for participating in the democratic process. I look forward to visiting with you again next week.

NOTE FROM WASHINGTON D.C.

by Deb Fischer

I also had the chance to visit the Panhandle's first brewery, Flyover Brewing Company. They proudly use equipment from Lincoln, malt made in Nebraska, and other locally grown ingredients to produce one-of-a-kind beers that truly are born in Nebraska.

Big Red Nebraska Popcorn was also a favorite stop. They offer their delicious popcorn in Scottsbluff and beyond, including to local elemen-

POLITICAL SATIRE

by Paul Fell



Putting the brakes on bad bills

The Nebraska Legislature is two-thirds of the way through the 2021 legislative session. Over the next several weeks, Senators will vote on a number of key bills. As they do, I encourage Nebraskans to follow the debate closely at the State Capitol.

Senators have already made good progress on a number of Nebraskans' priorities. The Appropriations Committee has issued its final report on a budget that would control spending to deliver over \$1.45 billion in property tax relief over the next two years. The Unicameral advanced veterans tax relief, LB 387, to final reading on a unanimous vote. Speaker Hilgers has prioritized a bill I requested, LB 388, to build critical broadband infrastructure.

Along with this promising work, however, Senators are considering a few bills that would be bad for Nebraska. I want to call your attention to these bills and share my reasons for opposing them.

Legalizing dangerous drugs LR 2CA and LB 474

In recent years, marijuana corporations have tried to make inroads into the Good Life. Well-funded marijuana groups are again pressuring Legislators to legalize the drug. LR 2CA would put full legalization of marijuana on the ballot in 2022. Another bill, LB 474, would partially legalize marijuana now.

Bringing marijuana into Nebraska will hurt kids. In neighboring Colorado, marijuana was the substance most likely to be present in adolescent suicides, age 10-19, during 2016. Marijuana was found

in over 30 percent of cases where toxicology data was available. Suicide is now the leading cause of death of adolescents in Colorado. Among the 15-19 age group, the presence of marijuana in suicide toxicology reports increased almost threefold from 2013 to 2017. The link between marijuana and depression among teens is especially

alarming given the rising number of adolescents who frequently use the drug. More than one in 15 high school seniors use marijuana on a daily basis. Over 21 percent of 12th graders have used the drug in the past month.

Nebraska will experience the same heart-wrenching outcomes as Colorado if we legalize marijuana in our state. The American Psychiatric Association's statement on marijuana says, "there is no current scientific evidence that cannabis is in any way beneficial for the treatment of any psychiatric disorder. In contrast, current evidence supports, at minimum, a strong association of cannabis use with the onset of psychiatric disorders. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to harm, given the effects of cannabis on neurological development." Legislators should stand by the science, protect our kids, and oppose efforts by mari-

juana lobbyists to open our state to this unhealthy and dangerous drug.

Taking on major debt LB 542

Nebraska is the least indebted state in the country. That's because, like Nebraska families, we only spend the money we have. Some Senators want to change that. LB 542 would abandon our proven pay-as-we-go approach.

Instead, it would load the State with up to \$450 million of debt for new spending on highways. Senators increased funding for roads just a few years ago with the passage of the Transportation Innovation Act. It authorized \$450 million to speed construction of the state's expressway system and to repair or replace county bridges. Nebraskans will be paying the tab on this legislation all the way until 2033 through state motor fuel taxes.

With LB 542, the State of Nebraska would be taking on major debt and big interest payments. Taking on debt is forever; it never gets paid off. Funds spent on interest payments are essentially wasted. They won't go to build roads; they'll go to pay creditors. Taking on a huge amount of debt could also jeopardize our strong credit rating as a state. Anyone who has dealt with debt knows how quickly it can get out of control. Senators should slam the brakes on LB 542 and vote against taking on hundreds of millions of dollars of debt—money that will come out of your wallet.

Continued on back page

Heavily modified corrections spending bill advances as part of State budget

There are quite a few corrections-centered bills on the Nebraska Legislature's table this year. While there are some solid ideas dealing with transparency and costs of incarceration, it appears those bills will linger in committee while senators focus on a big-ticket item in the state budget.

Included in the Appropriations Committee's budget proposal is LB383 introduced by Speaker of the Legislature Mike Hilgers of Lincoln at the request of the Governor. That bill would fund a new multi-

purchase, as well as completion of an independent engineering study regarding the useful life of the current Nebraska State Penitentiary in Lincoln, the department's oldest facility which opened its doors in 1869.

"Voting for LB383 doesn't mean you're voting for a prison," Stinner told his colleagues. "It means that you're voting for information."

Committee vice chair Sen. Anna Wishart of Lincoln said the amended bill would allow the state to work with experts from the Crimi-

nal Justice Institute — and in collaboration with Nebraska stakeholders — to address broader issues of criminal justice reform. She said CJJ are

federal experts who "coach" states on how better to manage their criminal justice systems.

Nebraska currently has the second highest overcrowded prison system (behind Alabama) in the United States. Wishart said the amended bill would give the state the opportunity to address the "historic wrong" of mass incarceration that is "steeped in systemic racism."

"Our country imprisons more people than any other country in the world, and a disproportionate number of those prisoners are Black," Wishart said. "We cannot build our way to criminal justice reform — not possible — nor should we have the goal of doing that."

Sen. Terrell McKinney of Omaha, one of two Blacks in the Legislature, opposed the amendment, saying it doesn't address the core reasons that individuals end up in the state's correctional system. He said he has witnessed firsthand the state's lack of investment in low-income communities and communities of color such as his North Omaha district.

"Public safety is taking care of people," he said. "We don't invest in the communities that these people come from. Why do we refuse to address the root issues?"

The Appropriations Committee deserves credit for taking a reasoned approach to the issue. Let's hope that they and their colleagues can withstand pressure from the Governor who isn't getting his way.

CAPITOL VIEW

by J.L. Schmidt

the Nebraska Capital Construction Fund over the next five years.

But the Appropriations Committee disagreed with the Governor's recommendation and amended it to instead transfer \$115 million from the General Fund to the Capital Construction Fund. Committee Chairman Sen. John Stinner of Gering offered a successful amendment to take a broader approach by transferring \$350,000 in FY2021-22 from the construction fund to the state Department of Correctional Services to update their master plan and examine demand for behavioral and mental health and substance abuse services at current correctional facilities, taking into consideration the physical condition of the facilities.

The amendment also would appropriate \$500,000 in FY2021-22 to the department to prepare a program statement and site selection for a new halfway-back community corrections center in Omaha.

An additional \$18 million would fund the design, planning and construction of three specialty units — to be used for additional mental health and geriatric patients or other individuals with special needs — which would add at least an additional 96-bed capacity at the state's reception and treatment center.

Finally, the amendment would appropriate \$14.9 million to fund the preparation of designs for a possible new facility, including site selection and an option to

What America really needs

Earlier this year, President Biden pushed his \$1.9 trillion spending package, the American Rescue Plan, through Congress and signed it into law claiming it was a dire necessity because of the pandemic. However, his administration has been very slow in rolling out programs created by this massive bill despite saying it was so urgently required. Instead, they have been busy proposing more "emergency" spending, before money allocated in the previous bill has even been spent and while our economy has begun bouncing back, largely on its own.

From the moment he signed the bill, President Biden and his administration seemingly moved on from

the infrastructure plan recently put forth, the Biden Administration released their proposed blueprint for fiscal year 2022's budget and it falls short. This \$1.52 trillion proposal would increase domestic spending on existing programs by 16 percent, on top of what has been spent in the American Rescue Plan and is proposed for infrastructure. As with these other two spending plans, the President claims these proposals are intended to address areas of need in our economy, but they are actually focused on further expanding many of the same programs with no connection to COVID that he has included in past proposals.

Over the course of the last year, Congress came together to pass truly bipartisan spending packages to combat the coronavirus all while supporting the American people. Now, our economy is starting to recover, and our priority must be connecting Americans with jobs to allow our economy to flourish once again. Now more than ever we should not be increasing taxes on hardworking Americans and sending their jobs overseas, but that is precisely what the recently proposed plans from the Biden Administration would do. Congress must take action to serve the interests of our constituents and do what is best for our country, not what is prioritized by the far-left.

WASHINGTON ROUND-UP

by Adrian Smith

Continued on back page

Nebraska Award Winning Newspaper

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Valentine Midland News welcomes Letters to the Editor. We ask that letters be a maximum of 600 words in length.

Letters will be edited for clarity, brevity and good taste and will be subject to acceptance or rejection at the editorial staff's discretion.

Letters that may be libelous as well as unsigned letters will not be published.

Letters sent via e-mail must be accompanied by a signed hard copy. Letters must be signed with the author's true name, address and phone number for purposes of authentication.

An individual may only submit two letters per 30 days. Letters containing offensive, libelous material or misleading information will either not be run, or be edited.

Precedence will be given to letters from subscribers, and readers in the local area, with regard to current issues.

The Valentine Midland News, its owners, publisher, editor and staff members assume no responsibility, legal or otherwise, for opinions other than their own.

Double trouble: users of both alcohol and marijuana take more risks behind the wheel

OMAHA, NE (April 13, 2021) AAA is issuing a warning about the dangers of driving impaired. New AAA research suggests that users of both alcohol and marijuana (not necessarily at the same time) are often some of the most dangerous drivers on the road. According to the research, drivers who consumed marijuana and alcohol within a 30 day period were more likely to engage in risky behavior like speeding, texting, intentionally running red lights, and aggressive driving.

"Regardless of whether marijuana is legal or prescribed, driving under the influence of the drug is illegal and extremely dangerous," said Nick Faustman, spokesman for AAA-The Auto Club Group. "Although some drivers think marijuana makes them a better driver, research shows it can inhibit concentration, slow reaction times, and cloud judgment. That

judgment is even more compromised by a marijuana user who also drinks alcohol. It's important that drivers know the risk that comes with these two drugs and never drive impaired."

The AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety's annual Traffic Safety Culture Index found that drivers who use both marijuana and alcohol were significantly more prone to driving under the influence of alcohol versus those who only drink alcohol but do not use marijuana. These motorists identified as someone who consumed alcohol and used marijuana in the past 30 days, and in some cases, they may have used both at the same time. They also engage in various other dangerous driving behaviors far more than drivers who consume either just alcohol or abstain from either drinking alcohol or using marijuana.

[Driving Habits of Marijuana and](#)

Alcohol Users vs. Users of Alcohol only

Compared to alcohol-only users, drivers who admitted to using both drugs were more likely to report such behaviors as:

- Speeding on residential streets (55%) vs. alcohol-only (35%)
- Aggressive driving (52%) vs. alcohol-only (28%)
- Intentional red-light running (48%) vs alcohol-only (32%)
- Texting while driving (40%) vs. alcohol-only (21%)

Unsurprisingly, the study found drivers who neither drink alcohol nor use marijuana were considerably less likely to engage in the sorts of risky driving behaviors examined. This Foundation research was published in January 2021 in the peer-reviewed journal Transportation Research Record.

Drug Use by the Numbers

Previous research suggests that users who drive high are at least

twice as likely to be involved in a crash.

According to government data, alcohol and marijuana are the most widely used drugs in the United States - 139.8 million people aged 12 or older reported drinking alcohol in the past month, and 43.5 million reported using marijuana in the past year. As of today, 16 states and Washington, D.C., have legalized marijuana for recreational use. And in 2021, 15 state legislatures are considering medical or adult-use marijuana legalization bills.

AAA is committed to educating the public about the dangers of substance-impaired driving. Through AAA Foundation research, AAA is working to improve understanding of the topic and work collaboratively with safety stakeholders to reduce the impact of substance-impaired driving-related crashes.

Lakeview/Crookston

Jean Burge
402-376-2134

Jon and Marissa Logterman of Bloomfield, IA announce the birth of their son, Matthew Dwight, born on April 12. He weighed 7 lbs 14 ozs, was 20 1/4" and joins a sister, Emma. Proud grandparents are Dwight and Marvonne Logterman. Congratulations to the family! Dwight and Marvonne delivered bulls and visited Jon and Marissa on April 10 and 11.

Sharon Stiefel traveled to Iowa to visit her daughter, Tammy and Lance Hauser and family and helped granddaughter Khloe celebrate her 1st birthday.

The community extends sympathy to Jeannie and Don Schelhaas following the death of Jeannie's father, Robert Perrett, Sr. on April 4.

Dean and Sheryl Noteboom spent several days at the Jason and Mindy Veurink home, helping out with grandkids following Mindy's surgery.

Vern and Marlys Walking traveled to Mayo Clinic in Minnesota for Vern's medical appointment, and I'm happy to report he had a great report!

Patty Tinant had the misfortune to break her ankle in a fall last week

and is recovering at home. Ruth Tinant brought pizza out to the Tinant Ranch for lunch on Sunday, and joined by Sara. We wish you a speedy recovery Patty! Sara was a supper guest of Gloria Richey Sunday evening, joined by Agnes Anderson.

Chris Andre of Harrisburg, SD was recently named the SD Region 2A Wrestling Coach of the Year. Quite an accomplishment! Chris is the son of Gwendia Jackson of Lakeview.

Duane and Janet Cady drove to North Platte April 13 where they met her sister, Deb and Dave Monroe for lunch and celebrated Janet's birthday.

Some rain, snowflakes and cooler weather have been what we've experienced the last week. Trouble is we had 89 degrees ten days ago, and it seems like too much of a drastic change. As I write this early Monday morning, we had a couple inches of snow overnight. Good moisture, kind of pretty, and a lot easier to deal with in April than November. I know it won't be around long! Have a good week!

Tips® Campaign Returns with New Quit Smoking Ads

Nebraska Tobacco Quitline offers free medication to support quitting efforts

Lincoln - In March, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention launched the 10th year of its Tips from Former Smokers campaign and released new ads encouraging people who smoke to quit. The national media campaign features real-life people sharing their stories of smoking-related illnesses. It is through these hard-hitting and inspiring ads that the Tips campaign has helped more than 1 million U.S. adults quit smoking.

As a way to celebrate the success of this federally-funded tobacco education campaign, Tobacco Free Nebraska and the Nebraska Tobacco Quitline are offering qualified Nebraskans who call 1-800-QUIT-NOW a free, four-week supply of quit smoking medication (gum, patch or lozenges) mailed directly to their home.

"CDC's Tips campaign brings to life the harmful effects of smoking and encourages people to call 1-800-QUIT-NOW to help them quit," said Dr. Gary Anthonie, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) chief medical officer. "DHHS, Tobacco Free Nebraska and the Nebraska Tobacco Quitline are committed to helping Nebraskans live healthier lives. If you smoke, quitting is one of the best things you can do for your health and we're excited to be able to offer Nebraskans some additional support with this."

The Nebraska Tobacco Quitline has trained Quit Coaches ready to help 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This support, combined with the additional access to free quit smoking medications makes right now a great time to try quitting smoking.

Today there are more former smokers than there are current smokers—now can be your time. Quitting smoking is beneficial at any age, improves health status, and enhances quality of life. For free help getting started or staying smoke-free, call 1-800-QUIT

NOW (1-800-784-8669) or QuitNow.ne.gov. Quitline services are available in over 200 languages and Spanish-speaking residents can call 1-855-DEJELLO-YA (335-3569). Visit [CDC.gov/Tips](#) to learn more about the personal stories from the Tips campaign.

Meeting Notes

Xi Beta Omega

The March 16, 2021 meeting was called to order by reciting the opening ritual.

Roll Call was taken. Nine members present, and two excused. Minutes from the January meeting were read. Motion to approve was made by Karianne and seconded by Dora. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Report for February and March was read. Motion to approve was made by Deanne and seconded by Sue. Motion approved.

Correspondance: Nadeane read a membership renewal letter from the Sandhills Area Foundation. Motion to renew membership for \$100.00 was made by Dora and seconded by Dorothy. Motion approved.

Committee Reports: Founder's Day supper was discussed by the Special Events Committee. Steve will do the meal and Sue will make dessert. Founders Day is April 20. Social and appetizers are at 6:00 p.m. and supper at 6:30 p.m.

Old Business: There was no meeting in February due to a blizzard. We had several responses from individuals about the appreciation cards and some interest in joining sorority.

New Business: Old West Days Committee asked if we were interested in doing the concession stand this year on October 8 and 9. Sue conferred with Janine and told the committee we would do concessions. Dorothy, Janine and Karianne are on the committee to inventory supplies and make sure we have enough. Election of officers was held. Nominations of Karianne Fisbeck for President, Linda Hahn for Vice President, Deanne Monroe for Secretary and Nadeane Allard for Treasurer were made. Motion made by Solveig and seconded by all. Motion approved.

Program: Dorothy invited Rhonda Cherry to give a presentation on the 4-H Quilts of Valor project.

Sharing: Janine had sharing. Lesson: Sue had the lesson on Friendly Venture. Closing ritual was recited.

NET's 'Nebraska Stories' Ends Season with Pandemic Perspectives

LINCOLN, Neb. (April 16, 2021) - "Nebraska Stories" caps off its television season with a special half-hour episode exploring different perspectives related to the pandemic. "Nebraska Stories: When the World Changed" premieres at 8:30 p.m. CT, Thursday, April 29, on NET, Nebraska's PBS & NPR Stations.

The "When the World Changed" episode features a story about the parallels between the 1918 flu and the coronavirus pandemic and two essays that examine how the pandemic transformed our lives. Also, follow two Wahoo natives who fought virus boredom by visiting all of Nebraska's towns: 531 of them, to be exact.

Enjoyed by viewers across the state for its stories about history, hidden places and interesting people, "Nebraska Stories" explores the art, nature, food, science, history and the people who make Nebraska special.

"Nebraska Stories" is funded

in part by the Nebraska Tourism Commission, Nebraska 811 and the Margaret and Martha Thomas Foundation. This special episode with stories related to the pandemic is funded in part by Humanities Nebraska and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

The series is on Facebook, the NET Nebraska App and [netNebraska.org/nebraskastories](#).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
FLORENCE BREUKLANDER
Help us celebrate this sweet lady!
90th Birthday
April 30
Cards and letters may be sent to:
90370 Sparks River Road, Sparks, NE 69220
Happy Birthday Mom, Grandma, Great Grandma! We love you!

Mother's Day Brunch

Muffins, Bacon, Sausage
Scrambled Eggs, Potato O'Brien
French Toast & Fresh Fruit
Mandarin Spinach Salad
Oven Roasted Brussel Sprouts
Creamy Garlic Mashed Potatoes
Champagne Shrimp & Prime Rib
Chocolate Covered Strawberries, Crème
Brulee & Old Fashioned Lemon Bars

\$35 Adult | \$18 Child | 4 & Under Free
Reservations Required
Call 402-376-1361 Opt. 1

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HEALTHCARE WITH HEART...

CHERRY COUNTY CLINIC

Physicians Schedule

For the week of April 19-23

Monday	Family Practice	Dr. Kelli Garwood Cassie Schill, PA	In all day In all day
Tuesday	Family Practice	Cassie Schill, PA	In all day
Wednesday	Family Practice	Dr. Kelli Garwood Cassie Schill, PA	In all day In all day
Thursday	Family Practice	Dr. Kelli Garwood	In all day
Friday	Family Practice	Dr. Kelli Garwood Cassie Schill, PA	In all day In all day

For the week of April 26-30

Monday	Family Practice	Cassie Schill, PA-C	In all day
Tuesday	Family Practice	Cassie Schill, PA-C	In all day
Wednesday	Family Practice	Dr. Kelli Garwood Cassie Schill, PA-C	In all day In all day
Thursday	Family Practice	Dr. Kelli Garwood	In all day
Friday	Family Practice	Dr. Kelli Garwood Cassie Schill, PA-C	In all day In all day

To schedule an appointment please call 376-3770. 512 N. Green St. • Valentine, NE

Valentine Senior Center News

ACTIVITIES

Senior Center hours Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Friday 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Effective Immediately: The Valentine Senior Center will open on a trial basis for social activities including coffee groups, card players and the use of the exercise equipment. Masks are optional, but the use of hand sanitizer will be required upon entry of the building. Other rules relating to each activity will be posted at the front desk. We ask that if you are not feeling well, you do not come to the senior center for any reason.

Paper Tiger Shredder Truck will be at the Senior Center May 11, more details to follow.

Memorial Day Flower sale begins May 5, more details to follow. Meals will continue as home delivery or curbside pickup at this time.

NON-CASH DONATIONS: Tom Mehrens
MEMORIAL: In memory of Georgia Belville from Snooks Melcher.

HOME DELIVERY OR CURBSIDE PICKUP of meals is available through the Senior Center. The

suggested contribution for persons age 60 and over is \$4.50. The price for persons under age 60 is \$7.75. Please call the center with your meal reservation by 9:00 a.m. the day of the meal or up to one week in advance, 402-376-1400.

***Donation boxes for Borders Without Boundaries Animal Shelter and the St. John's Food Pantry. Feel free to bring donations for either entity to the Senior Center.

***For loan at no charge, the Senior Center has a good selection of durable medical equipment. We have commodes, shower chairs, tub transfer chairs, wheelchairs, walkers, rollator walkers, crutches, canes, and more. Check with us first if you need medical equipment. There is no charge for this service.

***If you have extra medical equipment to donate, please let the Senior Center know.

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE WEEK: Bernard and Lovella Miles, Lonnie and Peg Snell, Cherry Hafer, Northstar Services, Perry and Lindy Ayers, Dan and Jerilyn Colburn, Marie Arendt, Dave Prasch.

Call 24 hours a day, seven days a week
1-800-ACS-2345
[www.cancer.org](#)

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- Distance Certified Counselor

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442 N. Cherry St. • Valentine, NE
402-376-1000

spring fling
Saturday, April 24
10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Cherry County Fairgrounds
Food - Crafts - Vendors
4-H Luck of the Draw
Sponsored by Valentine's Heart of Christmas Celebration

Time to shed those pounds?

Your weight loss goal is within reach.

I started this year thinking this weight has to come off. I was 16 pounds over the weight I'd maintained for years. I have tried EVERY diet!! I knew I needed a life style of eating that would adapt to our lives. Nothing too complicated. (Being in the kitchen isn't my top priority). I started Chirothin weight loss and Sculpting sessions on March 1, 2021 and to date I've lost 17 pounds and over 10 inches from my stomach. I am writing this on day 42 of the eating plan. I was able to find all the foods listed on the food chart in our local grocery stores. Bodell is professional as she operates the Sculpting sessions. Dr. Stephanie is a wealth of information. Anytime I have a question, she is available. I would recommend this program to anyone wanting to make a commitment and see weight loss on a healthy program monitored by a doctor.
-CM

Body sculpt sample package for \$37.00
Includes 20 minutes of cavitation which kills the fat cell and 15 minutes of laser lipolysis which tones and tightens the skin.
Regular treatment is \$225.00 for one hour.

Laser lipolysis facial tones and tightens the skin of the face and décolletage.
Sample treatment for \$25
Regular treatments-\$196

New zyto scanner tests you in all body systems. Cardiovascular, respiratory, musculoskeletal, digestive, reproductive and can detect issues in those areas. It can also check deficiencies in diet and supplementation.
Call to set up an appointment for your scan.

New Directions Chiropractic

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CHIROTHIN
WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM

Dr. Stephanie DeNaeyer
541 W. Hwy. 20 Valentine, NE 402-376-2227

Area Church Services

First Baptist Church
2nd and Green St. • 376-1659
Pastor Johnathon Moore
"Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice"
Summer Worship Schedule
SUNDAY MORNING
Sunday School Classes (all ages)
9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

WEDNESDAY
Next Generation 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Crossroads Assembly
404 E. Hwy 20 • 376-2905
Pastor Paul Maunu
SUNDAY

Bible Classes (all ages) 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Nursery 10:30 a.m.
Children's Church 10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY
Youth Services 6:30 p.m.
(6th thru 12th grade)
THURSDAY
Prayer Service 7:00 p.m.

Berean Bible Church
702 East 7th St. • 376-3714
Pastor Scott McClellan
Worship Schedule
SUNDAY

Early Church Service 9:15 a.m.
Late Church Service 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School will be offered at both services for the kids.
WEDNESDAY EVENING
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY MORNING
Men's Bible Study 6:30 a.m.
Zion Ev. Lutheran Church
Wisconsin Synod
3rd and Haley • 376-1643
Pastor Thadeus Flitter

Sunday Services 10:00 a.m.
Lutheran Radio Service
KWYR AM1260 8:15 a.m.
KVSH 940 AM 8:30 a.m.
The Twister FM 99.5, 12:30 p.m.

Zion Ev. Lutheran Grade School
224 N. Govt. St. 376-2745
Sarah Dewey, PreK Teacher
Suzanne Schultz, K-3 Teacher
Ethan Doble, 4-8 Teacher/Principal

St. Mary's Catholic Church-Nenzel
Sunday 10:30 a.m. MDT

Our Savior Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
130 East 3rd St. • 376-2932
SUNDAY
Worship/Communion 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School/Adult Bible Study 10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY
After School Bible School 3:45 p.m.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
339 West 4th St. • 376-2671
Jeremy Johnson-Branch President
660-988-7189
SUNDAY SERVICES

Sacrament 10:00 a.m.
2nd hour block 11:10 a.m.
Seventh Day Adventist
8th and Haley • 376-2364
Pastor Fred Grant
402-389-1465
SATURDAY

Sabbath School 9:45 - 10:45 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Victory Bible Church Merriman
Pastor Dave Morrison
Sunday Service 6:00 p.m.
Thursday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church Missouri Synod
100 E. 2nd Ave. • Merriman, NE
Pastor Travis Sherman
Sunday Services 4:00 p.m. MST

St. Nicholas Catholic Church
400 West 5th • 376-1672
Fr. Abraham Kaduthodiyil
Saturday 6:00 p.m.
Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Lakeview Christian Reformed Church
North from Crookston; right at Lakeview School; then right after the cemetery.
Pastor Mark Langenbach
Sunday Services 10:00 a.m.

Sandhills Church of Hope
314 W. Nebraska St., Cody
402-823-4136
Pastor Kurt Busenitz
Sunday Worship Services
9:45 a.m. MT (Cutcomb)
11:00 a.m. MT (Cody)

Kids Club After School Program
Wednesday(Cody)
Seasonal Bible Studies also available

Grace Lutheran Church (Affiliated with the Church of the Lutheran Confession)
810 West 3rd
Paul D. Nolting, Pastor
Pastor's Residence 376-3248
Summer Schedule
Easter to Labor Day
Church Services 9:30 a.m.
Live stream at valentinelutheran.com

Winter Schedule
Labor Day to Memorial Day
Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Church Services 10:30 a.m.
Radio Program - KVSH
Sunday 8:05 a.m.

Grace Ev. Lutheran School & Preschool

Wood Lake Union Church
Rev. Don Letellier • 967-3390
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Worship Service 11:00 a.m.
WEDNESDAY
Prayer Service 8:00 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal "The Church on Main Street"
372 N. Main St.
376-1723
Pastor Steve Meysing
Worship Schedule
April 18-Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m.

Pantry Hours
Thursdays 10:00 a.m. - Noon
Except Holidays

Eli Wesleyan Church
Paul McNare • 308-689-3500
Sunday Services 10:30 a.m.

Hunts Chapel United Methodist Church
Pastor Judith Miller-Qualley
Cody at 10:30 a.m. MT

Valentine Presbyterian Church
325 N. Victoria St. Office: 376-1305
AA - Monday, Thursday, Saturday
7:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m.
10:30 a.m.
Middle & High School

Al-Anon - Mondays
Sundays: Worship
LOGOS

United Methodist Church
804 E. 5th St., Valentine
402-376-3473
Sunday Worship Opportunities
In person at 9:30 a.m. CT
Livestream on
www.valentineumc.com and
www.facebook.com/valentineumc
at 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School Opportunities
Children: 10:00-10:45 a.m.
Office Hours
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Closed-Friday, and weekends

Ada Genevieve (Jennie) Hamar Rhoades. He was the oldest of four children. Rodger enlisted in the U.S. Air Force after receiving his High School diploma and remained for six years.

Afterward he lived and worked in several locations as an industrial electrician. While employed at California State University, Long Beach for 10+ years he completed his degree in Industrial Technol-

ogy at age 60, teaching some at a tech school there. Upon retiring he moved to Arizona where he lived until his passing.

Rodger is preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Melvin, and sister, Janet.

He is survived by his sweet heart of 27 years Mikell Rhoades, five children, daughter Lora Rhoades Pope and family, son Rodger Michael and family, daughter Kristy Yancey and family, daughter Lisa Sanders and family, son David Hofer and family, sister Clara Rhoades Paxton and family, 16 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Along with a huge family of nephews, nieces, cousins and friends. He was loved much and will be greatly missed.

A celebration of life will be held later.

Betty L. Bennett, 90

Betty L. Bennett passed away on April 13, 2021 at the age of 90 years. Betty L. Micheel was born to Carl A. and Ruth (Keller) Micheel on September 30, 1930 in Nebraska. She was the youngest of eight children. Her mother (Ruth) died when Betty was two years old, and she was raised by her loving father. She attended grade school in the Brownlee and Wood Lake area before the family moved to the ranch south of Martin on LaCreek, in 1941. She attended grade school and high school in Bennett County, graduating from high school in 1948. She spent most of her young life riding horses, (since age two as told by her father). She loved telling stories about checking cattle, windmills and salt for her dad. She took pride in being a cowgirl and helping her father.

In 1949 she married Riner (Sonny) Johnson and to this union four children were born, Carl, Clifford Dean (died in infancy) Edwin, and Margaret.

Betty held several jobs in the Martin Community including Deputy Treasurer. After Sonny's death, she later moved to Dallas, SD where she married Jack Bennett. While she lived in Dallas, she held the job of Town Clerk. One of the highlights of Betty's life was being involved with the Dallas Fire Department. Betty took great pride in being an active member and assisting with the growth of the department.

After the death of her husband

Jack, she returned to the Micheel Ranch to help her brother, Melvin. After Melvin's passing, she moved to the Carl and Patricia Johnson Ranch where she bossed Carl and kept him in line.

She passed away peacefully on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at the Bennett County Hospital.

She is survived by her son Carl (wife Patricia, grandson David, granddaughter Kimberly (husband Robert and great granddaughter Carlee), son Edwin (granddaughter Danelle (great grandchildren Jacob, Selena, Scottie, Kateri, two great, great grandchildren Rose and Oliver), granddaughter Melita (husband Walter York great grandchildren Cameron and Hannah), daughter Margaret (grandson Brian (wife Sara great grandsons Mark, Austin and great granddaughter Allison), granddaughter Amanda (husband Mark great grandson Logan and great granddaughter Leighton), granddaughter Angela (husband Lonnie great granddaughter Adeline, great grandson Aspen), grandson Aaron (great granddaughter Genevieve, and great grandson Jack), grandson Nathan (wife Sunny great grandson Zack, and great granddaughter Sophie).

Condolences and inquires can be sent to P.O. Box 225 Martin, SD 57551.

At Betty's request, cremation has taken place and family services will be held at a date to be determined.

Viola B. (Bessie) Mogle, 100

Viola Bessie (Bess) Mogle, age 100, passed away on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at Cherry Hills Estates in Valentine.

Bess, former resident of Gordon was born on December 6, 1920 at Brownlee to John (Jack) W. and Daisy C. Gallagher. She was one of ten children. On April 30, 1938, she married William A. Mogle of Cody. They raised two daughters, Lorena and Shirley.

She is survived by her daughters, Lorena (Richard) Cobb of Merriman, Shirley Kime of Valentine, and sister, Nellie Gentry of North

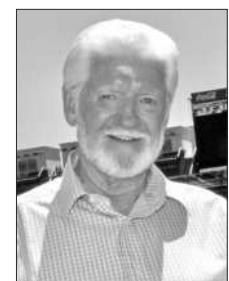
Platte. She is also survived by Grandchildren, Dallas Kime, Shane Kime and Tria (Cobb) Boomer, as well as four great grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren, special niece, Sandy (Gentry) Sayer of North Platte and special nephew, Don Kelly of Denver CO. She also leaves behind many friends that loved her and will miss her.

Bessie was preceded in death by her parents, eight siblings, and son in law, Kenneth (Buzz) Kime.

Burial will be held at a later date in the Gordon Cemetery.

Obituaries

Rodger W. Rhoades, 80



Rodger W. Rhoades, long time resident of Show Low, AZ, passed away March 17, 2021. He was born August 9, 1940 in Valentine to Ralph W. Rhoades and Ada Genevieve (Jennie) Hamar Rhoades. He was the oldest of four children. Rodger enlisted in the U.S. Air Force after receiving his High School diploma and remained for six years.

Afterward he lived and worked in several locations as an industrial electrician. While employed at California State University, Long Beach for 10+ years he completed his degree in Industrial Technol-

ogy at age 60, teaching some at a tech school there. Upon retiring he moved to Arizona where he lived until his passing.

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He is survived by his sweet heart of 27 years Mikell Rhoades, five children, daughter Lora Rhoades Pope and family, son Rodger Michael and family, daughter Kristy Yancey and family, daughter Lisa Sanders and family, son David Hofer and family, sister Clara Rhoades Paxton and family, 16 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Along with a huge family of nephews, nieces, cousins and friends. He was loved much and will be greatly missed.

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Condolences and inquires can be sent to P.O. Box 225 Martin, SD 57551.

At Betty's request, cremation has taken place and family services will be held at a date to be determined.

'Speaking of Nebraska' special focuses on vaccine hesitancy

LINCOLN, (April 14, 2021) – As COVID-19 vaccinations continue across the state, data suggest there is hesitancy to receive the vaccine among Nebraskans, including some who are part of the state's minority populations.

Nebraska medical experts will explore concerns and answer questions from viewers across the state in the special "Speaking of Nebraska: Vaccine Hesitancy," filmed on location at Lincoln High School in Lincoln at 7:00 p.m. CT, Wednesday, April 28.

The in-person taping event is open to the public, but seating is limited to ensure social distancing. Questions can be sent ahead of time to news@netnebraska.org or via the NET News Twitter and Facebook accounts.

Watch "Speaking of Nebraska: Vaccine Hesitancy" at 8:00 p.m. CT, Thursday, May 6 on NET, Nebraska's PBS & NPR Stations or listen on radio at 7:00 p.m., Friday, May 7. Panelists include: Dr. Bob Raun-

er, family physician/president of the Partnership for a Healthy Lincoln; Dr. Afua Ntem-Mensah, infectious disease physician at Faith Regional Health Services in Norfolk; Dr. Keyonna King, assistant professor in the Center for Reducing Health Disparities at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha and Dr. Josué Gutiérrez, family physician at Saline Medical Specialties in Crete.

The program will take an in-depth look at the topic from a Nebraska standpoint, discuss reasons behind for vaccine hesitancy and present science-based information regarding vaccinations.

The broadcast will include English and Spanish closed captioning. This program is funded in part by Partnership for a Healthy Nebraska and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Watch past episodes of "Speaking of Nebraska" at netNebraska.org/speakingofnebraska.

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402-376-3611 office

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402-376-3557

Living Every Day

"Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes."
James 4:14 NIV

What would you do if you knew that you only had a year to live? What if it was only a month to live, or a week, or even just a few hours? Thinking about the prospect of death, especially if it is done with some seriousness, has the power to focus the mind on the things which one really values. Most of us, I suppose, would call loved ones if we only had a few hours or a day left to live. And while people often say that they would travel the world or otherwise try to squeeze as much pleasure out of life if they had only a year to live, most of us would still be thinking about spending that time with our families and close friends. And while this thought experiment may seem abstract and perhaps even far-fetched, it is really the situation all of us find ourselves in every single day. We all know that today could be our last day, and when we take that seriously it tends to keep us focused on the more important aspects of life.
-Christopher Simon

These weekly church messages are provided to you by the following concerned and responsible citizens and businesses.

You could be here for just **\$4.25**

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www.cherryhillsassistedliving.org
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402-376-2840
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402-376-1165

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Photo by Danielle Arganbright

Salters receives MVP at Sandhills Invite

Congratulations to Badger track athlete, Isabelle Salters. She received female track athlete MVP at the 2021 Sandhills Track Invitational. She earned first place finishes in long jump, 100 meter and 200 meter runs, as well as a second place finish in the 4x100 relay.

Results of the O'Neill Invitational

VHS Coach Blake Beebout said, "I'm proud of how our track team competed through a tough stretch in our season. Three track meets in six days time is never an easy task, especially when you add the cold and wind. We are looking forward to hopefully getting some nice weather to get some quality practice time in. Congratulations again to our Boys Team for winning the Sandhills Invite and to Isabelle Salters for being the Female MVP of the Sandhills Invite."

The Valentine Badgers attended the O'Neill Invitational, Thursday, April 15, 2021.

The girls placed fifth out of nine teams with 62.33 points. O'Neill won the invite.

Individual results through 15th place are as follows:

100 Meter Dash - first place, Izzy Salters, 13.47; seventh place, Kailee Kellum, 14.10.

200 Meter Dash - first place, Izzy Salters, 27.43.

400 Meter Dash - fifth place, Alivia Patterson, 1:06.78.

800 Meter Run - 15th place, Lindsey Boes, 3:21.97.

3200 Meter Run - 11th place, Grace Maunu, 15:53.31.

100 Meter Hurdles - third place, Becca McGinley, 17.65; seventh place, Renee Fisbeck, 19.27.

300 Meter Hurdles - 12th place, Becca McGinley, 57.73; 14th place, Renee Fisbeck, 58.67; 15th place, Caitlynn Mack, 1:00.59.

4x100 Meter Relay - fourth place, Valentine and the team of Izzy Salters, Alivia Patterson, Becca McGinley, and Kailee Kellum, 54.66; 10th place, Valentine JV and the team of Jenna Purdum, Kaylee Wenig, Caitlynn Mack, and Finley Mosner, 1:03.86.

4x400 Meter Relay - fifth place, Valentine and the team of Renee Fisbeck, Alivia Patterson, Delaney Robison, and Malika Monore, 4:46.37.

High Jump - first place, Kailee Kellum, 5' 5"; eighth place, Alivia Patterson, 4' 4".

Pole Vault - third place, Emma Richards, 7' 8"; sixth place, Delaney Robison, 7' 8"; 12th place, Kaylee Wenig, 6' 2".

Long Jump - third place, Izzy Salters, 14' 11.50"; fourth place, Kailee Kellum, 14' 8.75"; 12th place, Becca McGinley, 13' 5.75".

Shot Put - 10th place, Emma Richards, 28' 6.75"; 11th place, Ashlee Bacon, 28' 5".

Discus Throw - seventh place, Emma Richards, 91' .05"; 12th place, Kinsey Buechle, 83' .01"; 15th place, Ashlee Bacon, 74".

The boys placed sixth out of ten teams with 31 points. Norfolk Catholic won the invite.

Individual results through 15th place are as follows:

400 Meter Dash - fourth place, Nicholas Sherbeyn, 54; seventh place, Lex Larsen, 56.84; 14th place, Dane Pilakowski, 1:00.04.

800 Meter Run - 13th place, Dylan Haase, 2:25.80.

1600 Meter Run - fifth place, Jack Lancaster, 5:07.38.

3200 Meter Run - 11th place, Grant Springer, 11:54.65.

300 Meter Hurdles - eighth place, Nathan Perrett, 46.87; 13th place, Calvin Stoeger, 51.18.

4x100 Meter Relay - sixth place, Valentine and the team of Nicholas Sherbeyn, Logan Harp, Nathan Perrett, and Kenneth Shelbourn, 48.56; 11th place, Valentine JV and the team of Nick Ohlmann, Daniel Witt, James Woodraska, and Mason Harp, 54.57.

4x400 Meter Relay - sixth place, Valentine and the team of Ashton Lurz, Lex Larsen, Dane Pilakowski, and Nicholas Sherbeyn, 3:56.80.

4x800 Meter Relay - fourth place, Valentine and the team of Grant Springer, Dylan Haase, Riece Rivera, and Jack Lancaster, 9:30.83.

High Jump - fifth place, Kenneth Shelbourn, 5' 4"; ninth place, Lex Larsen, 5' 4".

Pole Vault - 10th place, Dylan Haase, 9' 2".

Long Jump - second place, Kenneth Shelbourn, 19' 4.75"; eighth place, Dane Pilakowski, 18".

Triple Jump - first place, Kenneth Shelbourn, 41' 6"; seventh place, Ashton Lurz, 37' 7".

Shot Put - 10th place, Jonah Perrett, 36' 4.5"; 13th place, Fletcher Larsen, 35' 8.25".

Discus Throw - seventh place, Fletcher Larsen, 118' 6".

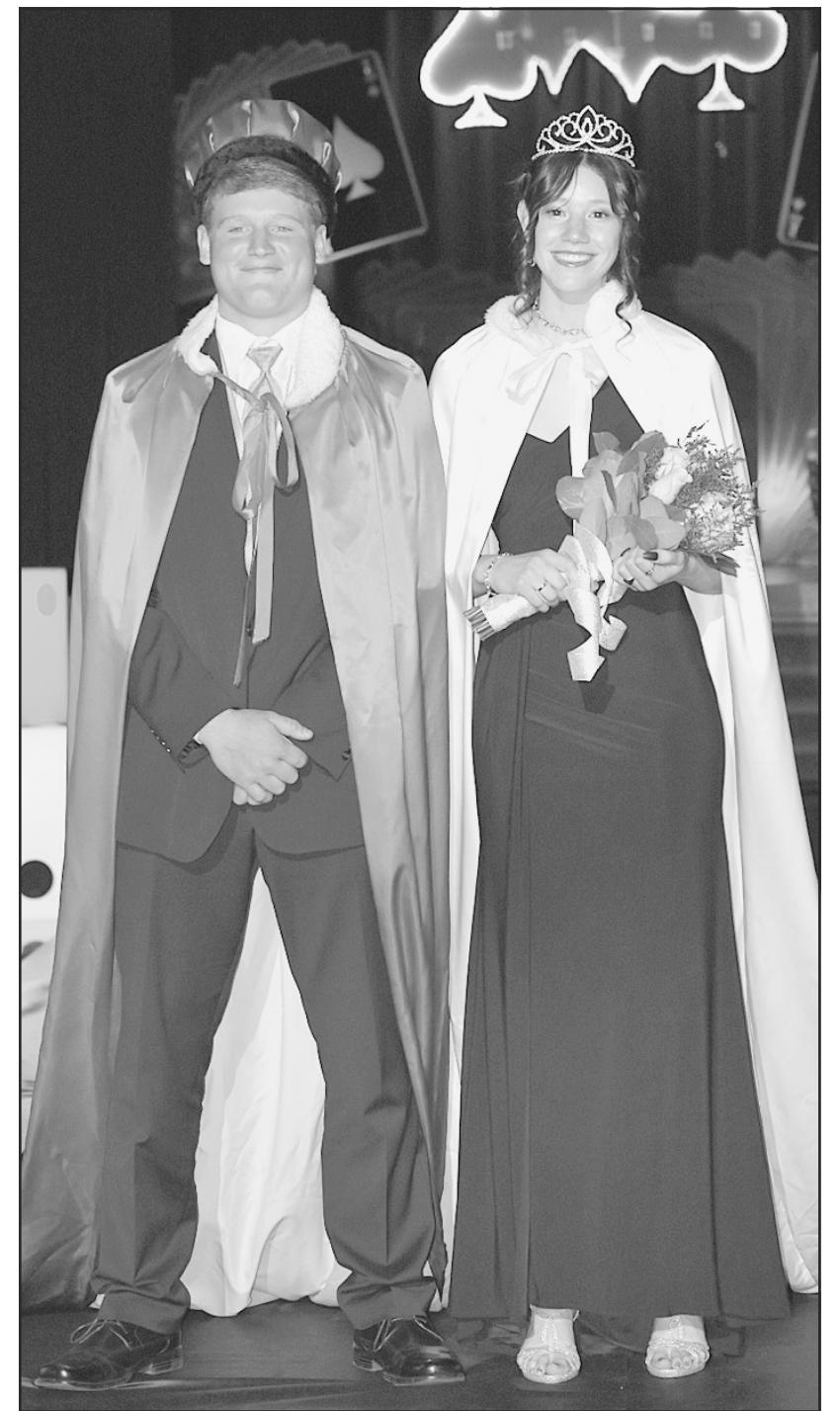


Photo by DeanNa Fowler

VHS Lost Prom king and queen crowned

Saturday, April 17, 2021, was the VHS Prom, with the theme *Lost Prom*. After the promenade was complete, King Blaine Sage and Queen Delaney Robison were crowned!

Public urged to leave wildlife babies alone

LINCOLN — Seeing young wild animals, such as deer, possums, ducks, rabbits and song birds, alone is common this time of year. Though the inclination may be to intervene, the best choice is to leave the animal alone.

Here are some rules of thumb from the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission regarding wildlife babies:

BIRDS: Young non-feathered birds and nests with eggs discovered on the ground should be placed back in the tree. Baby birds covered in feathers found on the ground are being tended to by their parents; leave them alone.

DEER: A lone fawn may appear to be abandoned or injured, but the mother frequently is off feeding or drinking. Do not move it. The longer the fawn is separated from its mother, the slimmer the chance it will be reunited with her. Know

it is normal for a doe to leave its fawn to keep it from being detected by predators. Predators can see the doe as it feeds, so she leaves the fawn hidden and leaves the area to draw attention away from the fawn's location.

RABBITS: Baby rabbits are left unattended through much of the day and night. Mother cottontails do this to prevent drawing predators to the nest. If you see the rabbits, leave them alone.

Do not try to raise wildlife babies as pets. As animals mature, they become more independent and follow natural instincts to leave and establish their own territories. Rescued animals are poorly prepared for life in the wild.

Keep in mind: Most wildlife babies are protected by state or federal law, and it is illegal to possess them.

Todd County High School Graduation is a Go!

MISSION — Todd County's Class of 2021 will be graduating on Saturday, May 15, at 11:00 a.m. at the Falcon Football Field on the Mission Campus. The Ceremonies will be live streamed.

Each graduate can invite four guests. Masks and Social Distancing will be required.

Graduation practice with caps

and gowns will be held on Thursday, May 13, at 1:00 p.m. Students only, due to CDC/Rosebud Sioux Tribe guidelines, are asked to meet in the high school gym. Again, masks and social distancing will be required.

For further information call TCH at 605-856-3503.



BADGER OF THE WEEK
Isabelle Salters, Senior, Track



SCHOLAR OF THE WEEK
Delaney Robison, Senior

Izzy has had a phenomenal track season so far. She has won countless events this season including meet champion in the 100, 200 and long jump at Bassett last week. She also was on the 4x100 meter relay which placed second. Izzy also won the female outstanding performer for the meet. But more than anything, Izzy is a great teammate who is always willing to encourage and congratulate her teammates.

- Blake Beebout, Head track and field coach

Delaney has always been reliable and responsible. She won Prom Queen on Saturday night. Having prom and post-prom didn't stop her from being on the radio Sunday morning at 6:00 am. Not to mention that she scored a 31 on the ACT and has maintained a 98.5 percent cumulative GPA for her high school career.

- Lila O'Keefe, High School Admin Assistant

New monthly series by Game and Parks to explore science of nature

LINCOLN — A new monthly series by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission will explore the science and secrets of Nebraska nature.

Nebraska Nature Nerd Night, a free webinar series for adults, began at 7:00 p.m. CST April 20 and will continue on the third Tuesday of every month through November.

The series with science educators and guests will cover everything from bees to birds and fossils to parasites.

"We'll dive deeper into the remarkable world of nature found in Nebraska by having lively conversations with real scientists, and by sharing and asking your questions with the experts," said Monica Macoubrie, outdoor education specialist with the Game and Parks Fish and Wildlife Education Division.

Pre-registration is required and can be completed by visiting the event entries at calendar.outdoor-nebraska.gov or Facebook.com/NGPCWildlifeEducation.

The series will include:
April 20 — What's the Buzz with Nebraska's Wild Bees?
May 18 — Ladies Run the (Bird) World

June 15 — Partying with Parasites: Diving into UNL's Parasitology Lab

July 20 — Life in the Past Lane: Discovering Nebraska's Prehistoric Creatures

August 17 — Musky Mustelids: Fierce Fragrant Creatures

September 21 — Stories from the Field: Wildlife Trafficking in the Great Plains

October 19 — Venomous Snakes: Breaking Down the Science of Toxic Adaptations

November 16 — Stories from the Field: Research Flops and Failures

Unable to attend a live event? Each webinar will be recorded and posted to the Nebraska Game and Parks Education YouTube Channel.

For more information, contact monica.macoubrie@nebraska.gov.

Check out the news @ www.valentineneeds.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

Cherry County Board of Commissioners meeting minutes

The Cherry County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on April 13, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. in the Cherry County Commissioners Meeting Room, as per notice in the Valentine Midland News every week and with the agenda being on file in the office of the County Clerk. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Storer. Roll call was taken. Present for the meeting were Cherry County Commissioners Tanya Storer, Martin DeNaeyer, James Ward, and Cherry County Deputy Clerk Elise Hamling. The Open Meetings Act Poster was acknowledged by Chairman Storer and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Board of Commissioners regular meeting minutes from March 30, 2021 were read. Storer moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve the minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Ward, Storer. The motion carried.

The Board of Equalization meeting minutes from March 30, 2021 were read. DeNaeyer moved and Ward seconded to approve the minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – Ward, Storer, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

The Board of Corrections meeting minutes from March 30, 2021 were read. Ward moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve the minutes as read. Roll call vote: Aye – Storer, DeNaeyer, Ward. The motion carried.

Anne Quigley, Valentine Public Library Executive Director presented the Board with a 100 Year Anniversary Proclamation in celebration of the Valentine Public Library's 100th Birthday. Mrs. Quigley offered background and history of the library, the evolution of the Bookmobile program and shared many of the services that the Valentine Public Library offers to the residents of Cherry County now and over the last hundred years. Commissioner Storer read the proclamation aloud. Storer moved and Ward seconded to approve the Proclamation in recognition of the Valentine Public Library's 100th Anniversary and to declare 2021 the Year of the Library and to express the Board's appreciation for the Library and all the volunteers who have made this possible. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Ward, Storer. The motion carried.

The Board engaged in discussion via phone with Eric Kamler, Representative of Congressman Adrian Smith, and received an update regarding the recent work of Congressman Smith. Mr. Kamler indicated various Executive Orders that their office is monitoring such as the '30x30 land protection order', 'tax code overhaul' and the 'American Rescue Plan', for which they are awaiting more concrete articulations of those orders. Mr. Kamler acknowledged the vagueness of available information regarding the receipt/use and purpose of funds potentially being distributed to county entities across the United States in accordance with the Covid American Rescue Plan. Mr. Kamler also indicated that many of President Trump's trade policies which positively affect agricultural commodity trading are being continued with the Biden Administration. Commissioner Storer requested that attention be paid to H.R. 803 – Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act and the potential for the 'expanded heritage areas protection' as it relates closely to grassland preservation as that would clearly have relevance to the Nebraska Sandhills.

Members of the previously appointed exploratory committee responsible for drafting a resolution for protecting property rights and opposing the '30 by 30 Executive Order' met with the Board to discuss the adoption of a resolution opposing Executive Order #14008 on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad discussed at the March 30, 2021 meeting. Commissioner Ward had prepared a draft of such a resolution to which the Board as well as the Exploratory Committee members present considered and revised. The discussion included the importance of the existence and tedious navigation of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the acknowledgement of the existing Cherry County Natural Resource and Management Plan for Federal and State Managed Lands and the protections that it offers, clarification that this resolution is intended to be a statement and is not law, the potential for the adopted resolution to be amended/adapted as needed and the hope that this resolution may be used as a model for other taxing entities in order to show cumulative opposition to the executive order. The Board was awaiting detail clarifications from the County Assessor as well as the Niobrara River Council Executive Director prior to acting.

The Board recessed for lunch from 12:03 p.m. to 1:06 p.m.

The Board received comments from the public during the allotted time. Upon receipt of information re-

ceived from the Nebraska/National Association of Counties and insight from the Nebraska State Auditor's Office regarding how to Counties are expected to prepare for the receipt of funds allocated by the Covid American Rescue Plan the Board discussed the need to create a fund in order to accept these funds. Storer moved and Ward seconded to create a new fund, 2580 for the Covid American Rescue Plan Fund. Roll call vote: Aye – Ward, Storer, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

Michelle Garwood, 4-H Educator and Unit Leader for the Cherry County Extension Office met with the Board to discuss salary/wage budgeting regarding the current and upcoming fiscal year. The proposed changes did not increase the overall budget. No board action was required.

The Board reviewed an invoice for the remaining balance owed to Region 24 Emergency Management and confirmed that the amount to be paid is correct. No board action was required.

Commissioner Storer provided a review of her findings regarding CUP Application #003/20 submitted by Bow and Arrow Ranch, LLC., and offered a written draft version of a proposed motion to the other Commissioners, and the Deputy Clerk, and stated that it would be open for discussion among the Board.

Under Nebraska State Statutory authority granted by §76-2.112, "Approval of a proposed acquisition may be denied upon a finding by the appropriate governing body that the acquisition is not in the public interest when the easement is inconsistent with (a) a comprehensive plan for the area which had been officially adopted and was in force at the time of the conveyance." Based on the finding of fact regarding the Bow and Arrow Conservation Easement, Commissioner Storer moved to deny the Conservation Easement, for CUP 003/20, for the following reasons:

The Bow and Arrow Ranch LLC Conservation Easement would be in conflict with both the Natural Resource Plan and Cherry County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, as it changes the primary purpose/use of the defined acres to 'long term management of the Protected Property as it pertains to the American Burying Beetle,' thereby prioritizing one primary resource value.

Page 2 of the Conservation Easement states that 'Whereas, the Protected Property is adjacent to the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge and will expand that block of protected habitat... the Protected Property provides key habitat for terrestrial wildlife, including the American Burying Beetle; and Whereas, as a stipulation of the Conservation Bank and a Conservation Banking Agreement was created for the long-term management of the protected property as it pertains to the American Burying Beetle, which has additional restrictions and/or requirements in addition to this easement. Whereas all of the above constitute the Conservation Values of the Protected Property; and Whereas the Grantor desires to protect and conserve the Conservation Values and present status of Protected Property by conveyance to the LAND TRUST of this Easement for the purpose of conserving the present status and Conservation Values of the Protected Property and to prevent the use or development of the Protected Property for any purpose or in any manner that which would conflict with the maintenance of the Protected Property in the present condition for both this and all future generations except as explicitly provided for herein.'

Further evidence of fact that the Bow and Arrow Conservation Easement establishes the American Burying Beetle habitat as the primary use/management purpose. The Conservation Bank Agreement attached to the Conservation Easement states that, on page 3, the conservation values are defined as "ecological values which serve as habitat (including without limitation, food, water and proper vegetative mix and canopy cover) necessary to support occupancy, survival and reproduction of the Covered Species" i.e., American Burying Beetle.

Page 12 of the Conservation Bank Agreement indicates that the establishment of the Conservation "Bank" is dependent upon the execution of applicable "Subordination Agreements," defined on page 7 as "a written, recorded agreement in which the holder of an interest in, lien or encumbrance on the Bank Property makes a lien or encumbrance subject to and of lower priority than the Conservation Easement, even though the lien or encumbrance was recorded."

The Cherry County Natural Resource Plan recognizes that federal law mandates multiple uses of federally managed lands and page 12 states that "in order to comply with the multiple use concept mandated by the Statutes,

no individual resource value will be given priority in vegetation management decisions."

The Bow and Arrow Conservation Easement creates a legally binding nexus with the Federal Government. As stated in the Conservation Bank Agreement attached to the Conservation Easement, it will become federally managed; Page 1, "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency within the U.S. Dept. of Interior, has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, restoration, and management of Federally listed species within the U.S. pursuant to the Endangered Species Act... U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the entity which oversees that establishment, use, operation and maintenance of the Bank." In addition to being in conflict with the Natural Resource Plan, this would negate Cherry County's right of coordination in the future, of land use/land management changes on Federally managed lands as defined in 43 USC §1712 and in accordance with Cherry County's Natural Resources Plan.

Furthermore, Cherry County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan states on page 40:

"Cherry County will use this plan as a basis and opportunity for proactive monitoring of, and involvement in, state and federal resource management planning and decision-making.

The County will work cooperatively with State and Federal agencies, but consistently assert the local values that are expressed in this plan and insist that they be respected in State and Federal land use planning and decision-making.

Those values include: Maintaining agriculture, including the land and water resources on which it depends, as the basis of the local economy and way of life.

The Bow and Arrow Conservation Easement would conflict with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan by reducing the value of the identified real property, (as required by IRS Code). Cherry County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan states on page 1:

"Private and public land and water resources are used wisely, sustaining for generations the ecological, economic, social, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values that support the quality of life treasured by county residents."

It is therefore clear that the economic values of Cherry County are a priority to be taken into consideration, and Conservation Easements, by definition of IRS Code MUST reduce the real property value, directly impacting the economic values of the County's resources, which would be in conflict with the Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

IRS code Section 1; 170 A-14(h)(3) (ii): "If the donation of a conservation easement has no material effect on the value of real property, or enhances rather than reduced the value of real property, no deduction is allowable."

In summary, Commissioner Storer moves to deny the Bow and Arrow Ranch Conservation Easement because:

It is inconsistent with the Cherry County Natural Resource Plan and the Cherry County Comprehensive Land Use Plan; it creates one specified prioritized use, defined as the "Conservation Values," which is for the American Burying Beetle listed as "threatened" and subject to the Endangered Species Act over which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has jurisdiction.

As a legally defined Conservation Easement, according to IRS requirements, it MUST, reduce the value of the real property which is part of the economic base of Cherry County.

Commissioners Ward and DeNaeyer discussed the consistencies with their individual findings in their own research to those of Commissioner Storer and engaged in discussion with Zoning Administrator Jessica Coyle regarding the Planning Commission's review of the Conservation Easement being considered. Administrator Coyle indicated that, as reflected in the minutes of the Planning Commission's meeting, there was minimal discussion prior to voting to recommend approval to the Board of Commissioners.

Ward seconded the motion by Commissioner Storer which was on the floor. Roll call vote: Aye – Storer, DeNaeyer, Ward. The motion carried.

The Board and County Attorney Eric Scott discussed the official request for changes to the March 9, 2021 Cherry County Board of Commissioners meeting minutes received from Jessica Piskorski with regard to the Danielski Harvesting CUP hearing held on February 11, 2021. Ward moved and DeNaeyer seconded to amend the minutes from the February 11, 2021 and the March 9, 2021 meetings to change 'Jessica Piskorski' to 'Ms. Piskorski' and decline any additional amendments to the minutes. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer,

Ward, Storer. The motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Lloyd Smith provided the Board with an update regarding various road projects and material availability.

The Board reviewed the Sheriff's Quarterly Fee Report from January-March 2021, the Clerk of the District Court Fee Report for the month of March, and the Fund Balance Listing for 3/31/2021.

Confirmation of data was received, and revisions were made to the proposed draft resolution submitted by Commissioner Ward earlier in the meeting and the Resolution was read aloud. Ward moved and DeNaeyer seconded to adopt Resolution #04-13-2021-01 Opposing the Federal Government's "30x30" Land Preservation Goal. Roll call vote: Aye – Ward, Storer, DeNaeyer. The motion carried.

The Board discussed the three current vacancies on the Cherry County Hospital Board of Trustees. Storer moved and DeNaeyer seconded to appoint Andrew Ward to the Cherry County Hospital Board of Trustees, for the remainder of the term vacated by June Stroup, for a term set to expire July 30, 2021. Roll call vote: Aye – Storer, DeNaeyer, Ward. The motion carried.

DeNaeyer moved and Ward seconded to appoint Deanna Scott to the Cherry County Hospital Board of Trustees to a term set to expire July 30, 2025. Roll call vote: Aye – DeNaeyer, Ward, Storer. The motion carried.

DeNaeyer moved and Storer seconded to approve claim #'s 21045898 and 21045971. Roll call vote: Aye – Storer, DeNaeyer. Abstain – Ward. The motion carried.

April 13, 2021
CHERRY COUNTY CLAIMS LISTING

Claims were presented in the amount of \$5,723.81 and disallowed in the amount of \$-.

A warrant was ordered drawn on the General Fund in the amount of \$5,723.81

General Fund
Heart City Plumbing & Heating, Services, \$5,723.81
TOTAL \$5,723.81

Claims were presented in the amount of \$7.00 and disallowed in the amount of \$-.

A warrant was ordered drawn on the Road Fund in the amount of \$7.00

ROAD
Heart City Lock & Key/Charles Ward, Services, \$7.00
TOTAL \$7.00

Ward moved and DeNaeyer seconded to approve claims. Roll call vote: Aye – Storer, DeNaeyer, Ward. The motion carried.

April 13, 2021
CHERRY COUNTY CLAIMS LISTING

Claims were presented in the amount of \$85,201.63 and disallowed in the amount of \$-.

A warrant was ordered drawn on the General Fund in the amount of \$85,201.63

GENERAL
Advanced Satellites, Supplies, \$499.96; Anderson Electric Inc, Services, \$2,710.10; Applied Connective Technologies, Services, \$1,272.15; Black Hills Chemical, Supplies, \$661.64; Bomgaars, Supplies, \$1,714.44; Buckles Fuel Service, Inc, Supplies, \$106.83; Centurylink, Telephone Service, \$186.96; Centurylink, Telephone Service, \$1,730.11; Cherry County Clinic, Services, \$330.00; Cherry County Court, Court Fees, \$136.00; Cherry County Sheriff, Services, \$269.06; Cherry County Treasurer, Bank Fees, \$5.00; Clearly Communications, Telephone Service, \$288.84; Consolidated Management Company, Services, \$331.45; DAS State Accounting 6506, Services, \$448.00; DAS State Accounting 6507, Services, \$202.70; DISH Network, Services, \$239.19; Encartele Inc, Services, \$300.00; Tanya Fay, Services, \$40.00; Federal Surplus Property, Supplies, \$176.00; Firstnet/AT&T Mobility, Telephone Service, \$609.95; Galls LLC, Services, \$568.13; Michelle Garwood, Reimbursement, \$129.36; Pat Greenough, Reimbursement, \$100.00; GRP & Associates, Supplies, \$57.00; Henderson's IGA, Supplies, \$103.20; Kami Hoey, Services, \$188.50; Johnson Law Office, Clerical Salary/Rent/Telephone/Equipment, \$4,141.73; KBR Rural Public Power, Services, \$81.34; Kearney Regional, Services, \$2,690.98; Ashley Kolessa, Services, \$20.00; Marco Technologies, LLC, Services, \$196.59; Microfilm Imaging Systems, Services, \$136.00; MIPS, Services, \$2,851.09; Nebraska ASSN of County Clerks, Dues/Fees/Training, \$75.00; Niobrara Valley Consultants, Services, \$2,065.22; NIRMA, Dues/Fees/Training, \$187.00; NK Waste Management, LLC, Services, \$184.00; NPZA, Dues/Fees/Training, \$60.00; Office Products, Supplies, \$1,884.79; Outback Screenprinting & Embroidery, Supplies, \$45.00; Paper Tiger Shredding, Services, \$50.00; Platte Valley Communications, Services, \$140.00; Prema, Services, \$213.56; Presto X, Services, \$81.00; Quadiant Finance USA, Services, \$1,000.00; Quigley Dill & Quigley, Services, \$1,990.00;

Alecia Rabago, Services, \$40.00; Reese Inc., Services, \$1,920.75; Region IV Inc., Services, \$2,626.00; Region 4 Behavioral Health System, Services, \$5,554.00; Repco Marketing Inc., Services, \$41.80; Sandhill Oil Company Inc, Services, \$4,677.10; Eric Scott, Clerical Salary/Rent/Telephone/Equipment, \$8,690.14; Scotty's Ranchland Foods, LLC, Supplies, \$71.25; Elior Inc., Summit Food Service, Services, \$7,410.02; Sundance Enterprises, Services, \$62.00; Tehrani Motor Company, Services, \$40.00; Jasmine Thunder Hawk, Services, \$40.00; Tony's Tire and Auto Repair, Services, \$15.00; True Value Hardware, Supplies, \$18.16; Uniform and Accessories Warehouse, Supplies, \$74.70; University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Services, \$1,200.00; UNL Panhandle Research and Extension, Services, \$4,588.77; US Cellular, Services, \$70.17; Valentine Midland News, Publishing Services, \$581.77; City of Valentine, Utilities, \$4,252.11; Ward Plumbing & Heating LLC, Services, \$323.00; Watchguard Video, Supplies, \$9,640.00; Gary Weaver, Reimbursement, \$158.14; Wex Bank, Fuel, \$1,473.88; Trevor Willcuts, Reimbursement, \$135.00
TOTAL \$85,201.63

Claims were presented in the amount of \$128,255.55 and disallowed in the amount of \$-.

A warrant was ordered drawn on the Road Fund in the amount of \$128,255.55

ROAD
Andersen & Sons NAPA Auto Parts, Supplies, \$24.06; Andy's Glass Shop, Services, \$325.00; Ashby Lumber Company, Supplies, \$29.90; B's Enterprises Inc., Services, \$4,900.00; Bacon Repair, Services, \$5,738.78; Bill's Garage, Services, \$1,181.08; Bomgaars, Supplies, \$683.33; Buckles Fuel Service Inc., Services, \$3,509.84; Central Valley Ag Cooperative, Services, \$1,232.92; Cherry County Implementation, Services, \$630.88; Cherry County Sheriff, Services, \$20.00; Cody Livestock Supply, Supplies, \$44.95; Consolidated Telephone, Telephone Service, \$201.13; Cowboy Welding, Services, \$1,777.40; Croell Inc, Services, \$1,262.87; Custer Public Power District, Services, \$168.07; D/W Machine & Manufacturing Co., Supplies, \$7.00; Danielski Farms Inc., Services, \$13,355.28; DAS State Accounting 6507, Services, \$27.70; Garrett Egger, Reimbursement, \$37.36; Emerson Equipment, Services, \$59.48; Flat Creek Construction, Services, \$8,000.00; Galaway Field Repair LLC, Services, \$1,657.50; The General Store Inc., Supplies, \$223.12; Great Plains Communications, Telephone Service, \$213.90; Home-town Lumber & Construction LLC, Supplies, \$165.00; Huskerland Communications LLC, Supplies, \$2.99; Independent Salt Co., Supplies, \$1,008.00; Interstate Battery System, Services, \$1,085.60; KBR Rural Public Power District, Utilities, \$449.58; Kimball Midwest, Services, \$93.54; Koizan Trucking LLC, Services, \$3,405.95; L&L Gravel, Services, \$16,500.00; Lawson Products, Inc., Supplies, \$411.31; Lazy Ev Cattle Co., Services, \$1,500.00; Kent Lopez, Reimbursement, \$246.41; Martin Auto Parts II, Supplies, \$440.65; Martin Marietta Materials, Supplies, \$4,255.74; Mathis Equipment, Services, \$170.72; MCT Trucking, Services, \$9,500.00; Medical Enterprises Inc., Services, \$35.00; Menards, Supplies, \$72.23; Village of Merriman, Services, \$126.65; Mips Inc., Services, \$180.00; Mullen Auto & Diesel, Services, \$870.34; Murphy Tractor & Equipment Company, Services, \$13,772.13; Neal Lumber Company Inc., Services, \$59.50; Neal Oil & Auto Center, Services, \$854.50; Nebraska Dept. of Correctional Service, Services, \$1,566.40; Nebraska Machinery Company/NMC Inc., Services, \$538.15; Nebraska Motor Fuels Division, Services, \$2,159.00;

Nebraska Public Power District, Services, \$99.54; North Star Electric, Services, \$1,155.79; Office Products Center, Supplies, \$360.81; The Parts Company, Services, \$865.70; Perrett Construction LTD, Services, \$551.22; Pit Stall, Services, \$818.99; Prema, Services, \$172.63; Reese Inc., Services, \$3,749.02; Resource Management Co. Inc., Services, \$363.50; Sandhill Oil Company Inc., Fuel, \$8,863.44; Sandhills Ranch Supply Services, \$322.78; Security First Bank, Services, \$3,985.21; Sundance Enterprises, Services, \$6.00; Unitech Inc., Services, \$318.00; US Cellular, Services, \$69.23; City of Valentine, Services, \$1,556.22; Westover Electric, Services, \$151.53; Woody's Repair-Merlin Woodworth, Services, \$65.00

TOTAL \$128,255.55
Claims were presented in the amount of \$4,661.81 and disallowed in the amount of \$-.

A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitor Promotion Fund in the amount of \$4,661.81

VISITOR PROMOTION
Centurylink, Services, \$129.37; Cherry County Visitors Promo Board, Reimbursement, \$823.04; Cork Thornton Ice Fishing Tournament, Grant, \$2,000.00; Tony Hanson, Services, \$75.00; Heart City Bull Bash, Grant, \$1,000.00; Howard Johnson Hotel, Services, \$246.85; Journal Entry, Voided Check #21035821-\$633.29; Norfolk Daily News, Services, \$325.00; Outback Screenprinting & Embroidery, Services, \$297.45; City of Valentine, Services, \$398.39
TOTAL \$4,661.81

Claims were presented in the amount of \$5,000.00 and disallowed in the amount of \$-.

A warrant was ordered drawn on the Visitor Improvement Fund in the amount of \$5,000.00

VISITOR IMPROVEMENT
Heartland Bike Share, Grant, \$5,000.00
TOTAL \$5,000.00

Claims were presented in the amount of \$22,024.09 and disallowed in the amount of \$-.

A warrant was ordered drawn on the Health Insurance Claims Fund in the amount of \$22,024.09

EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE CLAIMS
Cherry County Clerk, Health Insurance Claims, \$22,024.09
TOTAL \$22,024.09

Claims were presented in the amount of \$8,767.73 and disallowed in the amount of \$-.

A warrant was ordered drawn on the Bookmobile Fund in the amount of \$8,767.73

BOOKMOBILE
Thomas County Library, Bookmobile, \$547.00; Valentine Public Library, Bookmobile, \$8,220.73
TOTAL \$8,767.73

Claims were presented in the amount of \$244.04 and disallowed in the amount of \$-.

A warrant was ordered drawn on the Emergency Management Fund in the amount of \$244.04

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
Centurylink, Services, \$244.04
TOTAL \$244.04

Claims were presented in the amount of \$2,855.92 and disallowed in the amount of \$-.

A warrant was ordered drawn on the Inheritance Tax Fund in the amount of \$2,855.92

INHERITANCE TAX
Houghton Bradford Whitted PC, Services, \$2,855.92
TOTAL \$2,855.92

At 3:31 p.m., with no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Storer declared the meeting adjourned.

These minutes are not the official record and may be corrected. A copy of the approved, official minutes is available to the public in the Cherry County Clerk's Office.

18438-21 ZNEZ

Village of Wood Lake meeting minutes

The April 14 Wood Lake Village Board meeting was called to order by Ron Pinney at 7:00 p.m. Grant Morland and Joe McMurtrey answered roll call. The Open Meeting Act was recognized. The minutes of the previous meeting were read. Grant made a motion to accept as read, seconded by Joe. Motion carried. The Treasurer's report was read. Joe made a motion to approve as read, seconded by Grant. Motion carried. The outstanding bills were read.

KBR Rural Public Power District, \$667.70; 941 Tax, \$149.16; Valentine Midland News (meeting minutes), \$19.31; NK Waste Inc. (trash), \$483.00; Great Plains Communications (telephone, est), \$60.00; Ray Shields (contract labor), \$250.00; John Hoefs (wages pstg, supplies), \$536.46; American Ag Lab (water samples), \$19.40; Jackie Ferguson (wages), \$392.59; Bank of the West (returned check \$230.00 plus \$15.00 fee) got a cashier check for \$230.00, \$245.00; Neb Health Envir Lab (water

samples), \$19.00.

Grant made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Joe. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS
Discussed the ceiling, and waiting to talk to contractor.

NEW BUSINESS
Grant made a motion to accept Kara Buechle's bid for maintaining the Village park for the summer of 2021, seconded by Joe. Motion carried. The millings were discussed and Ron will check with the roads superintendent. John Hoefs discussed several water projects. Would like to remind the residents that there are guidelines to follow as to what can be put in the dumpsters and that boxes should be broken down and put in the recycling container. Joe and Grant are going to check on the drainage at the park. Grant made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Joe. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

18437-21 ZNEZ

Notice

In the District Court of Cherry County, Nebraska
Case number CI 21-19
Legal notice for name change of a minor child

In Re name change of JC Shyridanne Augustyn, A Minor Child.

Notice is hereby given that on the 6th day of April, 2021, a petition was filed in the District Court of Cherry County, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which is to change a minor child's name from Jc Shyridanne Augustyn to Jacie Shyridanne Hamilton.

A hearing will be had on said petition before the Honorable Judge Mark D. Kozisek in the District Court of Cherry County at 365 N. Main Street, Valentine, NE on the 21st day of May, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as will be convenient for the Court and that unless sufficient cause is shown to the contrary, the minor child's name will be changed from that of Jc Shyridanne Augustyn to Jacie Shyridanne Hamilton.

Tonya J. Augustyn, Petitioner
Erin M. Urbom, #23330
BRADLEY LAW OFFICE, PC
202 West Third Street
Grand Island, NE 68801
Telephone: (308) 382-2128
erin@bradleylawoffice.com
18427-14, 21 ZNEZ

Notice of Sale

WHEREAS, It is hereby determined by the City of Valentine, Nebraska, that they have surplus personal property consisting of a 1985 Chevrolet pickup, the total fair market value of which is less than \$5,000.00, which personal property should be sold;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF VALENTINE, NEBRASKA, AS FOLLOWS:

It is hereby directed that the City Manager in his discretion may sell it for scrap, may advertise for sealed bids or otherwise dispose of said property.

Passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Valentine, Cherry County, Nebraska, on this 8th day of April, 2021. Inquiries may be made with the City Manager at City Hall, 402-376-2323.

18428-14, 21 ZNEZ

City Of Valentine Financial Report Queen Moon Dowden Jackson Memorial Trust Fund Fiscal Year 2019-2020

Pursuant to the will of Queen Moon Dowden Jackson, an annual reporting of items received and paid out and the amount of money allocated to each project are as follows:

Beginning Cash 10/1/19	\$62,368.09
Income Received	\$11,593.16
TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE	\$73,961.25
Expenditures:	
Library Books	\$5,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$5,000.00
Ending Cash 9/30/20	\$68,961.25

Deanna M Schmit
City Clerk/Treasurer
18436-21 ZNEZ

Valentine Community Schools Board of Education April meeting minutes

The Valentine Community Schools Board of Education met in regular session on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

The Board approved to not accept the proposed Nebraska Health Standards.

The Board did not approve optional mask wearing in schools.

The Board approved the offer of two teaching contracts and one Administrative contract for the 2021-2022 year.

The Board approved the Building and Grounds committee suggested to do list.

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, May 12, 2021, at 5:00 p.m.

For full Board minutes go to: <http://meeting.sparqdata.com/public/Organization/55>

Access, 16.38; Wendy Adamson, 132.15; Amplify Education Inc., 223.00; Appera, 304.85; BJ's Instrument Repair, 400.00; Bomgaars Supply Inc., 974.41; Ted C Buechle, 702.24; Julia Burdick, 829.92; BW Plus Mid Nebraska Inn & Suites, 1,099.90; Calls Garage, 136.30; Central Distribution, 4,925.69; Cherry County Implement, 333.60; City of Valentine, 10,791.52; Kendra Cochran, 159.60; Consumer Driven Technologies, LLC, 15,105.00; Amy Cox, 255.36; D/W Machines & Mfg. Co. Inc., 607.00; Dell, 1,842.40; Demco, 422.18; Ed. Service Unit No 17, 31,576.00; Edutyping / B.E. Publishing, 217.05; ESU 3, 40.00; ESU Coordinating Council, 100.00; Jeff Fay, 212.27; Tisha Fischer, 255.36; Golden West, 67.50; Michael Halley, 200.00; Alicia Harms, 474.01; Heart City Plumbing &

Notice

In the District Court of Cherry County, Nebraska
Case number CI 21-11
In Re name change of Caleub Logan Brackeen.

Notice is hereby given that on the 9th day of March, 2021, a petition was filed in the District Court of Cherry County, Nebraska, the object and prayer of which is for the petitioner's name from Caleub Logan Brackeen to June Logan Brackeen.

A hearing will be had on said petition before the Honorable Judge Kozisek in the courtroom, 365 N. Main St. on the 21st day of May, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as will be convenient for the court and that unless sufficient cause is shown to the contrary, the petitioner's name will be changed from that of Caleub Logan Brackeen to June Logan Brackeen.

Caleub Logan Brackeen, petitioner
916 N. Green St.
Valentine, NE 69201
18407-31, 7, 14, 21 ZNEZ

Notice to Contractors

Call Order: 850
Contract ID: M800361
State Project No. M80036
Location: District 8 Erosion Control

In counties: Blaine, Boyd, Cherry, Garfield, Holt, Keya Paha, Loup, Rock, Wheeler, Brown

The Nebraska Department of Transportation will receive sealed bids in Room 104 of the Central Office Building at 1500 Hwy. 2 in Lincoln, until 1:30 p.m. on May 6, 2021. At that time the bids will be opened and read.

Bids will be opened and the bid totals will be read via Webex. The Webex information will be available on the BidX Letting webpage a minimum of two days prior to the opening, and can be found by selecting the applicable letting form: <https://www.bidx.com/ne/lettings>

Plans, specifications, and additional letting information may be found at the Nebraska Department of Transportation's website at <http://dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/business-opp/hwy-bridge-lp/>.

18422-14, 21, 28 ZNEZ

Notice

On Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 4:00 p.m., a meeting conducted by Valentine Community Schools will take place at the Valentine High School Commons. The purpose of the meeting will be to provide an opportunity for parents and representatives of nonpublic schools to participate in the development of a plan for providing special education services to children with disabilities who attend nonpublic schools and home schools which are within the Valentine Community Schools District for the 2021-2022 school year. Parents of

a home-schooled child or a child attending a nonpublic school who has been or may be identified with a disability and attends a nonpublic school within the boundaries of Valentine Community Schools are urged to attend. If you have further questions pertaining to this meeting, please contact Mr. Mike Halley, Valentine Community Schools Superintendent at 402-376-1780, ext. 225 or Mrs. Cristen Witte, Valentine Community Schools Special Education Coordinator at 402-376-3237, ext. 262.

18425-14, 21 ZNEZ

Request For Bid SWA 21-04

Liquified Petroleum Gas-Propane

The Sicangu Wicoti Awayankapi (SWA) Corporation is seeking Bids for Liquefied Petroleum Gas (Propane) until April 30, 2021 at 4:00 p.m.

SCOPE OF WORK
Firm fixed proposals price per gallon for the contract period beginning May 10, 2021 until December 30, 2021. Proposal shall include services, handling and delivery of Liquefied Petroleum Gas, on a fill and keep full basis for the SWA Corporation offices, Warehouse, Cabinet Shop, four (4) elderly complexes, and on an as-needed basis for all orders placed for vacant units managed by the SWA Corporation. Each bid must state if leak tests performed by certified SWA maintenance staff will be acceptable.

INDIAN PREFERENCE
Any firm seeking Indian Preference in this award must provide evidence that it is not less than 51% Indian owned and controlled. A prequalification application will be provided to you if you wish to claim Indian Preference. This application must be submitted with your bid proposal.

AWARD
The contract(s) will only be awarded to responsible

individual(s) or firm(s) and/or to qualified Indian enterprise(s) submitting the lowest responsive bid if such proposal is within budgeting limits established for this solicitation and is within ten percent (10%) of the lowest responsive quotation from any qualified individual or firm. If no responsive bid by a qualified Indian enterprise is within the above-stated limits, then award will be made to the individual or firm with the lowest responsive bid.

PROPOSAL PROCESS
Sealed Proposals must be submitted to the SWA Corporation ATTN: Cheryl Douville-Yellow Hawk, Procurement Manager by 4:00 p.m. (CST) on April 30, 2021. All proposals shall be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked "SEALED BID 21-04 PROPANE" NO FAX OR E-MAIL BIDS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS

The SWA Corporation reserves the right to accept/reject any and all proposals or to waive any information or irregularities.

For further information, please contact Cheryl Douville-Yellow Hawk at (605) 747-2203 ext. 236.

18423-14, 21, 28 ZNEZ

Advertisement to bid

St. Nicholas Catholic Church, Valentine, NE, herein called Owner will invite contractors to bid on a Renovation of the existing Altar area in Sanctuary.

Sealed bids will be received until 3:00 p.m. on May 14, 2021 at the St. Nicholas Catholic Church Rectory, 400 W. 5th St., Valentine, NE 69201.

All bids must be on the forms provided with the specifications as prepared by the Parish Council. Bids received after closing will be returned unopened and shall not be considered.

Prime bidders may obtain plans at the St. Nicholas Catholic Church

on April 29, 2021 from 6:00-7:00 to view project. Electronic copies of plans and specifications are available via a web address at no cost to the contractor by contacting St. Nicholas at 402-376-1187 or 402-376-5287.

The successful bidder will be required to furnish Work Comp, Liability Insurance, and Builders Risk Insurance during the project.

The Owner reserves the right to accept, reject or negotiate any or all bids and to waive any informality in the bidding.

18434-21, 28 ZNEZ

Notice

2021 Personal Property Returns are due in the Assessor's Office on or before May 3, 2021 without penalty. The federal income tax extended filing deadline does not extend the filing deadline for personal property returns. All added value after May 3, 2021, will receive a 10 percent late filing penalty. Added value after July 1, 2021 will receive a 25 percent late filing penalty. Please let us know if you have any questions.

Betty Daugherty, Cherry County Assessor
18439-21 ZNEZ

Notice Of Organization of TM Construction, L.L.C.

Notice is hereby given that TM Construction, LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the state of Nebraska, with its initial designated office at 321 Government St., Valentine, Nebraska 69201. The general nature of its business is to engage in and do any lawful act for which limited liability companies may be organized under the provisions of the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act. The company shall commence doing business on April 15, 2021, and its operation shall

continue perpetually unless sooner terminated under the provisions of the Operating Agreement or in accordance with the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act. The affairs of the company are to be conducted by its manager, Tom Mehrens, in accordance with its Operating Agreement.

By Its Organizing Member and Registered Agent
Tom Mehrens
321 Government St.
Valentine, NE 69201
18441-21, 28, 5 ZNEZ

Notice Of Organization of Next Adventure, L.L.C.

Notice is hereby given that Next Adventure, LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the state of Nebraska, with its initial designated office at 104 N. Ridge Road, Valentine, Nebraska 69201. The general nature of its business is to engage in and do any lawful act for which limited liability companies may be organized under the provisions of the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act. The company shall commence doing business on April 14, 2021,

and its operation shall continue perpetually unless sooner terminated under the provisions of the Operating Agreement or in accordance with the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act. The affairs of the company are to be conducted by its manager, Richard Markus, in accordance with its Operating Agreement.

By Its Registered Agent
Richard Markus
104 N. Ridge Rd.
Valentine, NE 69201
18440-21, 28, 5 ZNEZ

Notice of Dissolution of Schied Operating, L.L.C.

Notice is hereby provided pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute 21-150, that Schied Operating, L.L.C., has filed a Statement of Dissolution with the Nebraska Secretary of State.

Any person(s) or entities having a claim in accordance with this Notice shall, to wit

a) All claims must fully set forth the claim(s), cause(s) of action, and or demand(s) and the supporting factual basis for such.

b) Such claims may be sent to: Schied Operating, L.L.C., c/o Eric

A. Scott, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 349, Valentine, Nebraska 69201.

c) This notice shall appear in the Valentine Midland News for three (3) consecutive weeks.

All claims against Schied Operating, L.L.C., shall be barred unless an action to enforce such claim(s) is brought within five years of the final publication of this notice.

Eric A. Scott
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 349
Valentine, Nebraska 69201
18433-21, 28, 5 ZNEZ

Notice of Organization of Pleasant Valley Family Farms, L.L.C.

A Nebraska Limited Liability Company

Notice is hereby given that Pleasant Valley Family Farms, LLC, A Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with its registered office located at 538 North Howe St., Valentine, NE 69201. The general nature of the business is to engage in and do any lawful act concerning any and all lawful business for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The company was organized and commenced on April 6, 2021, and shall continue

in perpetuity, unless sooner terminated pursuant to its operating agreement. The affairs of the company are to be conducted by the members until such time as their successor or successors are selected pursuant to the Operating Agreement.

Andrew C. Johnson
Attorney at Law
Johnson Law Office
P.O. Box 766
Valentine, NE 69201
402-376-1860
18432-21, 28, 5 ZNEZ

Notice of Organization of Pleasant Valley Grain & Livestock, L.L.C.

A Nebraska Limited Liability Company

Notice is hereby given that Pleasant Valley Grain & Livestock, LLC, A Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with its registered office located at 538 North Howe St., Valentine, NE 69201. The general nature of the business is to engage in and do any lawful act concerning any and all lawful business for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The company was organized and commenced on April 6, 2021, and shall continue

in perpetuity, unless sooner terminated pursuant to its operating agreement. The affairs of the company are to be conducted by the members until such time as their successor or successors are selected pursuant to the Operating Agreement.

Andrew C. Johnson
Attorney at Law
Johnson Law Office
P.O. Box 766
Valentine, NE 69201
402-376-1860
18431-21, 28, 5 ZNEZ

Village of Nenzel meeting minutes

The Village of Nenzel held a regular meeting on April 15, 2021. Those present: Kurt Busenitz, Terri Nollette, Tim Nollette, Deanna Schmit, Kim Schmit, Richard Schmit.

Tim Nollette called the meeting to order.

Deanna Schmit moved to approve the March 19, 2021 minutes. Motion seconded by Kurt Busenitz. Motion passed unanimously.

Deanna Schmit moved to approve the Claims and Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Kim Schmit. Motion passed unanimously.

CLAIMS—Niobrara Valley Consultants, 1 & 6 Year Hearing and Correspondence, \$146.66; KBR,

Street Light Electricity, \$187.50; KBR, Community Building Electricity, \$425.48; Erin R. Heath, CPA, 1099 Preparation, \$25.00; Midland News, Publication of meeting notices and minutes, \$11.12; Nelsen Plumbing, Furnace/Heat Pump Repair, \$515.60; NK Waste, Trash Removal, \$569.25.

Deanna Schmit moved to complete road repair on North Main Street to the Cemetery Road with the amount not exceeding \$3,000. Motion seconded by Kurt Busenitz. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m. The next meeting will be held on May 20, 2021.

18447-21 ZNEZ

Meeting Notices

Valentine City Council

Notice is hereby given that the regular meeting of the Council of the City of Valentine, Nebraska will be held on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room of the Valentine Public Library, 324 North Main Street, Valentine, Nebraska. The meeting will be open to the attendance of the public. An agenda for the meeting, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection in the City Clerk's office at 323 North Main Street, Valentine, Nebraska.

Deanna Schmit, City Clerk
18415-7, 14, 21, 28 ZNEZ

Cherry County Hospital Board of Trustees

Notice is hereby given that a regular board meeting of the Cherry County Hospital Board of Trustees will be held at the Cherry County Hospital on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room of the hospital. The agenda for such meeting is available for inspection at the office of the chief executive officer.

Cherry County Hospital Board of Trustees
Sheila Wheeler, Secretary
18435-21 ZNEZ

Cherry County Board of Commissioners

The Board of Cherry County Commissioners will meet the second and last Tuesday of each month, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commissioner Meeting Room of the Cherry County Courthouse. A current agenda will be on file in the office of the County Clerk.

18416-7, 14, 21, 28 ZNEZ

Cherry County Board of Corrections

The Cherry County Board of Corrections will meet the last Tuesday of each month at 2:30 p.m. in the Commissioner Meeting Room of the Cherry County Courthouse. A current agenda will be on file in the office of the County Clerk.

18417-7, 14, 21, 28 ZNEZ

Valentine Public Library

Notice is hereby given that the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Valentine Public Library will be held on Monday, April 26, 2021 as planned at 4:30 p.m. in the Library meeting room for the purpose of conducting any business which may properly come before them. A current agenda will be on file at the public library.

Valentine Public Library
Board of Trustees
Anne Quigley, Director
18448-21 ZNEZ

Notice of Organization Hoebe's Smoke N' Meats, LLC

Notice is hereby given that HOEBE'S SMOKE N' MEATS, LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the state of Nebraska, with its initial agent for service of process being Jason Hoebelheirich whose address is 540 N. Cherry St., Valentine, NE 69201 and its initial designated office is at 540 N. Cherry St., Valentine, NE 69201. The general nature of its business is to engage in and do any lawful act for which limited liability companies may be organized under the provisions of the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act. The company

shall commence doing business on April 16, 2021, and its operation shall continue perpetually unless sooner terminated under the provisions of the Operating Agreement or in accordance with the Nebraska Uniform Limited Liability Company Act. The affairs of the company are to be conducted by its manager, Jason Hoebelheirich in accordance with its Operating Agreement.

By Its Organizing Member
Jason Hoebelheirich
540 N. Cherry St.
Valentine, NE 69201
18444-21, 28, 5 ZNEZ

Planting tips for growing success

by Melinda Myers

Increase your growing success by giving your transplants a good start with a few simple planting techniques. Preparing them for the transition outdoors and planting properly will help you grow your best garden yet.

Transplants started indoors from seed or purchased at a local garden center or greenhouse need time to prepare for their outdoor home. Gradually toughen them up with a procedure called hardening off. This process helps them adjust to the outdoor growing conditions, so plants will suffer less transplant shock and establish more quickly.

Start by moving the plants outdoors to a sheltered shady location about one to two weeks before the recommended planting date. Stop fertilizing and water thoroughly when the planting mix is starting to dry. Move plants into an hour of direct sunlight the first day, increasing the time by an hour each day. Make this easier by placing transplants in a wagon, old saucer sled or Gardener's Supply Garden Cart (gardeners.com). Keep frost protection handy or move plants indoors when frost is in the forecast.

Once the plants are hardened off, move them into the garden. Water the planting mix thoroughly the night before planting. If possible, plant in the morning or on a cloudy day to reduce moisture loss and stress on the plants.

Follow spacing recommendations on the plant tags to save money and time. You will need fewer plants to fill the space and allow each plant to reach its full potential.

Press on the sides of the pot to loosen the roots and carefully slide the plant out of the container. Do not pull the plant out by the stem or you may end up with all stem and no attached roots.

Gently loosen any encircling and tightly bound roots. This encourages the roots to explore the

surrounding soil and establish a strong root system. Use fingers to tease apart the roots or a sharp knife to slice through the surface roots in a few places.

Plant tomato transplants several inches deeper or set long leggy plants in a trench. This encourages roots to form along the buried stem. Remove the lowest leaves that will be covered by the soil and loosen the roots on the hardened-off transplant.

Dig a shallow trench two to three inches deep. Lay the leggy tomato in the trench and carefully bend the stem so the upper portion remains above ground. Cover the stem with soil and water.

Set stakes and towers in place at the time of planting to reduce the risk of damaging roots and stems when trying to secure tall plants. Make sure the support is strong and tall enough for the plants. Gardener's Supply Vertex tomato cages and supports are flexible, lightweight and can be installed around established plants without damage.

Remove any flowers and fruit on the transplants at the time of planting so plants can direct energy into forming roots, resulting in more flowers and fruit over time. If you cannot bring yourself to do this, try removing flowers on every other plant or row at planting. Do the same to the remaining flowers the following week.

Water new transplants often enough to keep the soil moist, but not soggy wet. Water thoroughly and gradually extend the amount of time between watering to encourage deep, more drought-tolerant roots. Adding a layer of shredded leaves, evergreen needles or other organic mulch will help conserve moisture, suppress weeds, and improve the soil as it decomposes.

Implementing these strategies will help increase your enjoyment and reduce maintenance throughout the growing season.

Valentine Community Schools Board of Education March meeting minutes

Valentine Community Schools Board of Education held a meeting on Wednesday, March 10, 2021, 5:00 p.m. at Valentine High School, 431 N. Green Street, Valentine, NE.

1. Roll Call
Meeting called to order at 5:00 p.m. by President Will Fischer noting that the meeting was properly advertised according to policy, with a notice of time and place posted in three prominent places at least 48 hours before the beginning of the meeting.

Present: Will Fischer, Greg Gass, Jo Hand, Shane Kime and Kris Larsen.

Clint Assarsson was marked as excused absence.

There were also 19 guests present with 3 guests present via zoom.

2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Notice of Open Meetings Law
4. Review of Agenda
4.1. Publication of Notice

The meeting was advertised in Midland Newspaper the weeks of 2/22/2021 and 3/1/2021. The meeting was posted at VHS, VMS, and VES on 3/5/2021.

4.2. Approval of Agenda
Approval of the agenda as presented. This motion, made by Kris Larsen and seconded by Shane Kime, Passed.

Will Fischer: Yea, Greg Gass: Yea, Jo Hand: Yea, Shane Kime: Yea, Kris Larsen: Yea

4.3. Notes Regarding Agenda
5. Public Comment

6. Action Items
6.1. Consent Agenda

Approval of consent agenda as presented. This motion, made by Kris Larsen and seconded by Greg Gass, Passed.

Will Fischer: Yea, Greg Gass: Yea, Jo Hand: Yea, Shane Kime: Yea, Kris Larsen: Yea

6.1.1. Approval of Minutes from Regular Board of Education Meeting February 10, 2021

6.1.2. Treasurer's Report
6.1.3. Approval of Regular

Claims from the General Fund
6.1.4. Approval of Manual Claims from the General Fund

6.1.5. Approval of Manual Claims from the Activity Fund

6.2. Reports
6.2.1. Special Education Coordinator's Report

6.2.2. Activity Director's Report
6.2.3. Counselors Reports

6.2.4. Principals Reports
6.2.5. Superintendent's Report

6.3. Discussion and any necessary action regarding the COVID-19 School Plan and the wearing of masks in school.
Roger Wiese, Executive Director, Nebraska North Central Health Department, joined the meeting via zoom to provide health department guidelines regarding COVID-19.

Approval of continuing with current COVID-19 school policy and revisit same item at the April Board meeting. This motion, made by Shane Kime and seconded by Kris Larsen, Passed.

Will Fischer: Yea, Greg Gass: Yea, Jo Hand: Yea, Shane Kime: Yea, Kris Larsen: Yea

6.4. Review and approval of Board Policy #5035

Review and approval of Board Policy 5035 as presented. This motion, made by Shane Kime and seconded by Jo Hand, Passed.

Will Fischer: Yea, Greg Gass: Yea, Jo Hand: Yea, Shane Kime: Yea, Kris Larsen: Yea

6.5. Discussion and action relating to any changes for the 2021-2022 school calendar

Discussion and approval of changes to 2021-2022 school year calendar as presented. This motion, made by Kris Larsen and seconded by Greg Gass, Passed.

Will Fischer: Yea, Greg Gass: Yea, Jo Hand: Yea, Shane Kime: Yea, Kris Larsen: Yea

6.6. Accept resignation of certified staff effective at the end of the current 2020-2021 contract year

Accept resignation of Athletic

Director Gail Brown effective at the end of the current 2020-2021 contract year. This motion, made by Shane Kime and seconded by Jo Hand, Passed.

Will Fischer: Yea, Greg Gass: Yea, Jo Hand: Yea, Shane Kime: Yea, Kris Larsen: Yea

6.7. Approve contract with Janet Shelbourn as a 1.0 FTE beginning with the 2021-2022 school year

Approve contract with Janet Shelbourn as a 1.0 FTE beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. This motion, made by Greg Gass and seconded by Shane Kime, Passed.

Will Fischer: Yea, Greg Gass: Yea, Jo Hand: Yea, Shane Kime: Yea, Kris Larsen: Yea

6.8. Consider and approve contracts and amendments to update salary and benefits for VHS Principal Andy Cronin, VMS Principal Jeff Sayer, VES Principal Lindsay Wonenberg and Superintendent Mike Halley for the 2021-2022 school year.

Approval of Administration contracts for the 2021-2022 school year as presented. This motion, made by Kris Larsen and seconded by Jo Hand, Passed.

Will Fischer: Yea, Greg Gass: Yea, Jo Hand: Yea, Shane Kime: Yea, Kris Larsen: Yea

6.9. Discuss and take any necessary action regarding the approval of the VCS Mission/Vision/Core Values document.

Approval of Mission/Vision/Core Values document as presented. This motion, made by Kris Larsen and seconded by Greg Gass, Passed.

Will Fischer: Yea, Greg Gass: Yea, Jo Hand: Yea, Shane Kime: Yea, Kris Larsen: Yea

7. Board Members/Committees Report

8. Adjourn

Board President Will Fischer adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

18442-21 ZNEZ

Notice of sealed bids

The Cody-Kilgore School District is seeking sealed bids to surplus two Mini Buses, and one 2003 Ford E350 XL Super Duty Van.

The district reserves the right to accept or reject bids.

Bids are due by noon, Monday, May 10, at the District Office located at 360 W. 4th Street East, Cody, NE 69211.

Contact the District Office at 402-823-4117 for more information or to inspect the vehicles in person.

18429-21, 29, 5 ZNEZ

Notice for Public Hearing Valentine Planning Commission

Notice is hereby given that the Planning Commission for the City of Valentine will hold a Public Hearing at the Valentine City Library Meeting Room on Monday, May 3, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of hearing public comment regarding application by Chelsea Renning for a conditional use permit to operate a General Daycare at 468 N. Main Street, Valentine, Nebraska. This hearing is open to the public.

Deanna Schmit
City Clerk
18430-21 ZNEZ

NOTICE

The Cherry County Weed Control Authority will be conducting surveying and controlling of yellow flag iris on the banks of the North Loup River in Cherry County. The approximate start date of this project will be May 20, weather permitting, and may continue for up to two weeks. This service is provided at NO COST to the landowners. Landowners not wishing to participate in this project or who would like more information regarding this highly invasive species are encouraged to call Barbara Good-Small, Cherry County Weed Superintendent, at 402-322-1067.

Funding for this project has been provided by a grant from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture through the Sandhills Weed Management Area.

18446-21, 28, 5, 12 ZNEZ

Meeting Notices

Kilgore Rural Fire District

Kilgore Rural Fire District will be holding a meeting, Thursday, April 29, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. MT at the Nenzel Community Building.

1-800-ACS-2345
www.cancer.org



Noxious Weeds Must Be Controlled

You are required to control noxious weeds on your property.

The noxious weeds are: Musk Thistle, Plumeless Thistle, Canada Thistle, Leafy Spurge, Knapweed (spotted and diffuse), Purple Loosestrife, Saltcedar, Phragmites, Knotweed (Japanese and Giant), Sericea Lespedeza and Perennial Yellow Bedstraw. Notice is hereby given this 16th day of April, 2021, pursuant to the Noxious Weed Control Act, section 2-955, subsection 1(a), to every person who owns or controls land in Cherry County, Nebraska, that noxious weeds being grown, or growing on, such land shall be controlled at such frequency as to prevent establishment, provide eradication, or reduce further propagation or dissemination of such weeds.

Upon failure to observe this notice, the county weed superintendent is required to:

1. Proceed pursuant to the law and issue legal notice to the landowner of property infested with noxious weeds and giving such landowner 15 days to control the noxious weed infestation. Conviction for noncompliance may result in a \$100 per day fine to the landowner, with a maximum fine of \$1,500; or
2. Should more immediate control be required, proceed pursuant to the law and have the weeds controlled by such method as he/she finds necessary, the expense of which shall constitute a lien and be entered as a tax against the land, and be collected as other real estate taxes are collected, or by other means, as provided by law.

Also, the public is notified that noxious weed seed and propagative parts may be disseminated through the movement of machinery and equipment, trucks, grain and seed, hay, straw, nursery stock, fencing materials, sod, manure, and soil as well as articles of similar nature. Methods of treatment have been prescribed by the Director of Agriculture and may be obtained from the county weed control authority.

By Order of Cherry County Weed Control Authority
18445-21 ZNEZ

Funding available for farmers and ranchers to develop conservation activity plans

LINCOLN, April 13, 2021 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has funding available to Nebraska's farmers and ranchers to develop Conservation Activity Plans. These plans are developed to help identify and find solutions for specific natural resource concerns on a farming operation. Applications for this year's funding are currently being accepted at local NRCS offices through June 18.

Conservation Activity Plans are specific to certain kinds of land use such as transitioning to organic operations, grazing land, forest land, or can also address a specific

resource need such a managing nutrients or to address an air quality concern.

According to Conor Ward, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program manager with NRCS, "With a Conservation Activity Plan, producers can not only have assistance in identifying resource concerns, they can then apply for financial assistance to implement the conservation practices needed to address those concerns."

Eligible producers may apply at their local NRCS office at any time, but to be considered for this year's funding, applications need to be submitted by June 18. If the application is accepted, payments

are made directly to program participants for development of a Conservation Activity Plan.

For more information, contact your local NRCS field office, or visit www.nrcs.usda.gov. USDA Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. Because of the pandemic, some USDA Service Centers are open to limited visitors. Contact your Service Center to set up an in-person or phone appointment. Additionally, more information related to USDA's response and relief for producers can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

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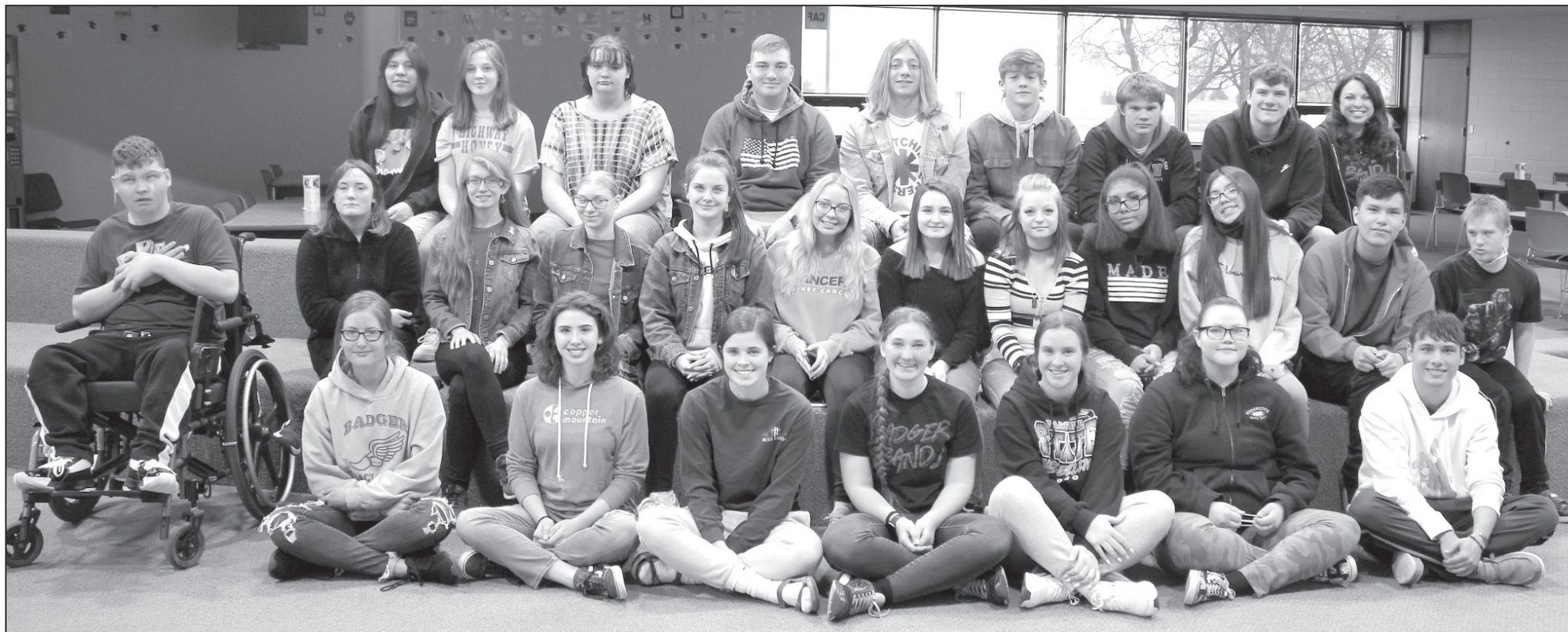
VHS Band & Choir



District Music will be held April 23 in West Holt

Band Students

(From Left to Right) Back Row: Grant Springer, Sean Springer, Mireya LaPointe, Kaylee Hanson, Kenny Shelbourn, Riece Rivera, Traven Fletcher, James Woodraska, Holden O'Dell
 Middle Row: Armani Koltz, Grady Russell, Elli Springer, Calvin Stoeger, Preston Stoeger, Caitlynn Mack, Johnny Kruger, Tamara Benedict, Mrs. Springer
 Front: Shyanne Urbin, Grace Maunu, Finley Mosner, Kyler Stanley
 Not Pictured: Emma Richards, Mackenzie Ward, and Mrs. Rhoades



Choir Students

(From Left to Right) Back Row: Biyantai Nadeau, Paige Dunkel, Mariah Welliver, Grady Russell, Jonah Perrett, Nathan Perrett, Kenny Shelbourn, Tim Egelhoff, Mrs. Springer
 Middle Row: Teylor Mehrens, Tamara Benedict, Sarah Butler, Cate Salters, Sheldyn Rodgers, Hanna Bitner, Akosha Ward, Brooke Henkenius, Jessica Reynolds, Iyanna Burnette, Cassius Browning, Jordan Kruger
 Front Row: Jaiden Welch, Elli Springer, Faith Buer, Grace Maunu, Ava Reagle, Markea Osborne, Riece Rivera
 Not Pictured: Haylee Richards, Madison York, Mrs. Rhoades

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4-H Luck of the Draw items available April 24!

Cherry County 4-H's annual fund raiser Luck of the Draw was postponed from its usual date in conjunction with Bull Bash due to weather. It will now be held on Saturday, April 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. CT at the Cherry County Fairgrounds. Local 4-H youth and leaders will join with the community to raise funds for the Cherry County 4-H program. These funds support 4-H programming supplies and clinicians, trophies, ribbons, awards, scholarships, exhibitor T-shirts and more. Nearly 250 4-H members and 75 volunteers are involved in Cherry County 4-H.

Cherry County 4-H has received many generous donations from 4-H clubs, individuals and businesses that will result in a wide variety of items for all age groups that may be won during the drawing. Tickets may be purchased on Saturday, April 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Cherry County Fairgrounds. Supporters choose from the many items they would like to take home and place their tickets in that item's draw pot for a chance at winning. Ticket sales close at 4:00 p.m. Due to UNL COVID-19 guidelines, only 50 people may be in the building at a time. There will be no public attendance inside for the drawing but listen to KVSH starting at 4:45 p.m. and winners will be announced or follow the UNL Extension in Cherry County Facebook page. Winners can pick up prizes at the event location once the drawing is complete, usually between 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. You do not have to be present to win, though, and can pick up items at the Cherry County Extension office at 365 North Main Street later in the week.

The following are donations from our community: 09 Leatherwork, purse; Adam and Janell Naslund and family, compound bow case; Aflac, Erin Miller, Morning Wake-up coffee basket; All Tied Up by Cathy Radant, puppy tie blanket; Amanda's Cakes by Amanda Jones, quarter custom sheet cake; Andy and Kasey Dawson and Form A Feed, Kanga cooler, Sherpa blanket, FormAFeed hat; Andy's Glass, one free windshield chip repair; Angie and Marty Jordan, milk frothier, gourmet specialty coffee, syrup, and biscotti; Auntie D's, wooden barn with Wind Willow mixes; Bacon Repair, \$30 Bomgaars gift certificate; Balanced Body Works and Outback Rentals (Jan Smith), one hour massage gift certificate and \$50; Bank of the West, teddy bears/hats, water bottle, money bags; Berry Creek Gun and Pawn, .22 Rifle; Bob and Jody Dexter and Dana and Shelby Ramm, equine first aid kit; Bomgaars, \$30 gift certificate; Bordertown Steakhouse and Saloon Kilgore, four steak dinners; Brewer's Canoers and Bowling Center, 12 Niobrara River hats; Broken Spoke Boutique, hat, mug, golf balls, and tees; Butler Veterinary Clinic, vaccine veterinary gun with supplies and dog bed gift basket; Central Valley Ag, portable fence system; Charles Foster, two men or boy haircuts; Chelsie Moreland Photography, one 30 minute session and one 8x10 print; Cherry County 4-H Council, compound bow / hay chix / kayak/ \$200 4-H Camp scholarship; Cherry County Hospital and Clinic, two knife sets, two pillows, sheets, suitcase; Cherry County Implement /NAPA Auto Parts, NAPA bucket with goodies; Cherry County Veterinary Clinic, Brad Rodgers, calving box supplies; Churchill Ranch, one hay bale; Coach Light Café, \$25 gift certificate; Cody Foster and Company, custom Christmas ornaments; Cody's Husker Hub, \$25.00 gift certificate, Husker Hub long sleeve shirt, tumbler; Cody Livestock Supply, horse lover's basket; Cody/Kilgore FFA, hand crafted wooden table; Coke, mini fridge; Comfort Inn, one jacuzzi suite room; Country Fabrics and Crafts, craft supplies in tote; Crafts and Co., Joanna Connot, lots of handcrafted wooden signs; CSS Farms, bag of potatoes/ air fryer; D/W Machine and Manufacturing, welding helmet; Daniel-ski Harvesting and Farming, Phillips 66 gift card; Delaney Cattle Service, fun buds, ear pods; Dick Clark Construction, embroidered Milwaukee tough shell heated jacket; DLM Photography, Jenna Belleville, one hour photo session; Econolodge, one night king jacuzzi suite room; Erin, Christen, Case and Connie Larson family, chicken starter kit and feed; Evergreen Trust, Chuck and Jean Tetherow family, family pool pass / inflatable cow float; Farm Bureau Financial, Jay and Jody Hollenbeck, backpack cooler; Flower Land, canvas cattle print; Gina Taylor Family and Murry Mellor family, goose hunt for two; Gary and Bonnie Sadi, tabletop quilt with wine glass markers; George Paul Vinegars, George Johnson, George Paul Vinegar gift basket; Gina Fischer, Be Well basket; Gordon Valley 4-H Club, fencing supplies basket; Hansen-Mueller, Rangeland tub, Purina Wind and Rain Cattle Mineral, calf fork, flag whip; Heart City Drug, donated the first planned location for the event; Heartland Country Real Estate, home decor sign; Helen Sherman, Redman Salt 10 - 50 pound bags; Henderson's IGA, Nebraska food basket; Hometown Lumber, Nebo emergency kit; Huskerland Communications, Echo audio bluetooth speaker gamer mini; Jackie Chenoweth, candy; James and Julie Liddy, Keurig; Janine's Flower Exchange and Steve's Sweets, \$30 gift certificate; Jason McNare family, Monster drinks; Jay and Wendy Jenkins, \$100 Cody Livestock gift certificate; Jean Stolzenburg, homemade jellies basket; Jeff and Michelle Garwood family, family pool pass / inflatable cow float; Jerod and Tiffany Swanson, Red Ryder BB gun with accessories; Jody Wilson, two quilts; Judy Roosa, Husker tabletop quilt; Julie's Day Care, baby jumper; Keeleigh Burge, two - three hour babysitting; Kent's Auto Detailing, \$25 gift certificate; Kevin, Laura, and Wesley Willert family, 20 gate levers, Carhart vest, barb wire and gloves; Keys Canning and Crafts, scarf, jams and jellies; Koinzan Trucking and Farms and Double K Popcorn, Double K's Popcorn - 16 cases; KVSH Radio, radio ads; Laree Colburn, handcrafted gift basket; Larsen Veterinary and Embryo Transfer, \$100 beef draft; Linda Ramos and Mady Bopp, big cookies; Mexican vanilla; Mary Ann Perrett, Cowhorn seasoning; Mathis Equipment, New Holland

bag; McDonald's, eight free sandwiches and eight free McCafé; Middle Niobrara NRD, tree certificate; Midland News, one year subscription; Mike's Market, Fascia gun; Nails by Becky, Relax robe and slippers; Nak Gems, Paparazzi jewelry baskets; Nebraska Foster and Adoptive Parent Association c/o Robbi Blume, kid activity basket; Nelsen Furniture, chalk board; New Directions Chiropractic, three tanning sessions, one body sculpting session, one laser lipolysis facial gift certificate; Nichole Garwood Daycare, wooden box art set; Nielsen Insurance, Prairie Club golf towels and balls; Night Light Photography by Nina Nelson, patriotic bull canvas; Niobrara Valley Vineyards, two \$25 Gift certificates; North Star Electric, Milwaukee flood light; Outback Screen Printing and Embroidery, 10 caps with embroidery; Pepsi Co., Pepsi accessories and cases of Pepsi products; Peterson Beel Law Office and Sandhills Title, LED light with cord; Pinnacle Bank, cooler, gloves, planner, and calendar; Pit Stall, Husky Liners floor mats; Plus One Manufacturing, five foot feed bunk; Premier Automotive Repair, two YETI cups and two gift certificates and a set of tires; Price's Gallery and Framing, horse print; Pronto Parts Company, Mycro pocket light; Radant family, iPod ear buds; Radiant Systems, three foot radiant heater; Ramm Knives, hats and beanies and T-shirt; Randy and Janie Swanson, D6 Lantana Ranch, tower humidifier; Randy and Beth Stoner family, horseshoe cross and extending screwdriver; Reese Inc., bag of pellets for the grill; Reimers Well Drilling, three Arctic gallon jugs with \$50 gift certificates; Rhonda Cherry, courtship quilt; Ron's Quik Lube, two oil changes gift certificate; Salon Bliss, \$100 gift certificate; Sandhill Oil, tailgate gift certificate; Sandhills Area Foundation, T-shirts and caps; Sandhills Art and Metal Gallery, Nebraska metal spinning sign; Sandhills Cattle Association, shirts and caps; Sandhills Family Dental Clinic, Light Up Your Smile basket; Sandhills Prairie Refuge Association, buffalo and hat; Sandhills Spa, \$50 gift certificate; Sandhills State Bank, Sandhills State Bank vest and mug with goodies; Sandhills Style, hair products; Schemmer Studios, Plien Air Mustang soft pastel; Schumacher Veterinary Services, Yeti cooler; Scott, Kris, Fletcher and Lex Larsen family, breast cancer awareness basket; Scotty's Ranchland Foods, six beef strips, loins and seasoning; Security First Bank- Cody/Valentine, DeWalt chainsaw; Shear Madness, hair products; Sparks Nebraska Spurs CFDA Club, tickets for gun raffle and family session - private lesson from Spurs CFDA Club; Steele Feed, horse treats; Steifel Farms, family pool pass / inflatable cow float; Stoner Trucking LLC, gift basket with gloves and cooler and much more; Sugar Creek Photos, Janette Duffield, two photographs, Suits and Chaps and Takin' Care of my Gear; Sunshine Greenhouse, \$30 gift certificate; Tall Tails Taxidermy / Booner Buck, \$75 gift certificate, deer block, deer mineral; Taterz Creations, Katie Fronning, wall hanging decor; Tehrani Motors, free oil change; Tetherow Appraisal Service LLC, and Heart City Storage Solutions LLC, solar powered trail/range cam; The Gun Cabinet, old timer knife set; The Insurance Center, Little Blue Truck gift basket, The Wrinkle in Time book set and book and cuddly friend gift basket; The Prairie Club, golf bag; Tom and Edith Schnieder, 14 ribeye steaks 16 oz. each; Town and Country 4-H Club, fire pit with lots of accessories; Town and Country Insurance, ice auger with attachment for drill; Tranquility Massage and Salon, hair products and more; True Value, electric pressure washer; Trula Churchill, barrel racing lesson; Union Bank and Trust Co., double lock gun vault; Valentine Community Schools, family sports pass; Valentine Dental, Oral B electric toothbrush; Valentine FFA, two work lights, 20 steel cross fence posts, five tomato cages; Valentine Physical Therapy and Sports Medicine, two horse grain bucket with accessories; Valentine's Niobrara Lodge, pool certificate; ViaMae Beauty by Kami Patterson, hair products and gift certificate for a women's or men's haircut; Walking X Cattle Co., Craig and Katie O'Kief family, fencing supplies; Ward Plumbing and Heating, microwave; Ward Veterinary Services, syringe cooler with supplies; Weber and Company Real Estate, Weber Quarter Horses, Young's Western Wear, Western print, platter, hat, and more; Welder Manufacturing, gate levers; Welder Welding, gate levers; Wells Fargo Bank, mug, water bottle, coin counter, headphones; Wickett Construction, hat, ear plugs, fruit basket; Winner Office Products, label maker; Wright's Bait Shop, \$10 gift certificate.

Other items will be purchased from local businesses with monetary donations that have been received from: 4 Seasons; Aflac, Cordell Nilson; Allard Precast; Arganbright Law Office, Cody Oil Company; Erin Heath, CPA; Hog Trough; Isom Agency; Tetherow Cattle Company; L and B Johnson Accounting; Lori Shelbourn, CPA; Lynn and John Lemmon; NK Waste, Inc.; Perrett Construction; Premier Parts and Paint; Rourke Springer, CPA; Sandoz Chapel of the Pines; Southside Body & Paint; Trade Winds Lodge; Valentine Machine and Manufacturing; and Valentine Medical Clinic.

Cherry County 4-Hers hope to see you during Valentine's Main Street Event at their "Luck of the Draw" activity! They appreciate you for your participation and support!

Reward of \$15,000 offered in 1992 slaying of Yankton teen

SIOUX FALLS, SD (AP) - Law enforcement officials are hoping a \$15,000 reward will lead to a crack in the 1992 slaying of a Yankton teenager.

Yankton police Cmdr. Todd Brandt says he is hoping "someone who knows something is ready to do the right thing."

Nineteen-year-old Tammy Haas disappeared after attending Yankton's homecoming and then going to a party on a farm just across the Nebraska border. Her case is among South Dakota's most notorious unsolved mysteries.

Haas' body was found by a golfer in Cedar County, Nebraska at the bottom of a ravine. In 1996, Haas' boyfriend Eric Stukel was tried and acquitted of manslaughter in her death.

"There are people out there

that know what happened to Tammy, and today, we're talking directly to them," FBI Minneapolis Special Agent Michael Paul said Tuesday in announcing the reward on what would have been Haas' 48th birthday.

"The burden of that knowledge that they carry, the weight of knowing for so many decades without speaking, coming forward now can lift that burden off their shoulders, their heart and their soul," Paul said.

Haas' gravesite was vandalized shortly after friends and family were in town to visit the site in May 2020.

"The vandalism of the grave did indicate to us that someone in this area still is thinking about this and may have some knowledge about it," FBI special agent Matt Miller said.

Nebraska tax collections beat expectations in March

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Nebraska state government tax collections beat expectations in March, state officials said Thursday.

The Nebraska Department of Revenue reported net tax collections of \$363 million for the month, which is 18.6% higher than the certified forecast of \$306 million.

The increase was driven by higher-than-expected sales-and-use and individual and corporate income tax receipts. Miscellaneous tax receipts were lower than expected.

Tax collections are also up for the fiscal year, which ends on June 30. The state has netted \$4.133 billion so far in the fiscal year, which is 15.6% above the state's certified forecast of \$3.574 billion.

The comparisons are based on the July forecast made by the Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board, an appointed group that predicts how much tax revenue the state will collect.

Missouri River managers turn attention from flood to drought

YANKTON, SD (AP) - With anticipated continued drought, flooding likely won't be an issue this year in the upper Missouri River basin, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other federal officials.

Despite recent rainfall, the Yankton region remains a combination of abnormally dry and moderate drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. A similar situation is found in much of the upper basin.

Reservoir inflows in the basin above Sioux City, Iowa, were well-below average in March. The updated 2021 upper basin runoff forecast is 21.3 million acre-feet (MAF), 83% of average.

For the most part, the open winter provided much less runoff, according to Kevin Low with the Missouri River Basin Forecast Center.

"The flood risk over most of the Missouri River basin is much reduced because of the below-normal snowpack," he said. "You have the lack of plains snow and near average for mountain snowpack."

While some parts of the basin have received recent rainfall, the overall condition remains dry, said John Remus, chief of the Missouri River Basin Water Management Division.

"Abundant precipitation fell during March in the lower basin below Sioux City, Iowa. However, March precipitation was less than 50% of normal over much of the upper basin," Remus said.

"Due to the lack of plains snowpack in 2021, below-average mountain snowpack, and dry upper basin conditions, we expect upper basin runoff to be below average."

The runoff forecast is based on soil moisture conditions, plains and mountain snowpack and long-term precipitation and temperature outlooks, the Yankton Press and Dakotan reported.

Those conditions may not change much in the coming months, Low said.

The outlook for April-June calls for warmer-than-normal temperatures along the entire basin, Low said. The precipitation outlook shows odds favoring below-normal precipitation to the west but equal chances of above-, below- and normal throughout the rest of the basin.

The April-June outlook also calls for below-average precipitation with similar conditions expected beyond that time period, Low said.

"It looks like late summer July, August and September will be warmer than normal over the

entire basin," he said. "The precipitation outlook during the same three months suggests the entire Missouri River basin will see less than normal precipitation over the summer months."

A La Nina weather pattern out of the Pacific Ocean is expected to fade into neutral this spring, Low said. "Whether we have a La Nina or El Nino plays a very small role in forecasting summertime weather in the basin," he said.

Mountain snowpack in the upper Basin is accumulating at below-average rates. The April 1 mountain snowpack in the Fort Peck reach was 88%, and the mountain snowpack in the Fort Peck to Garrison reach was 94% of average.

By April 1, about 97% of the total mountain snowpack has typically accumulated. Currently, plains snowpack in the upper basin is light.

The reservoir system storage is currently 56.1 MAF, at the base of the annual flood control zone. The system is positioned to serve all congressionally-authorized purposes during 2021, including flood control, navigation and water supply.

Gavins Point Dam releases were increased near the end of March to begin flow support for Missouri River navigation. During the past month, Gavins Point saw average releases of 20,200 cfs. The current release rate stands at 29,000 cfs, while the forecast release rate is 29,500 cfs.

Remus said Gavins Point should continue to meet flow targets for navigation and continue operating as normal during repairs on lower Missouri River structures.

Fort Randall Dam at Pickstown, directly upstream of Gavins Point, saw average releases of 14,300 cfs during the past month. The figure allows for any tributary inflows between the two dams.

Fort Randall releases will be adjusted as necessary to maintain the desired reservoir elevation at Gavins Point and to back up Gavins Point releases.

Kevin Grode and Mike Swenson, both with the Missouri River Water Management Division, outlined details about meeting the needs of the system.

"The Corps' main priority is regulating the mainstem reservoirs so they operate safely," Grode said. "The operational decisions for the basin are driven by runoffs. The system is regulated to meet the eight congressionally-authorized purposes."

Flood control remains a priority, along with navigation and water supply, Grode said. Besides fulfilling those needs, the Corps also serves the other five areas of

hydropower, fish and wildlife, irrigation, water quality control and recreation.

"In making these operational decisions, (the Corps) will comply with all applicable federal laws," Grode said.

The Corps vacates water from the flood control and multiple use zone during the later summer, fall and winter, Grode said. The system will continue serving the authorized purposes while preparing the reservoirs for the following year's runoff.

The system receives 75% of the annual runoff from March to July, Grode said. The records of the annual runoff above Sioux City date back to 1898. The basin has seen great variability during those 123 years, but the 2021 forecast runoff would fall in the lowest one-fourth of all time, he added.

Swenson provided an update on the current reservoir conditions and the expected results for the authorized purposes in 2021.

As of April 5, the Fort Randall elevation was 1,354.3 feet above the base of the flood control zone and very close to the normal operating level of 1,355 feet this time of year.

All the 2020 flood water was evacuated from the reservoir system by mid-December, Swenson said. However, flooding can still occur due to downstream rainfall. The ability to reduce storages diminishes farther downstream because of the increased travel time and the uncontrolled drainage over large unregulated areas, he added.

Looking ahead, the river should be able to maintain a full navigation season, provide about 9.5 billion kilowatt-hours of hydropower, which is average, and provide recreation, water supply and irrigation, Swenson said.


In addition, the system holds enough storage to take care of fish and wildlife, including endangered species, he added.

The Corps conducts reservoir storage checks July 1 for scheduling the second half of the year and Sept. 1 for the winter flow release levels, Remus said.


However, the Corps evaluates its releases and forecasts every week, he said. If dealing with drought, the Corps looks at ways of meeting needs, he added.

"When it's below-normal runoff, we look at what is needed to be released every day to meet those targets, and that could fluctuate on a daily basis," he said.


"It's a zero-sum game. There is only so much water. If we release more water in April or May than we would normally, we have less water to release in August and September."












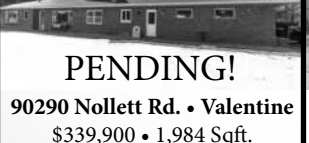





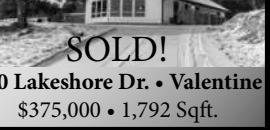
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Teen arrested on murder warrant in Nebraska mall shooting

OMAHA, (AP)—A teenage boy suspected in a shooting at a Nebraska mall that left one man dead and a woman injured was arrested Sunday on a murder warrant, police said.

Omaha Police said 16-year-old Makhi Woolridge-Jones is facing a first-degree murder charge in the shooting Saturday at the Westroads Mall in Omaha. Brandon Woolridge-Jones, 18, was earlier arrested on a charge of being an accessory to the shooting.

The two young men were identified as brothers in a previous court filing their mother submitted in 2016 for a protection order.

Police spokesman Officer Michael Pecha said investigators were not seeking any other suspects Sunday.

Terrified shoppers fled for cover

Some Nebraska college students to get \$3,000 in pandemic aid

OMAHA, (AP)—Nearly 3,000 students who attend one of Nebraska's state colleges will be eligible for up to \$3,000 in additional aid because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Full-time students who attend Chadron, Wayne or Peru state colleges during the 2021-2022 school year and who are eligible for federal Pell grants will qualify to receive the money that is part of the federal stimulus bill that approved last month.

The Nebraska State College System expects to receive more

as shots rang out around midday near a J.C. Penney store at the mall. Police said 21-year-old Trequetz Swift was shot and died at an Omaha hospital. A woman, 22-year-old Ja'Keya Veland, was wounded in her leg, but her injuries are not considered life-threatening.

Authorities have not described the circumstances leading up to the shooting, but said it was an isolated incident and not a random attack.

Last month, Omaha Police Officer Jeffrey Wittstruck was shot at four times by a 21-year-old man who was accused of shoplifting T-shirts from J.C. Penney at Westroads. Wittstruck survived.

In 2007, a gunman killed eight people and himself inside the Von Maur department store at Westroads.

than \$14 million from the federal government with half that money earmarked for students and the other half set to go to the colleges, spokeswoman Judi Yorges said to the Omaha World-Herald.

More than 2,800 students will qualify to receive the money, which can be used for any of their education costs or for emergency costs related to the coronavirus pandemic.

These grants are in addition to whatever scholarships and financial aid students already receive.

Group offers new options to see sandhill crane migration

by Robert Pore
The Grand Island Independent

GRAND ISLAND, (AP)—After a February of super cold weather, the sun's warmth has made its presence felt again in south-central Nebraska.

The warm weather and cool breezes from the south have aided the seasonal sandhill crane migration.

According to a recent aerial survey by the Crane Trust, the group estimates that about 450,000 sandhill cranes have made their way into the area during the first week of March.

That, according to the experts at the Crane Trust, is close to the sandhill cranes migration peak and it still is early in the season.

What is missing this season, though, are the people. Each year, thousands of people from across Nebraska, the United States and many other countries make a pilgrimage to the Platte River to watch the annual migration, which has been called one of the largest on Earth.

Last year, at this time, the Crane Trust had to close its public blinds because of the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Even with the help of masks, social distancing and vaccines, and with the nation starting to see a light at the end of the pandemic tunnel, The Grand Island Independent reports the Crane Trust is keeping the blinds closed again this year.

The Crane Trust has two public blinds along the Platte River, south of Interstate 80, on Alda Road. The blinds can accommodate more than 40 people in close quarters, which the Crane Trust officials determined was not safe especially as the visitors are from throughout the U.S. and from around the world.

Having the Crane Trust Visitor and Nature Center closed and not having tours during migration season creates a financial strain on the Crane Trust as a lot of their yearly operating revenues are earned during the migration season, according to Crane Trust officials.

The Crane Trust Inc. was formed in 1978 as part of a court-approved settlement of a controversy over the construction of Grayrocks Dam on a tributary of the Platte River in Wyoming. Its main thrust is land maintenance along the Platte River in providing overnight accommodation for the cranes, whooping cranes and other endangered species or migratory birds that use the Platte River as a respite for their annual migration to their breeding grounds in the north.

While the Crane Trust received an endowment to do its conservation and research for migratory and endangered wildlife, the spectacle of hundreds of thousands of migrating birds also proved to be an educational opportunity to show the public the importance of its work, along with allowing people to experience this natural phenomenon up close and personally.

So, this year, the Crane Trust looked outside the box for a solution.

Instead of having people come to see this extravaganza in person (which is their preference) they took the spectacle to the people via technology.

Like many things during the ongoing pandemic, experiencing things virtually, whether it is meetings or tours or presentations, has become part of the COVID-19 routine.

Crane Trust officials, working diligently, put up a closed circuit camera that can be operated and narrated by a Crane Trust expert

to create a virtual experience that people around the world may tune into during the migration season from the comfort of their home. It is like being in the blind, but without the weather, which at times can be cold and miserable during late winter and early spring.

"The virtual crane experience was instituted this year because we were unable to have the public in for tours this year," said Sandra Douglas, Crane Trust community coordinator. "We had thought about it for a long time, but this (pandemic) gave us motivation this year to go ahead with the project."

To provide the best virtual experience, Douglas said they installed fiber optic cable and a state-of-the-art camera along the river, looking to the west along the Platte River from the Crane Trust headquarters. That gives the viewer an expansive view of the river and its lodgers the cranes to see. The operation is flexible and can be moved to provide the best location for experiencing the cranes.

The camera is controlled by an operator inside the headquarters. "We have been able to get amazing close-up shots with this camera, which you can only get sometimes with binoculars from inside the blinds," Douglas said.

To access the virtual crane experience, Douglas said the annual membership fee is \$75. While the virtual crane experience is not a substitute to seeing the cranes up close and personally, it is a tremendous buy as you can participate in the tour experience every time it is available for the low, one-time cost compared with the \$30-plus cost of a one-time personal blind tour.

"Our members can have 24/7 access to the camera portal," Douglas said.

Along with cranes, on any given day, members can view an array of migratory birds, such as pelicans, eagles, ducks, geese and even the endangered whooping crane.

While viewers cannot manipulate the camera, they can tune in on what the camera sees at any time.

During the crane migration season, the camera operator is at the controls about a half-an-hour before sunrise and a hour before sundown when the cranes come home to roost on the river for the night. Each tour last 90 minutes. The tours are conducted Wednesday through Sunday, when a guide can conduct the tour and answer questions.

"We can point to things as they happen and intersperse the conversation with facts about the crane," Douglas said.

Douglas said the Crane Trust probably will continue the virtual crane experience once the public blinds are reopened during migration season. But, they also hope that the virtual crane experience will draw people to central Nebraska to see it for themselves.

"More and more people are learning about the migration and the importance of maintaining this habitat," she said.

The virtual tours will continue through March 31.

"It is evolving as we do it, but we are finding a tremendous interest and response," Douglas said.

BBB Scam Alert: Survey scam is back with a COVID-19 twist

April 5, 2021 —Did you receive a text with a survey about your vaccine? It's one of those scams that just keep reappearing... each time with a new twist. This time, the phony survey claims to be from pharmaceutical company Pfizer, with questions about their COVID-19 vaccine.

How the Scam Works: You receive an email or text message that claims to be from Pfizer, one of the pharmaceutical companies producing an approved COVID-19 vaccine. In some versions, the message claims that you will receive money for completing a quick survey. Other versions offer a "free" product.

It sounds easy, but don't click the link! These survey scams have a variety of tricks. The link may lead to a real survey, which upon completion, prompts you to sign up for a "free trial offer." Victims reported to BBB Scam Tracker that they entered their credit card information to pay what they thought was a shipping fee. Instead, the scammers billed them many times more and never sent the product. In other versions, the form is actually a phishing scam that requests banking and credit card information.

Just because scammers are currently impersonating Pfizer doesn't mean the other COVID-19 vaccine producers are off the hook. Watch out for variations claiming to be from Johnson & Johnson and Moderna, too.

How to Spot a Survey Scam:

In general, it's best not to click on links that come in unsolicited emails. Here are some more ways to spot a malicious email just in case your spam filter doesn't catch it.

The email claims to have information about you, but you never

signed up for it. Scams often pretend to be personalized for you, but they are actually blast emails. Don't fall for this! If you never signed up for emails from a company, you shouldn't be receiving them.

Pushes you to act immediately: Scammers typically try to push you into action before you have had time to think. Always be wary of emails urging you to act immediately or face a consequence.

Watch for typos, strange phrasing and bad grammar. Scammers can easily copy a brand's name, but awkward wording and poor grammar are typically a giveaway that the message is a scam. For example, one version of the survey scam impersonating Pfizer uses the wrong company logo.

Hover over URLs to reveal their true destination. Typically, the hyperlinked text will say one thing, but the link will point somewhere else. Make sure the links actually lead to the business's official website, not a variation of the domain name.

For More Information Read more about coronavirus scams on the Federal Trade Commission's website and on BBB.org/coronavirus. Learn more about the disease at the CDC's FAQ page.

BBB has identified many ways in which scammers are cashing in on the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more about clinical trial scams, contract tracing cons, counterfeit face masks, and government agency impostors.

If you've spotted a scam (whether or not you've lost money), report it to BBB.org/ScamTracker. Your report can help others avoid falling victim to scams. Find more information about scams and how to avoid them at BBB.org/Avoid-Scams.

Nebraska unemployment rate hits 2.9%, tied for lowest in U.S.

LINCOLN, (AP)—Nebraska's unemployment rate in March dropped to 2.9%, tying the state for the lowest rate in the country.

The Nebraska Department of Labor reported Friday that the rate was down from 3.1% in February and marked a 0.2% decline from March 2020.

"Nebraska's seasonally adjusted

unemployment rate has reached pre-pandemic levels," Commissioner of Labor John H. Albin said in a news release.

Nebraska's rate was tied with South Dakota, Utah and Vermont for lowest in the nation.

The national rate for March was 6%.

Millennial Money: Get tough money tasks off your to-do list

by Sara Rathner of NerdWallet

Nothing sparks procrastination quite like a to-do list of financial tasks. Sometimes the only thing scarier than making a financial choice in the first place is making the WRONG choice, which can happen when you don't totally understand what you're doing. In that sense, the default standing pat is often easiest.

Tackling money-related chores can be difficult even for those of us who write about this stuff for a living. The mere mention of rolling over old 401(k)s elicited eyerolls from a few of my colleagues in a recent video meeting. But delaying these tasks can cost you a lot in the long run, like if you're paying fees on the bank account or credit card you plan to switch, or you're delaying opening an investment account and missing out on possible gains.

Thankfully, you can trick yourself into productivity by rethinking how you approach your financial to-do list.

START WITH YOUR 'WHY'

"Giving yourself a 10-item to-do list of tasks you won't enjoy is the perfect recipe for procrastination," Meera Meyer, a financial planner in Boulder, Colorado, said in an email. Meyer has her clients review their financial goals, then consider why an item is on their to-do list in the first place. Cross-checking your goals with your list may inspire you to keep that list short.

This exercise can also help you prioritize the remaining tasks, so you know exactly where to get started.

DIVIDE BIG TASKS INTO SMALL BITES

A big, vague goal is a surefire path to inaction. But when you break that goal down into pieces, it begins to feel doable. Even a tiny step is progress.

"Sometimes, just downloading that initial statement is the jolt you need to get on track," Meyer said. "A lot of the time, once you've downloaded that statement, you realize that you might as well keep on going through as much of the process as you can."

Lauren Martin of Portland, Oregon, describes herself as a diligent saver, and that left her with a good problem to have: what to do with additional savings once she fully funded her emergency account. She set a goal of opening her first taxable brokerage account, but she found the prospect of taking that first step toward investing to be daunting.

"It seemed like it was for other people, like wealthy people or day traders," she says. "It was still a couple months before I actually went through with it because the process seemed intimidating."

Learning more about how to open and fund a brokerage account, as well as understanding any tax implications of selling

investments, helped Martin feel ready to take action. To her surprise, she realized how little time each step took.

"It was super easy," she says. "I built it up to be this crazy complicated thing. It took me maybe 10 minutes to open the account."

DO THE RIGHT KIND OF RESEARCH

Research and comparison shopping are a big part of making a financial decision and can help you feel confident in your choices. But eventually, the research must end and the action must begin. If you feel stuck, here are some ways to move forward:

IDENTIFY WHERE YOU LACK KNOWLEDGE: You may be afraid to make a move because you have unanswered questions. List your knowledge gaps and start finding answers. Articles from reputable sources can help, as can talking to experts like a financial adviser.

SHOP AROUND, BUT WITHIN A LIMITED SCOPE: If you're seeking a new financial product like a bank account or credit card, comparison websites and other resources can help you weigh contenders. Be careful, though. It can be easy to get trapped in this phase, paralyzed by the overwhelming number of products on the market. Limit yourself to a handful of options.


WHEN IN DOUBT, ASK FOR HELP: Sometimes picking up the phone can save you hours of searching online to identify the steps you need to take. When Matt Iadone of Boston decided to roll over an old 401(k) into a new account, he hesitated because he didn't know how to begin. He called the account providers and got the forms he needed to fill out. "It was actually a fairly simple process," he says. "Once I learned the steps, accomplishing the goal was easy." HOLD YOURSELF ACCOUNTABLE

You've prioritized your goals, picked the one to tackle first and broken it down into small tasks. Now, assign deadlines and set calendar reminders to nudge you along the way. It may help to work with an accountability buddy whether that's someone you share expenses with, like a partner or roommate, or a friend who's working toward their own goals.

Regular check-ins with your buddy can encourage you to get stuff done. You may also turn to a financial planner or coach who can assist you in crossing items off your list. The important thing is to get started.

"Don't put off things that are going to be important to getting your financial future on track, because time is money," Martin says.

This column was provided to The Associated Press by the personal finance website NerdWallet. Sara Rathner is a writer at NerdWallet. Email: srathner(at)nerdwallet.com. Twitter: (at)SaraKRathner.



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Spring Lawn Mower Service



With the end of winter comes the beginning of lawn-mowing season. After sitting all winter, it is important to get your lawn mower ready for another season of making your lawn look great. Tehrani Motors can tune-up and service your mower, including free pickup and delivery.

Lawn mower service includes:

- **Push Mower:** \$59.95
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- **Single Cylinder Rider/Zero Turn:** \$169.95
Includes Oil, Oil Filter, Air Filter, Pre Filter, Spark Plug, Fuel Filter, Blade Sharpening & Labor
- **Twin Cylinder Rider/Zero Turn:** \$189.95
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News Briefs

Fischer inducted into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

Vaughan Fischer of Valentine, was recently initiated into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Fischer was initiated at University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Fischer is among approximately 30,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

UNL scholarship recipients

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has set a record in offering more than 6,100 university wide scholarships to the 2021 graduating class from Nebraska high schools. About four out of five admitted resident students have been offered an academic scholarship. The university is also on pace to receive a record number of first-year applications.

Descriptions of the scholarships are below:
David Distinguished Tuition Scholarships recognize students for their academic merit and are \$3,500, with the potential for renewal for up to four years. The scholarships are funded in part from a trust established in 1973 by the late Adrian H. David, a Minneapolis attorney, in honor of his parents. Adrian David was a 1908 graduate of the University of Nebraska College of Law.

The Husker Study and Stay Scholarship is a one-year, \$1,200 tuition award plus a four-year, \$500 housing credit for students who have demonstrated academic promise.

The Husker Traditions Scholarship is a \$2,000 renewable scholarship awarded to Nebraska residents who have demonstrated high academic potential.

The Husker Power Scholarship is a one-year, \$1,500 scholarship awarded to Nebraska residents who have demonstrated high academic promise.

The Regents Scholar Tuition Commitment is awarded to Nebraska students who have demonstrated academic excellence and is among the most prestigious awards granted by the university. This award pays full tuition for full-time students, with the potential for renewal at a value of nearly \$30,000 over four years.

Following is a list of area scholarship earners:
Cody-Kilgore High School: Abigayle Donner, Husker Power and Emmalea Olson, Husker Study and Stay.
Thedford High School: Rhiannon Painter, Husker Traditions.
Valentine High School: Timothy Egelhoff, Husker Traditions; Ryan O'Kief, Regents; Jonah Perrett, Husker Power; Haylee Richards, Husker Traditions; Delaney Robison, Regents; Hadley Rodgers, Husker Power; Elliana Springer, Regents; Calvin Stoeger, David and Christopher Williams, Husker Power.

Valentine High School Weekly Calendar

Wednesday, April 21	
Mental Mornings	7:20 a.m.
FBLA officer meeting	7:30 a.m.
Victor-E Days	2:00-3:31 p.m.
Thursday, April 22	
Varsity Track at West Holt depart 11:00 a.m.	2:00 p.m.
Varsity Golf at Hershey depart 7:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
JV Golf at Thedford depart 8:00 a.m.	10:00 a.m.
Bionic Team fundraiser deadline	4:00 p.m.
Friday, April 23	
District Music at West Holt-depart at 6:00 a.m.	
Choir performs at 8:28 a.m. Band performs at 10:52 a.m.	
College scholarships deadline	
Saturday, April 24	
Valentine INTERACT Co-ed volleyball tournament	8:30 a.m.
Monday, April 26	
High School spring concert	7:00 p.m.
Blood Drive in Multi-Purpose Room	
Tuesday, April 27	
Middle School Track at Winner	3:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 28	
FBLA officer meeting	7:30 a.m.

Scholarships

Valentine Education Association

The Valentine Education Association will be offering a \$250 scholarship to a local college student. Applicants must be majoring in education and be a junior or senior in college for the 2021-2022 year. Applicants for this scholarship must submit a letter of application stating goals and reasons for majoring in education, as well as a resume with current GPA and two letters of reference. One reference letter should be from a school employee and the other from the community at large. The letters may be included with the application or mailed separately. If you have further questions, email Ronelle Kilmer at rkilmer@vcsbadger.net. Scholarship applications are due May 1, 2021, to Ronelle Kilmer, Valentine High School, 431 N. Green Street, Valentine, Nebraska 69201.

Responsible Beverage Server Training offered to alcohol retailers

North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) and the Area Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition (ASAP) will provide six Responsible Beverage Server Trainings (RBST) in the district. There is no cost for the training, however pre-registration is required.

RBST trains servers and sellers of alcohol to create a safe and responsible environment to sell, serve, and consume alcohol, enhances skills to address difficult situations, stresses the importance of checking identification, and provides tools to avoid overserving the intoxicated, serving to the underage person or selling to someone that is buying for the underage. Program participants are trained by certified instructors to detect the signs of intoxication and gain the confidence needed to intervene effectively to prevent alcohol-related problems.

TIPS (Training for Prevention

Procedures Program) is a curriculum for Responsible Beverage Server Training. Attendance is encouraged for all who serve alcohol, who own an alcohol establishment, or work for a licensed alcohol retailer.

Valentine Prairie Club, Valentine, May 11, 2021
On Premise: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Off Premise 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.
Internal Design, Springview, May 25, 2021
Off Premise: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
On Premise 12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
Holt County Annex, O'Neill, May 26, 2021
Off Premise: 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
On Premise 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
Online trainings are also available.

By providing TIPS training to owner/managers of alcohol retail businesses and their staff, the ASAP Coalition and NCDHD are addressing the issues of underage drinking, and drinking and driving across the lifespan. Funding from Region 4 Behavioral Health grant # B08TI010034-21 and the Drug-Free Communities grant NH28CE2020000792 have made these training possible. For more information about an upcoming training in your area, call Whitney at 402-336-2406.

LUNCH MENUS

Cody-Kilgore School

Monday, April 26 - Breakfast: Cody - Breakfast bar, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, and milk. **Kilgore -** Breakfast bar, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, and milk. **Lunch: Cody -** Cabbage or taco burger, mac and cheese, peas, fruit, salad bar and milk. **Kilgore -** Chicken strips, bread, lettuce, relish tray, fruit, and milk.
Tuesday, April 27 - Breakfast: Cody - Bagels w/cream cheese, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, and milk. **Kilgore -** Mini banana bread, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, and milk. **Lunch: Cody -** Hot dog or cheddarwurst, waffle fries, beans, bread, fruit, salad bar, and milk. **Kilgore -** Tacos or taco salad, corn, bread, lettuce, relish tray, fruit, and milk.
Wednesday, April 28 - Breakfast: Cody - Breakfast sandwich, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, and milk. **Kilgore -** Egg and cheese omelet, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, and milk. **Lunch: Cody -** Beefy nachos or taco salad, bread, fruit, salad bar, and milk. **Kilgore -** Pork ribs, fries, bread, lettuce, relish tray, fruit, and milk.
Thursday, April 29 - Breakfast: Cody - French toast or Texas toast, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, and milk. **Kilgore -** Cereal, toast, fruit, juice, and milk. **Lunch: Cody -** Tator tot casserole, bread, fruit, salad bar, milk. **Kilgore -** Cooks choice, bread, lettuce, relish tray, fruit, juice, and milk.
Friday, April 30 - No school!!

*** All menus subject to last minute change!!

Valentine High School

Monday, April 26 - Breakfast: Egg and cheese taco roll, cereal choices w/Goldfish Grahams, Smucker's peanut butter and jelly Uncrustable, peaches, juice and milk choices. **Lunch:** Baked ham and cheese sub, grilled chicken sandwich, beef goulash w/garlic breadstick, corn, baby carrots, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.
Tuesday, April 27 - Breakfast: Chocolate iced longjohn, cereal choices w/Goldfish Grahams, Smucker's peanut butter and jelly Uncrustable, applesauce, juice and milk choices. **Lunch:** Baked combo sub, cheeseburger, loaded hash browns w/dinner roll, candied carrots, broccoli, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.
Wednesday, April 28 - Breakfast: Sausage biscuit sandwich, cereal choices w/Goldfish Grahams, Smucker's peanut butter and jelly Uncrustable, pineapple tidbits, juice and milk choices. **Lunch:** Oven roasted hot dog, cheese quesadilla w/chicken enchilada soup, Asian salad with roasted flatbread, tator tots, carrots, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.
Thursday, April 29 - Breakfast: Pancake sausage stick, cereal choices w/Goldfish Grahams, Smucker's peanut butter and jelly Uncrustable, pears, juice and milk choices. **Lunch:** Baked ham and cheese sub, popcorn chicken bites, BBQ rib sandwich, baked beans, broccoli, cinnamon bun, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.
Friday, April 30 - Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, cereal choices w/Goldfish Grahams, Smucker's peanut butter and jelly Uncrustable, orange slices, juice and milk choices. **Lunch:** Baked ham and turkey sub, beef and bean burrito, Pizza Hut pizza, green beans, baby carrots, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.

**Menus are subject to change without notice!!

Valentine Middle School

Monday, April 26 - Breakfast: Egg and cheese taco roll, cereal choices, toast, peaches, juice and milk choices. **Lunch:** Baked ham and cheese sub, grilled chicken sandwich, goulash, corn, baby carrots, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.
Tuesday, April 27 - Breakfast: Baked sausage biscuit sandwich, cereal choices with toast, applesauce, juice and milk choices. **Lunch:** Baked combo sub, cheeseburger, loaded hash browns w/dinner roll, candied carrots, broccoli, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.
Wednesday, April 28 - Breakfast: Chocolate iced long john, cereal choices with toast, pineapple tidbits, juice and milk choices. **Lunch:** Oven roasted hot dog, stuffed cheese quesadilla, Asian salad with roasted flatbread, tator tots, baby carrots, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.
Thursday, April 29 - Breakfast: Waffles w/syrup, cereal choices with toast, pears, juice and milk choices. **Lunch:** Baked ham and cheese sub, BBQ rib sandwich, popcorn chicken bites, baked beans, broccoli, cinnamon bun, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.
Friday, April 30 - Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, cereal choices with toast, orange slices, juice and milk choices. **Lunch:** Baked ham and turkey sub, taco burger, cheese pizza, pepperoni pizza, green beans, baby carrots, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.

** Menus are subject to change without notice!!

Valentine Elementary School

Monday, April 26 - Breakfast: Egg and cheese taco roll, cereal choices, toast, peaches, juice and milk choices. **Lunch:** Grilled chicken sandwich, goulash, corn, baby carrots, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.
Tuesday, April 27 - Breakfast: Baked sausage biscuit sandwich, cereal choices with toast, applesauce, juice and milk choices. **Lunch:** Cheeseburger, loaded hash browns w/dinner roll, candied carrots, broccoli, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.
Wednesday, April 28 - Breakfast: Chocolate iced long john, cereal choices with toast, pineapple tidbits, juice and milk choices. **Lunch:** Oven roasted hot dog, stuffed cheese quesadilla, tator tots, baby carrots, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.
Thursday, April 29 - Breakfast: Waffles w/syrup, cereal choices with toast, pears, juice and milk choices. **Lunch:** BBQ rib sandwich, popcorn chicken bites, baked beans, broccoli, cinnamon bun, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.
Friday, April 30 - Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, cereal choices with toast, orange slices, juice and milk choices. **Lunch:** Cheese pizza, pepperoni pizza, taco burger, green beans, baby carrots, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.

** Menus are subject to change without notice!!

Valentine Senior Center

Thursday, April 22 - Creamed hamburger over mashed potatoes, broccoli, biscuit, apricots.
Friday, April 23 - Oven fried chicken, baked potato, cauliflower, roll, peaches.
Monday, April 26 - Tater tot casserole, green beans, bread, pineapple.
Tuesday, April 27 - Pork roast, mashed potatoes, corn, biscuit, apricots.
Wednesday, April 28 - Turkey, mashed potatoes, squash, bread, pumpkin bar, pears.

HOME DELIVERY OR CURBSIDE PICKUP
Please call with your meal reservation by 9:00 a.m. the day of the meal or up to a week in advance, 402-376-1400.

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"Her Dark Lies" by J.T. Ellison
"The Incredible Winston Browne" by Sean Dietrich
"A Matter of Life and Death" by Phillip Margolin
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224 N Ray St, Valentine, \$44,000-REDUCED-1,900 sq ft, fixer-upper, 2 units, enclosed front porch, chain-link fence, 12'x46' pull through garage.

824 W 3rd St, Valentine, \$72,500 - 1,948 sq ft, 2+ bedrooms, 1 bath, one level, propane fireplace, front patio, fenced backyard.

711 N Wood St, Valentine, \$195,000 - 1,184 sq ft per level, 1+/- acre lot, 3+2 bedrooms, 2 baths, apartment style basement, garage converted to storage & workshop.



514 N Macomb St, Valentine, \$149,000 - 1,086 sq ft, 3 bedrooms, 2 bath, newly renovated, LG stainless appliances, low maintenance lawn, updated exterior.

ACREAGE/LOT

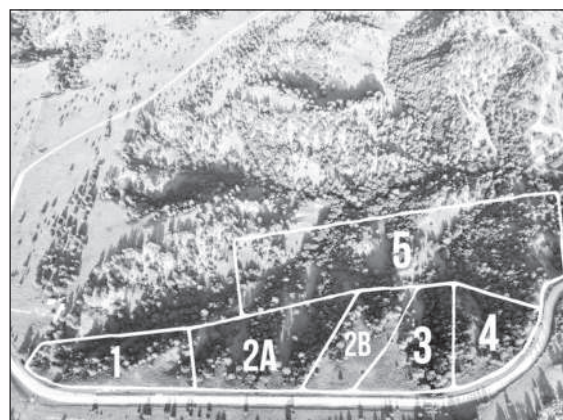
3 Vacant Lots Trail Drive Valentine, \$30,000-lots average 85'x106', zoned Single Family, recently cleared, ready for improvements.

3 Scenic Lots Willey Hills Addition, Valentine, \$49,500/Lot- each lot 1 +/-Acre, zoned Residential, water/electricity readily available, splendid views.

26.5+/- Acres 87850 424th Ave, Ainsworth, \$159,000-REDUCED-1,910 sq ft, 1 1/2 story home, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2-car garage, convenient access to Hwy 20.

NEW-49.5+/- Acres Borman Bridge Road, Valentine, \$346,500-bath house, shop, RV service, livestock corral/fence, spectacular views, near Niobrara River.

21+/- Acres Hatchery Rd, Valentine, \$439,000-2,560 sq ft, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, one level, shop, borders Government Canyon.



29.58+/- Acres Berry Bridge Rd, Valentine, \$169,657-offered as 1 unit or in 5 tracts, building sites, outdoor enthusiast's paradise, income potential, 1/2 mile from the Niobrara River.

COMMERCIAL

311 W Hwy 20, Valentine, \$52,500-REDUCED-60'x176' commercial lot, improvements, Hwy 20 frontage.

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1101 E 9th St, Valentine
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601 N Hall St, Valentine
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300 W 5th St, Cody

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Classified Display\$6.50 per inch
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Valentine, NE 69201

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Classified deadline-Friday, 5 p.m.
Display deadline-Friday, 12:00 p.m.

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813 W. 3rd St. Apt. 7: Thursday, April 22, 1:00-5:00 p.m.; Friday, April 23, 1:00-5:00 p.m.; Saturday, April 24, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Sunday, April 25, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Lots of housewares, little bit of everything. (16P)

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LOOKING FOR white tail and bird hunting properties to purchase with water. Even better if on or near the Niobrara River. Anywhere from 50-500 acres. I am not a realtor, serious buyer. Call or text Paul 970-999-2387. (16-19P)

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STORAGE UNITS: Call Heart City Storage Solutions at 402-376-1885 or visit heartcitystoragesolutions.com for pricing and availability. (1TF)

STORAGE UNITS: 10'x20' and 10'x40'. Contact TJC Storage, 402-389-2087. Short and long term contracts. (6-52P)

COMMERCIAL SPACE/office, 1,500 sq. ft., bathroom, CA, water and sewer provided. \$550/month. 402-322-1124 or 214-952-9777. (14-39P)

OFFICE SPACE: Approximately 840 square feet of office space available in Valentine. Call 402-376-1885 for more information. (15-16A)

HELP WANTED

CNAs AT Pioneer Memorial Rest Home in Mullen. Morning, afternoon and night shifts available. Competitive pay and benefits available. Work with wonderful residents and caring staff! Contact Nicole at 308-546-2217 for more information. (13-16A)

RNs/LPNs at Pioneer Memorial Nursing Home in Mullen. Full-time or part-time nights, as well as week-day and weekend shifts available. Competitive wages and benefits available. Work with awesome residents and dedicated staff! For more information, contact Nicole at 308-546-2217. (14-17A)

CUSTODIAL POSITION at St. Nicholas Catholic Church. Please call 402-376-1672. (16-17A)

HELP WANTED: CREEK ENTERPRISE, INC., a telecom construction company is looking for A CDL drivers, equipment operators, and laborers for a seasonal project in Valentine and Cherry County, Nebraska, with estimated start date of April 12-October 1, 2021. Minimum age 21yrs. All applicants must have clean driving record. Class E driver's license preferred at time of hire. All applicants must be willing to work in all weather conditions and be willing to work long hours. All applicants considered for hire will be drug tested. All employees are subject to random BAC and drug testing. Pay will be based on experience.

Contact Marty, (573) 592-7102
mmaher@creekenterprise.com

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Details on these jobs and applications can be found on the Todd County School District website: www.tcsdk12.org. For further information, contact Richard Medema, TCSD Human Resource Director, 605-856-3501, or email Richard.Medema@tcsdk12.sd.us

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- Nursing Home Med Aide-Full Time
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A piano lesson

During my 40 years of teaching piano, I had many interesting students and parents. Some children were brilliant musically ... and I tried to pass them on to others who could address their skill level. Others were there because Mom knew how valuable music lessons could be.

But one student often came in tears. She was progressing mildly; and I assumed her tears meant she didn't really want to be there. So we tried to work through pieces she could accomplish, things she liked to play. But I never felt I was hitting the mark for her.

My recitals were held at a local Alzheimer's Care facility and in the adjacent Assisted Living across the parking lot.

I felt it was an important event for everyone; and it was large enough to accommodate more parents there than would be in our home. It was so important to me that everyone attend that I called the recital a fourth lesson in the month, and parents included that in their monthly payment as one of the four lessons. You can imagine with the various musical abilities of students I had that some pieces lasted 30 or 40 seconds while others lasted two or three minutes. Each was valued and special to me.

One Friday I received a hand written note placed in our mailbox from a piano mom who lived in our neighborhood. I realized it looked important and opened it at once. Inside was a brief, handwritten request: "You can take our name off your list of students for the fall. She won't be back!" Further she expressed her anger that I would charge for a recital when her daughter had less than a minute at the piano. I felt stunned after reading this crisp communication. I was especially sad for my student. I began to understand why she may have been coming in tears most weeks. I sat down to compose myself and sort out my feelings.

I had mistakenly thought that everyone knew what I knew about this experience for my students: It was a win-win-win for students, parents and residents! The children could have stood up in front and smiled and those residents would have been just as pleased to have them come. Some never had company. As I composed something to her, I apologized for not explaining well how I planned

for and experienced the recital. I knew it was far better, more motivational and musically boosting than anything I could say or do in a 30 minute lesson. The students could get a taste of music played by older students that might draw them forward. The parents could beam with delight at their child, and realize how the practice had paid off ... or not.

Siblings could be inspired in their future musical endeavors. The residents thoroughly enjoyed hearing Chopin or Bach even if it was from a Year 1 book. (And one little girl discovered she loved helping the residents back to their rooms. That was her look-forward-to moment!) But I hadn't communicated that well. It was a stinging rebuke.

I tucked my return reply into an envelope along with the check she sent and another amount for the recital she felt wasn't worth the payment. That day I put it in her mailbox...and never heard from them again.

I was sad because her daughter wasn't able to see us resolve this issue as mature adults. I was sad because mom didn't know how to get "un-mad." Her girls wouldn't learn how to return to joy from anger; and they would face the same brick wall and broken relationship one day. And I was sad that I hadn't communicated well, when I thought everyone understood the value of those recitals on three levels. And of course the teacher over in the corner usually shed a tear or two as she listened, feeling such joy! Each student was mine for this designated time in their life. The most important thing wasn't even the music. It was the joy of being together for that 30 minute weekly window. Some parents would say, "Even when my son/daughter doesn't practice they enjoy coming to their lesson."

Building joy with my students became the goal. I'd make sure at some point I looked them in the eye, and without words, I communicated to them "I'm so glad to be with you today! You're important to me."

I'm retired and glad for that, but especially grateful for the years of impact and relationship building that God allowed. I had many piano "lessons."

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Romans 12:18

POINTS TO PONDER

Pam Keech Bryan

"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone."

Romans 12:18

UTV accident claims the life of Charity Miles-Delawyer

Cherry County Attorney, Eric A. Scott, has confirmed that a Cherry County resident was killed Sunday evening, April 18, 2021, UTV accident south west of Valentine.

Charity Miles-Delawyer, age 32, of Valentine, was driving a Honda Pioneer, on private property when the accident occurred.

Charity was transferred by Theford Rescue to Cherry County Hospital where she was later pronounced deceased.

Nebraska declines federal request to house migrant children

LINCOLN – Governor Pete Ricketts issued a statement following a request to Nebraska from the Biden-Harris Administration to house displaced migrant children.

"President Biden has created an immigration crisis on our border with thousands of unaccompanied migrant children coming to our country without their parents or family," said Governor Ricketts. "Right now, the Biden-Harris Administration is contacting states to take these children. Nebraska is declining their request because we are reserving our resources for serving our kids. I do not want our kids harmed as the result of President Biden's bad policies."

"When the Trump Administration expanded the policy of separating children from their families, many, including myself, urged them to keep children and families together. The Biden Administration should focus on working with Central American governments to reunite the children with their families in their home countries instead of pursuing the risky strategy of scattering them across the United States."

VALENTINE POLICE REPORT



03-28-21 TO 04-03-21

CALLS		
Abandoned 911	1	911 call received from a non-existing address. That's not creepy at all!
Abuse/Neglect	1	Child abuse case called in. There is NO excuse that makes this ok!
Animal Complaint	4	Two smiling escape artists that really were enjoying their outing were captured by the darn ole cops. Dogs gone wild!
Assist Citizen	11	
Assist Other Law	2	Officers assisted the Rosebud Tribal Police, RDAP of Valentine, Cherry County Hospital, Nebraska CPS, Cherry County EMS and the Nebraska State Patrol this week.
Assist Other Agency	11	
Business Check	33	
Cherry County Court	1	
Civil Matter/Standby	2	
Code Violation	3	Complaints were received for people parking with the left side of their vehicle to the curb (facing the wrong way), vehicles with expired registrations, dogs on the loose (officers knew them by name) and tree branches everywhere.
Complaint	5	Received a complaint of occupants of a vehicle passing a Jack Daniels bottle around. Jack Daniel's had a surge in popularity after the whiskey received the gold medal for the finest whiskey at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair. However, its local reputation began to suffer as the temperance movement (1920 to 1933) began gaining strength in Tennessee.
Criminal Mischief	1	Fella broke out a window and fled. Came back the next day to remedy the situation. Intoxication was suspected in the lack of initial judgement.
Criminal Trespass	1	
Follow Up Investigation	6	"Hostage situation" called into the 911 center. Turned out to be a bit of an exaggeration. Everybody was fine and actually wanted to be where they were.
Fraud	1	United Postal Service scam was making the rounds in Valentine. Reminder to not give out personal information.
Public Relations	1	
Red Tag	1	
Special Assignment	2	Officer found a vehicle in the middle of the road with the whole wheel that fell off. That certainly was not going to work. The wheels on the bus were not going round and round.
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	3	Kiddos left in the car alone was called in. They were way too young to be left in that situation. Parents were located.
Training	2	
Traffic Stop	10	Traffic stops were made for speeding, expired plates this week. One traffic stop for an easily remedied issue resulted in serious felony charges and the seizure of drugs.
Welfare Check	5	
Total Calls	107	

Work has begun on N-97, between Tryon and Mullen

North Platte - Work has begun on N-97, according to the Nebraska Department of Transportation.

Paulsen Inc., of Cozad, has the \$10,360,006 contract. Work includes grading, asphalt, drainage structures, erosion control and seeding, from Reference Post 44+27 to Reference Post 56+88.

Traffic will be maintained with a 10-foot width restriction and lane closures utilizing flaggers and a pilot car, in addition to temporary traffic signals for a portion of the

work at the Dismal River location. Between May 17 and June 6, a road closure will be in effect. See attached detour map. Anticipated completion is November 2021.

Motorists are reminded to drive cautiously in and near work zones, to buckle up, and to put phones down.

Reprinted with permission by the Hooker County Tribune.

Nebraska bill would require casinos to display human trafficking posters

by Celena Shepherd
Nebraska News Service

LINCOLN--Nebraska lawmakers gave second-round approval April 6, 2021, to a bill that combats human trafficking through the display of human trafficking informational posters in casinos.

Last November, the voters of Nebraska passed three ballot initiatives allowing for expanded gambling. Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks of Lincoln introduced LB461, which would ensure casinos are included in a statutory requirement for displaying the posters.

"Clearly, law enforcement routinely recognizes that casinos are hubs for human trafficking so it is especially important to make sure that these new establishments are among those required to post these signs," Pansing Brooks said.

The posters would include helpful information and phone numbers for assistance, like the National Human Trafficking Hotline. The hotline reported 237 contacts from Nebraska in 2019.

Human trafficking is an umbrella term when force, fraud, or coercion are used to obtain a person for labor, services or sexual acts.

Bill co-sponsor Sen. Julie Slama of Peru said Pansing Brooks' bill is a step in the right direction to end human trafficking in Nebraska.

"She has truly been a champion for this issue," Slama said. "And as someone who served with her on the Judiciary Committee and

studied this topic for a few years now myself, her work has really saved lives in this state."

Current law requires the placement of human trafficking posters at Nebraska rest stops and strip clubs. The Department of Labor works with the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force to develop and place informational posters around the state.

The task force was created in 2015 and consists of law enforcement, prosecutors, advocates, providers and community partners, overseen by the Nebraska Attorney General's Office. Its goals are to find human trafficking in Nebraska, stop traffickers, and recognize each victim.

In the 2020 task force's report, Nebraska saw an increase in human trafficking cases with 57 new statewide prosecutions. The number was 33 the year prior.

Since 2006, more than 10 bills passed in the Legislature related to human trafficking, which strengthened law enforcement's ability to prosecute and convict human trafficking crimes in Nebraska.

In addition to Slama, Sens. Suzanne Geist of Lincoln and Tom Brewer of Gordon co-sponsored the bill.

"This bill is important to Nebraskans because awareness needs to be higher about what the signs of human trafficking are," Brewer said. "Interstate 80 running through Nebraska is one of the most trafficked interstates in the

nation. We must do what we can to keep Nebraskans safe from trafficking and be sure people know the signs of human trafficking."

The Omaha Women's Fund 2015 report showed I-80 and I-29 are included in a regional trafficking network. Activity can be increased during sporting events like the College World Series.

"These awareness efforts work hand in hand with the other successful legislation," Pansing Brooks said. "It is thanks to this work that we have all done together in the Nebraska Legislature since 2015 that Nebraska has moved from an 'F' rating to an 'A' rating by the National Human Trafficking group, Polaris."

Madeline Walker, the human trafficking program coordinator for the Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence, said she is grateful for the Legislature's continued attention to the issue of human trafficking.

"LB461 creates another opportunity to provide information about human trafficking to the public," Walker said. "Making information about human trafficking and resources available to survivors widely accessible helps to remove barriers that a survivor may face when seeking services."

If you or someone you know is a victim of human trafficking, call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 or text 233733.

Valentine Police Department Week in review, April 4-10

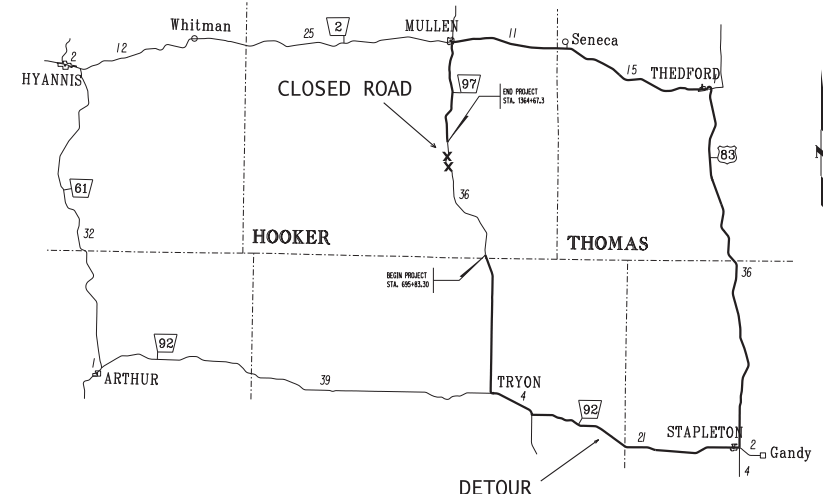
On 04/04/2021 at 10:25 p.m., an officer responded to the 700 block of North Main Street in regard to the theft of a motor vehicle. With the help of a tip from a citizen, the Cherry County Sheriff's Office located the vehicle north of town. The vehicle had sustained significant damage. Suspects have been identified and warrants will be sought.

On 04/06/2021 at 7:45 a.m., an officer conducted a traffic stop near the intersection of Hall and 3rd Streets. A juvenile male from Valentine was cited for a stop sign violation.

On 04/07/2021 at 1:30 p.m., an officer was requested to respond to the 200 block of West Highway 20 in regard to a hit and run accident. A 40 year old South Dakota female was cited for leaving the scene of an accident.

Officers responded to 107 calls for service this week.

Dana Miller, Chief
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From the Governor

Food stamps for felons
LB 108 and LB 121

Nebraska law does not allow drug dealers and criminals with three or more felony drug convictions to collect food stamps. LB 121 would change this provision, extending food stamps to felons—regardless of their number of prior drug offenses. Crime has consequences. In Nebraska, multiple drug felonies rightly disqualify individuals from receiving taxpayer-funded food benefits. Nebraskans shouldn't be expected to subsidize the food budgets of drug dealers who repeatedly violate the law and undermine our society.

LB 108 would increase the gross income eligibility limit to apply for food stamps from 130 percent to 185 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). However, the vast majority of expected new applicants would not be eligible to receive additional benefits. That's because the federal government limits granting benefits to applicants with a net income at or below 100 percent of the FPL. In other words, LB 108 promises benefits that most applicants won't be eligible to receive. The bill would result in widespread disappointment among applicants and lots of wasted effort by the State to process applications for people ineligible for benefits.

Our state has successfully regained jobs and restored growth after the disruptions of the pandemic. We had the lowest average unemployment rate of any state in 2020, and our current unemployment rate of 3.1 percent is the third-lowest in the nation. The State of Nebraska offers programs like SNAP Next Step to help families in need gain job skills to live better lives. On average, participants who complete SNAP Next Step receive more than a \$20,500 annual increase in their income. We should continue to empower families to achieve greater financial independence.

State Senators represent the people. Their job is to do the work Nebraskans elected them to perform. As Senators decide how to vote on important bills, I encourage you to share your input with them. You can find contact information for your State Senator at www.NebraskaLegislature.gov. If you have questions about any bills under consideration, please email me at pete.ricketts@nebraska.gov or call 402-471-2244.

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