

Valentine MIDLAND NEWS

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Chief Dana Miller



Lt. Jamon Slama



Evidence Technician Bobbi Johnson



Officer Jasmine Hoefs



Officer Brandon Ormesher



Officer Ryan McSweeney

Valentine Police Department: 2020 Annual Report

Valentine Police Chief Dana Miller compiled a report for the department looking back on 2020. She said it has been one of the most volatile and dramatic years in memory on a global scale. "Many of the events have impacted our little community directly! From 'homeschooling' to missing graduation ceremonies and even death caused by the covid pandemic to distrust of law enforcement; it's all been a bit much to wrap our heads around. The year 2020 has almost been like putting a dozen cats and dogs in a small room and watching the mayhem develop. Despite it all and through it all, Valentine has come out the other side stronger."

The Valentine Police Department is no stranger to the challenges and some changes as well. Longtime officer Jim McCormick left to join the Cherry County Sheriff's Office. His K9 partner, Boss, was retired permanently as a result. Officer Nathan Phipps and his family moved and left some holes in the

department. Chief Miller said, "In May, following the death of George Floyd in Minnesota, protests against police brutality quickly spread across the United States and internationally. This hostility toward law enforcement and disdain for the profession has made applicants for the position of police officer difficult to come by."

They added former Marine, Ryan McSweeney, to the department in October and he began his training at the Law Enforcement Training Center in January 2021.

"We continue to pride ourselves on the active role we take in working with area youth and being a part of the community we serve. Despite the pandemic, we were able to host the CSI learning opportunity, Women's Handgunning course and Eddie Eagle program. We held Coffee with a Cop at Henderson's IGA, participated in Victor E. Days at the high school, and provided the rural school students with a chance to see the Cherry County Justice Center.

"The State of Nebraska has mandated that all agencies move toward the capacity to issue citations electronically. Valentine PD has been able to move in this direction thanks in part to receiving a 2020 Law Enforcement e-citation grant subcontracted through the Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement. The \$6,950 awarded, along with budgeted monies, was used to purchase e-citation equipment for two patrol cars. As vehicles are replaced the remainder of the fleet will be fitted with the necessary gear to bring the department into full compliance with the mandate."

The department saw a decrease in call volume of 17.3 percent. "This can be attributed to a decrease in operations due to the pandemic's influence as well as a decrease in staff due to resignations. Arrests were also down but reflected an interesting trend. There was an increase in the number of charges that arrestees faced. Drug arrests are often associated with numerous laws

being violated by one person; thus the increase in charges. Although officers dealt with fewer arrests, many of those were for possession of drugs and associated crimes."

Keeping law enforcement updated helps solve crimes!! "Your willingness to say something if you see something has helped the department tremendously this past year. Without your assistance, several crimes would have gone unresolved. Working together, we can continue to make Valentine a place where we can all live, work, and play safely! Here's to 2021 and hoping it's a little less dramatic than 2020 was."

All of the officers completed in-service or specialized training on the following topics:

- Law Enforcement Anti-Bias Training
- HAZMAT response
- Human Trafficking
- Defense Tactics
- TASER Operator Recertification

- Firearms Training to include annual certification with semi-automatic handgun and patrol rifle
- CJIS Database Security
- Building searches
- CPR and First Aid
- Annual Policy review
- Specialized Training attended:
- Domestic Violence Response
- NEMSA Conference
- Ethics in Law Enforcement
- Officer Support and Well-Being
- Social Media in Law Enforcement
- LASO Recertification
- First Responder Stress Management

Lt. Jamon Slama has been serving the Valentine PD since January 2004. He is the firearms instructor and attended the following specialized training:

- Active Shooter Response Training
 - Law Enforcement Ambush Awareness
 - Firearm Safety and Security
- He was the first responder on

scene where a man had collapsed and was unresponsive. Lt. Slama rendered aid and subsequently revived the man. According to the American Heart Association, Slama received the Heart Saver Hero award.

Bobbi Johnson has been serving since April 2018 as administration and evidence technician. She said, "COVID-19...a once in a century catastrophe. Living in places such as Cherry County, social distancing was already a way of life. As Barbara Mandrell said it so well, 'I was country when country wasn't cool.' Many had hoped that being as far off that radar as Valentine is, we would not suffer the same fate as the rest of the country. Although it took a bit longer to reach us, every rural community has scummed to the virus. Those who have not experienced the virus personally have had a close friend or family member who has."

"As the state began mandating safety standards, Valentine's op-

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Photos by Laura Vroman

Above, the Fort Niobrara NWR sign is getting watered down before this area begins its burn. Below, the heat of the fire distorts the same sign, as grasses and duff begins to burn swiftly. Top right, from a distance it looks like the fire is closing in on itself.



by Laura Vroman

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife employees and fire staff from Madison Wetland Management District, along with Sandlake National Wildlife Refuge were on hand Wednesday, March 3, 2021, for a control burn along with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife employees at Fort Niobrara NWR.

In all 112 acres received a treatment. USFWS Supervisory Range Technician Billy Cumbow said, "It went very well with no problems. We had perfect weather, great control lines and very experienced personnel to hold the fire where we wanted it and to accomplish the goals of the burn which was to burn off all the old grass and duff in order to reseed it back to native prairie later this spring."

Cumbow said plans for the burn can take months and sometimes years to accomplish. There are plans for future burns, but it needs to green up first.

"We will be burning more units locally after we get some green up to target the exotic cool season grasses, to try and set them back and allow more native grasses and forbs to grow."



Pictured above are Jody Hissong and Debbie Compton RN.

Bomgaars donates to Cherry County Hospital

Bomgaars sets aside one evening every year to have what is called "Ladies Night Out." It is an evening of festive fun and holiday shopping to raise awareness of women's health. Once again Cherry County Hospital Oncology Department was chosen to be the recipient of some of the proceeds from the evening's total sales.

Cherry County Hospital nursing staff was available to answer ques-

tions pertaining to the Oncology services provided at the hospital. The Oncology Department provides infusion therapy including chemotherapy and physicians services to cancer patients of the community. Funds raised over the past several years with this innovative promotion have helped to pay for items needed in the Oncology Department.

NCDHD COVID-19 update

North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) would like to notify the public the COVID-19 California variant (B.1.429) has been identified in the district. While the California variant is believed to spread more rapidly, the available vaccines are thought to be effective against B.1.429.

NCDHD encourages the district

to remain vigilant in fighting the COVID-19 virus by using public health tools: washing hands often, social distancing from others outside the family unit, wearing a mask when unable to social distance, staying home when ill, and avoiding the three C's: crowded places, close contacts, and confined spaces.

March 14

Remember to Spring ahead!



Locals share

about coach Nokes

-see page 5

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DISTRICT 43 NEWS

by Tom Brewer

Veto power is an important check, but not until after they are presented to the governor

This past week, I heard a bill introduced in the Government, Military and Veterans Committee by Senator Justin Wayne. He believes the executive branch of our state government should not testify against bills introduced in the Legislature. He believes people testifying on behalf of executive branch agencies should testify in the "neutral" capacity and not express an opinion for or against the bill. In his view, the executive branch is bound by oath to follow the laws passed by the Legislature. It calls into question their willingness to faithfully follow the laws and encroaches on the constitutional sovereignty of the legislature as a separate branch of State government. I think Senator Wayne makes a valid point with his proposal.

A common reason a state agency might testify against a bill is that the bill in question will cause them more work. I was given a recent example of this by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture with my state meat inspection bill. States all over the country are passing state meat inspection programs to help make it easier to expand slaughter capacity in the states, and also provide much-needed economic development to small rural towns. Unfortunately, the Department opposed my bill.

There are other ways for a state agency to kill a bill. Agencies are given the opportunity to submit "fiscal notes" predicting the financial impact of a bill on their operations. This is basically a price tag that is supposed to indicate the fiscal impact on the state from running a particular program. In the case of my bill, I believe the fiscal note was intended to frighten the senators on the committee with a shocking price tag. We call this "death by fiscal note." But there is a significant difference opposing a bill in a hearing and submitting an inflated fiscal note. When an agency provides operational information and financial projections in a fiscal note based on their expertise, I think that is within their designated mission, even if I think their numbers are incorrect. In the Legislature, we can choose to trust that information or not, and we also make the policy decision about whether a bill is worth the price tag.

However, when an agency testifies in opposition to a bill, something important happens. Under the legislative rules, a bill cannot be fast-tracked as a "consent calendar" item if it received any opposition in the public hearing. This practice is really a preemptive veto by the executive branch. I support the power granted by the Nebraska Constitution to the governor to veto legislation. I believe that veto power is an important check within our system of government. However, I do not think the executive branch should be able to veto bills until after they are presented to the governor. I think Senator Wayne's idea deserves more discussion.

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.

No more than nine

In the months since the Senate confirmed Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court, many of my Democratic colleagues have come out in support of court packing, by which they would expand the Supreme Court beyond its long-established size of nine justices. They argue that this drastic step is necessary to "depoliticize" the court and "strengthen its independence." In reality, adding justices to the bench solely to make our nation's highest court more sympathetic to one party's priorities than to the Constitution would do exactly the opposite.

I recently became a co-sponsor of Senator Marco Rubio's resolution proposing a constitutional amendment that would take this off the table. Our amendment is simple. It reads: "The Supreme Court of the United States shall be composed of not more than nine justices." It also gives Congress the power to enforce this through law.

That's it — just two sentences. But these two short sentences would do wonders for national unity.

The Supreme Court's size hasn't changed since 1869. Fixing the

number of justices at nine would keep this crucial institution above the push and pull of partisan politics, just as our Founding Fathers intended when they made the judiciary its own branch.

And as President Biden and other prominent Democrats have argued in the past, packing the Supreme Court would reduce the judiciary to an extension of the

Washington Examiner and YouGov conducted in October. President Trump nominated and the Senate confirmed Justices Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, and Barrett under the same rules as President Obama and every other president and Senate in American history. Most Americans agree: One party shouldn't be able to change those rules based on the political winds of the moment.

Even though there have been nine justices on the Supreme Court for more than 150 years, this isn't the first time that our nation's highest court has been put in danger. After the Supreme Court found several parts of Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal to be unconstitutional in the 1930s, the president threatened to appoint "assistant justices" for every justice over age 70 who refused to retire, which would have expanded the court to 15 and guaranteed President Roosevelt a liberal majority.

Thankfully, the Senate voted against his plan by a margin of 70 to 20, with most of the Senate's 76 Democrats voting against the leader of their own party. At the time, the Senate Judiciary Committee declared that the move to expand the court was in "direct violation of the spirit of the American Constitution."

All presidents have the authority to nominate new justices to the Supreme Court if a vacancy happens during their term. Presidents closely review the judicial philosophies of nominees to ensure they reflect how they believe a justice should weigh past judicial decisions when deciding a case, along with the impact their decisions may have on present-day society. That process has existed in many, if not all, administrations.

In my view, this issue comes down to a single question: Should our nation's justice system be fundamentally reformed by whichever party happens to be in power? I do not think so.

If ratified, this amendment would preserve the independence of both the Supreme Court and the entire judiciary for decades to come.

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

NOTE FROM WASHINGTON D.C.

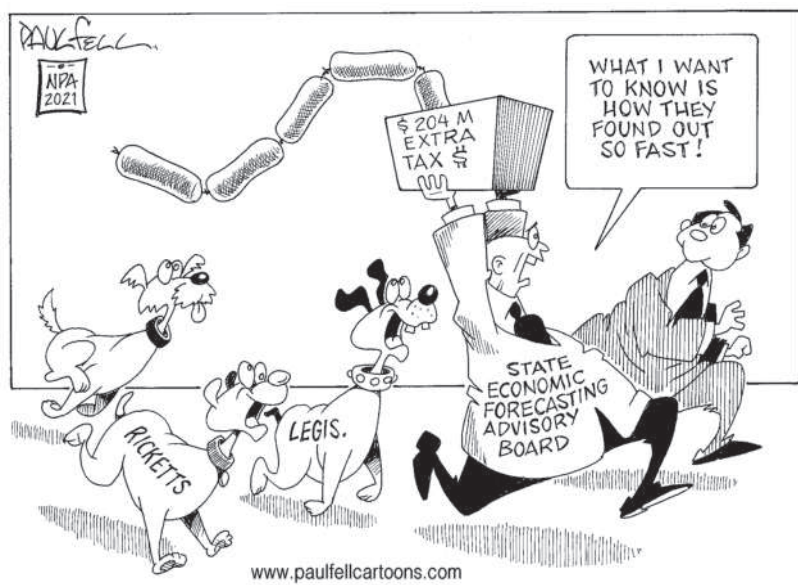
by Deb Fischer

legislative and executive branches, not the separate and coequal third branch it was designed to be. On the other hand, ratifying our resolution as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution would guarantee our court system's independence.

Beyond the damage it would do to our country, court packing is a losing issue. Only 34 percent of registered voters favor increasing the size of the Supreme Court, accord-

POLITICAL SATIRE

by Paul Fell



Controlling spending for property tax relief

March 6, marks one year since the first positive case of coronavirus was confirmed in Nebraska. Over the past year, it's been an all-hands-on-deck effort to protect hospital capacity, support our healthcare workers, and help keep Nebraskans healthy. We continue to see encouraging trends in our fight against the coronavirus. During the past week, the number of coronavirus-related hospitalizations has been at its lowest point in over six months. And by the latest measures, over a quarter-million Nebraskans have now received their initial dose of vaccine.

Throughout the pandemic, Nebraska has struck a balance between slowing the spread of the virus, while helping people lead a more normal life. We kept businesses open instead of imposing a strict lockdown. We engaged faith communities to find ways for them to join together and worship. We worked hard to put protocols in place so that students could return to school. These efforts helped people stay connected, while minimizing disruptions to Nebraskans' livelihoods and educations.

Through it all, we've been working to grow opportunities and keep our state moving forward. We've created an environment where existing businesses like Scoular and Becton Dickinson have chosen to expand and where major companies like Amazon have made new investments. We've also made it possible for Main Street to thrive, ranking among the best states in America for small business performance during 2020. These successes

have helped us achieve the nation's lowest unemployment rate for five months in a row.

According to the University of Nebraska Bureau of Business Research (NU-BBR), the future looks bright. On February 24, NU-BBR reported that Nebraska's leading economic indicator—which predicts near-term trends—has risen for the fourth consecutive month. "The rising indicator provides an-

other signal that economic growth will be solid in Nebraska through mid-2021," said Dr. Eric Thompson, director of NU-BBR. Dr. Thompson relayed encouraging data from state businesses, noting that "respondents to the January Survey of Nebraska Business reported plans to expand sales and employment over the next six months."

Nebraska's economy continues to deliver great opportunities in the midst of the pandemic, resulting in strong tax revenues. Last Friday, the Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board voted to increase the State's projected revenues by \$462 million. The increased forecast gives the State the opportunity to continue controlling spending, so we can deliver even more property tax relief for the people of Nebraska.

This session, the Legislature will debate and pass the next two-year budget for the State of Nebraska. My budget recommendation controls spending by limiting the average annual rate of growth to 1.5 percent.

My top priority continues to be property tax relief. Property taxes have been increasing faster than Nebraskans' families can afford. By controlling spending in the context of strong revenue growth, the Legislature can deliver significant property tax relief to Nebraska families. In January, my budget proposed \$1.36 billion in relief over the next two years. With the new and improved forecast, the Legislature is now positioned to deliver even more property tax relief.

While we reduce the property tax burden, we will still achieve other key priorities, including expanding educational opportunities and protecting public safety. I'm proposing for the State to invest a record-high amount of aid—\$1.1 billion—in schools in each of the next two fiscal years. Every child is unique and deserves the best educational setting for his or her needs, whether that's a public school, private school, or homeschool. My budget includes \$4 million in K-12 Opportunity Scholarships to give more students from low-income families the opportunity to attend private schools. I'm also recommending a \$3 million investment in the textbook loan program for private school students. Empowering all Nebraska families with the

Continued on back page

Be careful with the increased revenue forecast

The Nebraska Economic Forecasting Advisory Board says it anticipates the state will take in \$204 million more in tax receipts this year than previously anticipated. The governor says that means "we can deliver even more property tax relief on top of what I had already proposed in my budget."

Analysts at one think tank say the increase comes from a technicality of which lawmakers were warned when they passed their latest tax fix Band-Aid (LB1107) last session. Looking ahead, state revenues are projected to remain relatively flat in large part because of the increased cost of the property tax credit (relief) they had promised.

Beyond the political rhetoric, jargon and speculation that always surrounds the revenue forecast and the best way to use the promised increase, just say "no." Stash the money in the interest-bearing rainy day fund and see what post-pandemic Nebraska looks like a year down the road.

The board, which meets twice a year, provides an advisory forecast of general fund receipts that the Legislature uses to craft the state's budget. Revenue projections for the current fiscal year were raised by \$204 million to \$5.49 billion. The adjustment was based on anticipated increases of \$95 million in individual income tax receipts, \$65 million in sales and use tax receipts, \$40 million in corporate tax receipts and \$4 million in miscellaneous taxes.

Governor Pete Ricketts says the forecast is reflective of the fact that Nebraska's economy continues to deliver great opportunities in the midst of the pandemic, resulting in strong tax revenues.

Renee Fry, executive director of the OpenSky Policy Institute in Lincoln, warns that the rapid rise in the property tax credits resulted from a "technicality" rather than economic growth in the state. The technicality was the change in the deadline for the payment of 2019 income taxes from April to July. If those taxes had been paid in April, as in normal times, the updated forecast would show a drop in state revenue for the current fiscal year.

Lawmakers passed LB 1107 last year with the understanding that the income tax credit it created would increase in its initial years

only if the economy grows. The forecast highlights that the credit instead will grow due to a technicality rather than because of economic growth, which subverts the fiscal guardrails that lawmakers agreed upon in passing the bill.

The measure passed into law in August allows property owners to receive refundable income tax credits to offset a portion of the school property taxes paid. The credits are starting out at \$125 million this year. The law determines the credit total in future years based on growth in state tax revenue and the size of the state's cash reserve.

If revenues remain flat in large part because of the cost of the credit, the state could be forced to look at cutting funding for services like schools, roads and health care, which are essential to the state and its economy.

The Governor says that we can reduce the property tax burden and still achieve other key priorities, including expanding educational opportunities and protecting public safety. His budget proposes the state invest a record-high amount of aid—\$1.1 billion—to schools in each of the next two fiscal years. That includes \$4 million in K-12 Opportunity Scholarships to give more students from low-income families the opportunity to attend private schools. The budget also recommends a \$3 million investment in the textbook loan program for private school students.

State Sen. Anna Wishart of Lincoln, vice chair of the Appropriations Committee, welcomed the new forecast, saying it will make it possible to rebuild the state's cash reserve. The reserve, also known as the state's "rainy day fund," had dropped to \$333.5 million in 2019, after a couple of years in which state revenue slowed.

Jessica Shelburn, state director of the Koch Brothers-funded conservative political action group, Americans for Prosperity, says the Legislature's priority should be ensuring that the state has a healthy cash reserve and reforming the state's tax code to allow for a stronger economic comeback.

I agree with strengthening the cash reserve and reforming the state tax code.

For now, let's just save the money. Please.

Protecting election integrity

The backbone of our American republic is the guarantee of free and fair elections. Regardless of whether the candidate you supported won or lost last November, we should all be concerned when states deviate from election laws through judicial activism and executive overreach. After the Florida recount debacle in 2000, Congress came together to form a bipartisan consensus so states could fairly and accurately count every legally

cast ballot. Unfortunately, this standard of bipartisan election reform was not considered in the House this week. I voted against H.R. 1, the so-called "For the People Act," which would overrule the voting practices of every state, including Nebraska, in a way our Constitution's framers never intended.

I am proud of how well Nebraska handled the difficulty of voting amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. I sponsored legislation to enact voter ID in Nebraska when I was a member of the Unicameral, and I appreciate continued efforts to improve Nebraska's state election laws. Each state should find its own way to ensure every legal voter is who they say they are, including providing ready access to secure means of identification for all voters.

Empowering individual states, like Nebraska, to determine their own methods for collecting ballots is critical. H.R. 1 does not empower states, instead it sets strict federal parameters they must follow. The bill undermines election integrity by mandating the direct mailing of ballots to everyone who is registered, banning voter ID require-

ments, requiring mandatory voter registration using motor vehicle rolls, and prohibiting most state efforts to clean up those voter rolls. This would effectively require states to automatically mail a ballot directly to anyone who has had a driver's license with no process in place to ensure that the voter currently lives at a specific address or to ensure that ballot isn't misused by another person.

This legislation not only drastically changes the integrity of elections, but it also threatens our First Amendment rights to free speech and assembly. It institutes disclosure

requirements for nonprofit organizations that would require names of donors to be released once they hit a certain threshold. The bill would also empower the IRS to review the political positions of nonprofits. During the Obama administration the IRS illegally withheld the approval of nonprofit status applications for organizations based on their political views — our goal should be preventing that from happening again, not making it legal going forward.

I support fair, transparent, and legal elections across Nebraska and the nation. Rather than forcing a partisan, federal power-grab, I support the establishment of a bipartisan commission to examine concerns brought on by the 2020 election proceedings and permanently empowering state legislatures to be the ones setting election rules. We should not be taking power away from states, but instead reinstating their role as the source of election law.

WASHINGTON ROUND-UP

by Adrian Smith

FROM THE GOVERNOR

by Pete Ricketts

other signal that economic growth will be solid in Nebraska through mid-2021," said Dr. Eric Thompson, director of NU-BBR. Dr. Thompson relayed encouraging data from state businesses, noting that "respondents to the January Survey of Nebraska Business reported plans to expand sales and employment over the next six months."

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This session, the Legislature will

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.

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Nebraska Award Winning Newspaper

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Online purchase scams become riskiest scam in the wake of COVID-19

March 1, 2021 — New BBB Scam Risk Report focuses on the impact of scams in the wake of the pandemic and the demographic groups most at risk.

Adults ages 18-24 reported the highest median losses (\$150) and the highest likelihood of loss (56.6%) to BBB Scam TrackerSM in 2020, according to the Better Business Bureau (BBB). Previously, older age groups consistently lost higher median dollar amounts to scammers year over year, even while young adults tended to lose money more often. This year, the financial loss reported by those 18-24 was equal to that of adults 65+. Online scams rise during COVID-19 pandemic: 2020 BBB Scam Tracker Risk Report focuses on the impact of scams in the wake of the pandemic and the demographic groups most at risk.

More scams were perpetrated online and yielded the highest likelihood of financial loss in 2020. This is likely connected to consumer habit shifts since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic; in a survey of over 5,000 individuals that reported scams to BBB Scam

TrackerSM in 2020, 43.1% said they spent more time online due to the pandemic, and 57.1% said they purchased more online because of the pandemic.

"Scammers go where they feel they can best take advantage of people," said Melissa Lanning Trumpower, executive director of the BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust, BBB's educational foundation, which produced the report. "Not surprisingly, scams perpetrated online through websites and social media apps were the riskiest contact methods for all age groups in 2020 — including both young adults as well as older adults."

The risk of financial loss also rose significantly in 2020. Nearly one of every two reports to BBB Scam Tracker (46.7%) noted a financial loss, with two-thirds of reports (64.7%) resulting in financial loss being online purchase scams, which was the top riskiest scam in 2020. Online purchase scams were the most common scam reported to BBB, comprising 38.3% of all scam reports. Pet and PPE-related online purchase scams spiked dur-

ing the pandemic.

"Scammers are opportunists," said Trumpower. "If there is a shortage of a product, or an opportunity to leverage a person's heightened emotional state — they will use that scarcity or fear for their personal gain. Scammers will also imposter a recognizable and respected organization or brand to get your attention."

Another way scammers take advantage of younger adults, in particular, is by utilizing a payment method less familiar to younger generations: checks. Fake check scams were the second most risky scam for adults ages 18-24 in a year where payment via online payment systems rose across all age groups. Fake check scams yielded one of the highest median dollar losses per encounter at \$1,679 in 2020.

"Scams aren't just a drain to people's wallets," Trumpower noted. "In our annual study of individuals that reported a scam to BBB Scam Tracker, a majority reported losing time and confidence or peace of mind in the marketplace, with over one-third

also losing personally identifiable information in the encounter. We share these insights to help fight fraud and promote a trustworthy marketplace for all."

KEY FINDINGS
For the first time since we began reporting data, the financial loss reported by those 18-24 was equal to that of adults 65+.

BBB Scam Tracker received 46,575 scam reports in 2020, which is a 25% increase over 2019.

The likelihood of financial loss to scams was at an all-time high in 2020.

More scams were perpetrated online in 2020 and yielded the highest likelihood of financial loss. This is likely connected to shifts in consumer behavior since the start of the pandemic.

The #1 riskiest scam for consumers in 2020 was online purchase scams. Online purchase scams were the most common scam reported to BBB, comprising 38.3% of all scam reports. Pet and PPE-related online purchase scams, in particular, spiked during the pandemic.

Lakeview/Crookston

Jean Burge
402-376-2134

The Wednesday morning men's coffee at the fellowship hall was well attended last week, and anyone who wants to stop in for coffee and visiting is welcome!

Lavern and Pauline Lanz returned home Sunday after a weeks stay in Minneapolis where they enjoyed time with Lydia and Anton Brintley, Lincoln and Bryce, and Derek and Andrea Lanz. Vern and Pauline were the daycare providers for their grandsons for the week.

Gwenda Jackson's birthday was celebrated Sunday with dinner at the home of Gregory and LaCosta Jackson and family, and were joined by Lacey Jackson and family, Shannon and Andrea Andre and Greg Jackson.

Sara Tinant had dinner at Coach-Light on Friday to celebrate Janet Lawler's birthday. On Saturday she traveled to Mitchell, SD to meet her sister, Mary for the day.

Haley Milton and son Leo of North Platte spent the weekend visiting her parents, Jay and Myndi Gunnink and sister, Cassie and Shane LaFortune and family.

Duane and Trent Cady helped Ronnie Sharkey brand calves on Saturday, and Janet Cady, Amanda

Rekofski and Kaylee visited Michelle, Sloane and Riggs.

Jamie and Prairey Brennan, Nolan and Norah spent the weekend with Vern and Marlys Walking. The rest of the Walking family, and Kim Markus joined them on Sunday for dinner to celebrate Norah's 4th birthday and Marlys' birthday.

A former Lakeview area resident, Molly (Pavlik) Palmer of Springfield passed away March 3 in Sioux Falls. After Molly's parents, Bob and Jane Pavlik passed away she was raised by Frank and Betty Sokol and graduated from TCHS in 1990. A memorial service will be held Thursday, March 11 at 2:00 p.m. in Ainsworth at the Assembly of God Church. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to her family.

Just when you think things are getting back to normal — the time changes this weekend, so get those clocks moved ahead an hour. We had unseasonably warm weather this past week, and while that was nice, it's also clear we are in need of moisture. Spring is around the corner, and I'm hoping for some nice spring rain that smells so good! Have a great week.

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.

The senior center will offer a fish fillet as an alternate to the printed menu on Fridays of Lent. No hamburgers (as an alternate) will be served on those Fridays.

CASH DONATIONS: Rita Ewoldt, Deb Colburn

NON-CASH DONATIONS: Rita Ewoldt

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. Please call the Center for more information, 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, Sylvia Nelson, Cherry Hafer, Northstar Services, Perry and Lindy Ayers, Dan and Jerilyn Colburn, Marie Arendt, Becky Pettigrew, Dave Prashch.

Designing a wildlife-friendly landscape

by Melinda Myers

We love watching the bunnies hopping across the lawn or ground squirrels scurrying away with a cheek full of seeds. That is, until they dine on our favorite shrub or take just one bite out of each red ripe tomato in the garden. Finding a way to coexist is critical for wildlife struggling to survive and our enjoyment of nature and our landscapes.

As gardeners, we know that digging in the soil and tending a garden is good for our mind, body, and spirit. Researchers discovered the same is true when we take time to observe wildlife. Our need for a relationship with nature is also important to our wellbeing. It helps us feel more content and function more effectively.

But we love our gardens too. Implementing some design and management strategies can help us support and enjoy wildlife, care for our landscapes, and improve our quality of life.

By reducing the amount of edge habitat, where one type of habitat meets another, can allow us to support wildlife while reducing the risk of damage. Create circular or square garden beds that have more interior space and less border space. Long linear beds with more edges and less interior space allows easier access for animals to dine.

Work with neighbors and your community to create large blocks and corridors of habitat. Providing them spaces, other than your gardens, with needed food and shelter can help you and the wildlife to coexist.

Protect key gardens and plants. Fencing is an option. Make sure your fence is high enough, tight to the ground, and the gates secure.

Repellents are a less obtrusive option. Select a product labeled for the animals and rodents you are

trying to manage. For best results, apply repellents before the animals start feeding. Then reapply as recommended on the label. Look for one, like organic, bird- and pollinator-friendly Plantskydd (plantskydd.com), that is rain and snow resistant, requiring fewer repeat applications.

Work with nature to maintain a balance in your landscape. Invite hawks, owls, and fox to your backyard. Grow tall grasses and plants that provide cover for foxes. Include trees with good perches or install perch poles to attract and support raptors.

And like any landscape endeavor, start with a plan. Make a sketch of your existing landscape. Identify existing plants and wildlife-friendly habitats. Make note of both the natural habitats and any supplemental food, water, and shelter you provide. Review and note various features in your landscape throughout the year.

Now decide what you want to accomplish in your landscape. What wildlife do you want to attract and have the space to support? Perhaps you want to attract more songbirds to your gardens or animals, like toads, that help manage pests in the garden.

Make sure your landscape provides the habitat features needed to attract and sustain these welcome residents. You will find lots of helpful resources on National Wildlife Federation, Audubon, Natural Resources Conservation Services, Department of Natural Resources, and University Extension websites.

Be patient and wait for a year to evaluate the results of your efforts. Then begin making any needed changes to meet your goals.

Developing a landscape for you to enjoy and one that supports wildlife takes time, but as a gardener this is not only part of the process but an exciting adventure.

Recognizing Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and working towards its goals

Lincoln-In 1987, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed the month of March as "Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month." The purpose of the proclamation was, and continues to be to urge Americans to provide individuals with developmental disabilities the encouragement and opportunities they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential.

This proclamation allows us to celebrate the achievements made towards inclusion. It is also an opportunity to remind communities of the need to ensure people who experience developmental disabilities have the same opportunities to live, work, and enjoy life as everyone else.

Approximately 4,900 Nebraska residents are supported through the Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Developmental Disabilities (DD). "Our Division recognizes the importance of Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and continues our hard work towards realizing the goal of full community inclusion so that people with developmental dis-

abilities are living a fulfilling and productive life alongside neighbors in their community," said Developmental Disabilities Director Tony Green.

One way DD is working to fulfill this goal is through the implementation of Nebraska's "Person-Centered Planning Initiative." This initiative recognizes the fact that most individuals thrive when they are a part of the community.

"Person-centered planning is really ensuring that the plan is developed with the person, for the person, and by the person. It is a different way of thinking of how we create services and support for people based on what the participant wants and not what the system has to offer," said Green.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is proud to recognize Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and continuing the work of ensuring individuals with developmental disabilities are leading productive lives and achieving their full potential.

March is Red Cross Month

It's American Red Cross Month, when the Red Cross honors the more than 300,000 people who volunteer to make its lifesaving mission possible. For nearly 80 years, U.S. presidents have proclaimed March as Red Cross Month to recognize people giving back through the organization's lifesaving mission — which is powered by more than 90% volunteers.

Committed to helping all those in need, Red Cross volunteers provide emergency support, such as disaster relief, lifesaving blood, critical services for military families and veterans, lifesaving skills like CPR, international aid and so much more.

This year the Red Cross salutes all the heroes who make a difference in their communities by:

- Donating blood or platelets
- Volunteering to help people impacted by a disaster
- Taking a first aid or CPR class to help in an emergency
- Providing comfort to a member of the military, a veteran or their family

What does the Red Cross do?
• Responds to more than 60,000 disasters across the country providing hope and comfort to people in need.

• Trains and provides information to more than 4.5 million people in first aid, water safety and other skills that help save lives.

• Collects more than 6.4 million units of blood from nearly 2.6 million volunteer donors to meet the needs of patients at hospitals and transfusion centers across the country.

• Provides more than 513,000 support services to military members, veterans and their families.

• Helps nearly 250 million people outside the U.S. through disaster management and disease prevention efforts.

 **Call 24 hours a day, seven days a week**
1-800-ACS-2345
www.cancer.org

Ainsworth Grand Theater
215 N. Main • Ainsworth • 402-387-1948
For Movie Dates & Titles
View Our Website at:
ainsworthgrandtheater.com
or go to our Facebook Page

Spring Clean Your Smile
Schedule your dental checkup today to brighten up those pearly whites. For even brighter results, ask about our in office or take home whitening options!

SANDHILLS Family Dental
Dr. Adam Anderson, D.D.S. & Dr. Kelly Anderson, D.D.S.
275 N. Main St.
Valentine, NE
402-376-1942
102 SE 2nd St.
Mullen, NE

The family of
Bob & Evelyn Kilmer
would like to honor them with a card shower in celebration of their
65th Anniversary
1956 - March 18 - 2021
100 South St., Valentine, NE 69201

90th Birthday Card Shower for Sam Miles
March 13
With Lots Of Love From Your Family
Please send cards to: 523 Elenora Drive, Valentine, NE 69201

Born and raised in Cherry County,
Dorothy (Drinkwater) Sharp
will mark her
90th Birthday
St. Patrick's Day, March 17
Help her celebrate with a card shower:
2711 Hwy 18 West, Apt. 104
Hot Springs, SD 57747-6607

Four interesting health benefits of garlic

Garlic makes a delicious addition to various meals. Though some people may avoid garlic because of its potential to contribute to bad breath, doing so means people may miss out on some surprising health benefits produced by this powerful, if pungent, bulb.

1. Garlic bolsters the immune system. A 2015 review published in the Journal of Immunology Research found that garlic appears to enhance the functioning of the immune system by stimulating certain cell types. A strong immune system helps people fight germs that can lead to colds and other illnesses.

2. Garlic can have a positive effect on blood pressure. According to the Cleveland Clinic, researchers believe that red blood cells turn the sulfur in garlic into hydrogen sulfide gas that expands the blood vessels. That makes it easier to regulate blood pressure. That's no minor benefit, as the American Heart Association notes that high blood pressure can contribute to

heart disease and stroke.

3. Garlic can benefit the skin. Alicin is a compound that is produced when garlic is crushed or chopped. According to the online health and wellness resource MedLife, alicin benefits the body in various ways, including killing the bacteria that causes acne.

4. Garlic may help reduce lead levels in the body. A 2012 study published in the journal Basic and Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology studied the potentially therapeutic effects of garlic on 117 workers in the car battery industry. The clinical signs and symptoms of lead poisoning were significantly higher among workers who were not treated with garlic compared to those who were. Authors of the study concluded that garlic can be recommended for the treatment of mild-to-moderate lead poisoning.

Garlic can make for a nutritious addition to any meal, and some of its many health benefits may surprise even the most ardent supporters of this unique bulb.

HEALTHCARE WITH HEART...
CHERRY COUNTY CLINIC
Physicians Schedule
For the week of March 8-12

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 March 15-19

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

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)
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
11:00 a.m.

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
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 McClellen
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

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 March
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
March 7-Morning Prayer 10:30 a.m.
March 21-Holy Eucharist 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
Pastor Guy Helms
325 N. Victoria St. Office: 376-1305
AA - Monday, Thursday, Saturday
7:00 p.m.
6:00 p.m.
10:30 a.m.
Al-Anon - Mondays
Sundays: Worship
LOGOS Middle & High School

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

Schedule for Sermons-a-la-Carte
The Valentine Ministerial Association will be hosting Sermons-a-la-Carte this year at the Episcopal Church, 372 N. Main St. This year there will be no meal provided, just the worship service from 12:00 noon-12:30 p.m. for the following Wednesdays.

March 10: Father Abraham Kaduthodiyil (St. Nicholas Catholic Church)
March 17: Pastor Kurt Busenitz (Sandhills Church of Hope)
March 24: Pastor Paul Maunu (Crossroads Assembly of God Church)
March 31: Pastor Fred Grant (Seventh Day Adventist Church)
For more information call Pastor Scott McClellen at 402-389-0377.

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Obituaries

Norma Jean Stevens, 82

Norma Jean Stevens, 82, Rapid City, SD passed peacefully from this earth at St. Martin's Serenity Place on March 1, 2021.
Norma Jean was born in Mullen on January 24, 1939 to Robert and Maxine Knepper.
Norma Jean grew up in the Thedford area, graduating from Thedford High School in 1956 with her Teaching Certificate. She taught at a rural Cherry County school 1956-1957. She then went on to attend Kearney State College for a couple years, before returning to Thedford. Norma Jean, met her husband John Carl "Jack" Stevens at a dance at the Star Theater in Thedford. Jack had recently moved to Thedford in 1957 to work at the Abbott Bank. Jack and Norma Jean were wed on June 6, 1959. Norma taught at Thedford Elementary for a year before she and Jack started their family.
Raising her children and attending their activities were Norma's highlights of her "career". While living in Thedford, Norma became an insurance agent and operated Stevens Insurance, until moving to Valentine. While in Valentine, she worked as an insurance clerk at Cherry County Hospital.
In 1992, Jack and Norma Jean moved to the Black Hills of South Dakota. Norma Jean worked in the product demo department at Sam's

Club for 14 years before hanging up her apron to enjoy retirement.
Norma Jean enjoyed her gardening, card playing, Husker sports and mostly her children and grandchildren, her greatest joy.
Norma Jean is survived by her children, Jeffrey Wayne (Aida), Susan Eileen, Richard Lee, and John Gregory (Anne); her grandchildren, Kelsey Jean Moszczynski and her husband Thomas, Karalyn Elizabeth Stevens, Robert James Stevens, Michael and Crystal Anderson, Nancy and Matt Berg; great grandchildren, Makenzie Berg, Jack Anderson, and Cora Lou Anderson; siblings Robert Knepper and Lee Knepper; sister-in-law's Sharon Knepper, Ruth Burgess, Joan Sutton; and a host of many more family members and friends.
Norma Jean was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Maxine Knepper; her husband, John Carl "Jack" Stevens; and her daughter, Jerri Ann Stevens.
Memorials may be directed to Monument Home Health and Hospice, Rapid City, SD and to the Hillcrest Cemetery in Thedford.
Celebration of Life Services were held Saturday, March 6, 2021 at Kirk Funeral Home in Rapid City, with Pastor Brent Woodard officiating. Inurnment at Hillcrest Cemetery in Thedford will be held at a later date.

Connie J. McNare, 62



Connie J. McNare, 62, of Merriman, passed away Thursday, March 4, 2021 at Bennett County Hospital in Martin, SD.
Connie was born July 7, 1958, in Gordon to Raymond and Joy (Holeman) Weimer. She received her early education in country schools near Merriman and later graduated from high school in Martin, SD in 1976. Connie attended Chadron State College for a few years before returning to Martin where she worked in the laundry department at the Bennett County Nursing Home and Hospital. Later in life, Connie worked for Alco in Valentine as well.
Connie was united in marriage to Bryce McNare on August 25, 1990 in Batesland, SD. They made their home in the Sandhills of Nebraska. She enjoyed reading, sewing, and

quitting. Connie was very outgoing and friendly.
Connie was a member of the Quilt Club in Valentine and Victory Bible Church in Merriman.
Survivors include her husband, Bryce McNare of Merriman; son, Daniel McNare of Norfolk; sister, Kathi Roten of Merriman and a nephew, Luke Weimer of Inver Grove Heights, MN.
She was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Tim Weimer.
Memorial services will be held 2:00 p.m. MT, Friday, March 12, 2021 at the Merriman Dance Hall with Pastor Dave Morrison officiating. Inurnment will follow at the Merriman Community Cemetery.
Memorial contributions may be made to the Gideons or Mert Youth Camp.
Sandoz Chapel of the Pines is in Charge of service arrangements. Online obituary and condolences may be left at www.sandozfuneralhome.com.

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What God Cannot Do

"God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?"
Numbers 23:19 NIV

There is an old joke about the wisecrack who asks the Sunday School teacher if God can make a rock so big that He Himself cannot lift it. Either way of answering results in something God cannot do. The short answer to this paradox is that the description of the rock is logically contradictory (an object which an omnipotent being cannot lift). There are, however, a few things which God cannot do, but it is not because his power is limited, but rather because his goodness is unlimited. That is, God cannot lie or otherwise act immorally, because He cannot contradict his own nature. It would be a weakness or defect in God if He were to lie or act viciously. Likewise, the fact that God cannot

make 2+2=5 is not a weakness on God's part, but rather a consequence of the fact that even God must obey the laws of logic. What would the world be like if 2+2 could equal anything other than 4? It would be a manifestly absurd world, a world where anything and everything might be good or bad, and true or false. These few things which God cannot do, such as lie, or make the logically impossible possible, are really part and parcel of the fact that we live in a world where things make sense, and good and evil are not simply a matter of whim and whimsy.
-Christopher Simon

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Meeting Notes

Sand Painters Art Guild
The Sand Painters Art Guild February 27 meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. Seven members were in physical attendance with six Zoom attendees.
Minutes from the January meeting were read. Treasurer's report was given.
Pat Schemmer will have a Retrospective at the Bassett Art Gallery From Palm Sunday for two months: April and May.
Members who wish to show at the Valentine Library or to be Artist of the Month at Viero and Bank of the West, Sandhills, Security First and Union should sign up with Joan.
ANAC members list was sent. Quota for ANAC show will be received some time in the future, ANAC show and workshops will be virtual. More details on that to come at a later date.
SPAG Members will be submitting digital photos to Pat Schemmer for the ANAC show: 300 dpi no more than 3 mg. Four to six pieces per members, Art to be judged by outside artist, Art to be eligible for the ANAC show must be photographed unframed.
Members who need assistance with photographing their art need to get in touch with Pat Schemmer who will assist with that. April 28: Date for submission to Pat Schemmer
Sand Painters show of ANAC submissions will be physical art in the Valentine Library at the end of April and the month of May. More information regarding this summer's ANAC virtual show workshops to come.
Cherry County Fair Workshop information to come with Mary Hunt.
Christmas party in conjunction with Painting along the Niobrara week at Pat Schemmer's. New Year's Eve party in the future.
Members interested in the Paint along the Niobrara with Joan Swim: dates are June 17-21, 2021 (Thursday-Monday)
Joan's Program: Padlet for the SandPainters: https://padlet.com/swimjoan/445e4spp5u5u2w22 This Sand Painters/Resources Padlet contains all kinds of resources: Information, members' gallery to post your work, websites with valuable information on different media, workshops, trading post for selling or trading supplies, movies and documentaries, books, etc. Members should

Three local college rodeo students remember Coach Garrett Nokes

From Iowa to Oklahoma, Kansas to Hawaii, Garrett Nokes had friends all over the country. If there's one thing his student athletes can agree on, it's that any friend of his was a friend for life. Nokes, legendary timed event competitor and head coach of the MPCC Rodeo Team, passed away while recovering from a horse-related accident sustained January 28. He left behind a legacy of kindness, strength and integrity that lives on in all of those who knew him.

Local rodeo students Sheyenne Hammond, Jenna Cox, and Aluxyn Hollenbeck shared memories of their Coach

Sheyenne Hammond of Valentine said, "Three years ago, I was about to graduate in three months and was unsure of my future. I knew one thing and that was that I wanted to college rodeo. I remember calling Garrett Nokes to let him know I wanted to come visit McCook Community College and see the Mid-Plains Community College Rodeo Team. He was so excited that I was interested in coming. He was concerned that I wasn't coming on a Wednesday to practice and see how practice was ran. At the time I was on crutches and when I told him that, he quickly responded, 'Well hell pry can't stand up to rope easy with a walking boot on.'

"It never failed that when you called him, he was busy doing something outside and wasn't afraid to tell you if he was having a bad day. Garrett wasn't the man to hold back what he was thinking either and that is what us college kids needed as a coach. Garrett wasn't the type of coach to yell at us when we repeatedly made a mistake. He believed in us and waited until he saw the frustration and all it would take is a simple phrase as, 'Stand up and don't lean.' I heard that too many times to count and I will hear it every time I rope calves.

"My first college rodeo we traveled a short 700 miles to River Falls, WI, right behind a 40-foot aluminum stock trailer and a bright blue semi, better known as, the Whale. I quickly knew Garrett was not too fond of barrel racing. At the first rodeo he came up to me right before I was up and said, 'Well, usually I would ask if my kids need help, but I will be honest there's no way I can help you in this event, so I will go to the fence and just cheer.'

"My freshman year I was extremely close to making it to the College Finals in the barrels and breakaway. I have struggled since then, but Garrett never gave up. Practice was never different and the conversation before my run was always the same. It would first start with the get out, for either roping event, followed by what my

steer or calf would do. Then the best sentence of them all, 'Just go out there, have fun, and rope like you know how to do so.' After that, he was always in the corner with the holes filled in waiting for me.

Garrett was always in my corner. He was there for rodeo, school, and life. There was a reason I choose to rodeo for three years at Mid-Plains and Garrett Nokes had everything to do with it. I can't thank him enough for all the opportunities that came from being with him and I know he will always be watching from an even greater view than the corner."

Jenna Cox of Valentine said, "I got the pleasure of knowing Garrett as I entered my first year of college at Mid-Plains Community College in McCook. The first time I had ever reached out to Garrett was by email and he was very quick to give me his phone number to contact him that way. I figured out later on that he liked to talk on the phone more than texting or emailing judging by the headset he wore 24/7. The first time I had met him officially was nonetheless than a great impression. College visits can be very stressful and Garrett made it anything but that. Before we had left McCook that day, I had already decided that that's where I wanted to go. I remember my dad saying, 'I'm so confident sending you to a school down there especially with a guy like Garrett and all the experience he has. It's just like having an uncle by your side.'

"Watching Garrett at practices and rodeos showed his will to win. He was so supportive of every single kid that ever showed up and was willing to try. I remember countless times at rodeos where he stood in the box with a kid from another team to help them out. Not because he was asked to, not because he had to, but because that was just Garrett. Garrett wasn't only a coach to us; he was a friend. The type of person that could straighten you out if you needed it, but be super laid back at the same time.

"I remember one time I had taken off to come home and I had forgotten to pay an electricity bill at the fairgrounds for having my trailer plugged in. I didn't have my phone on me and Garrett called and left a voicemail. I remember thinking that I never really wanted Garrett to have to talk to me in that tone of voice again. On the other hand, at the rodeo in Fort Dodge, IA, there were super tight restrictions due to COVID-19. We were to wear a mask at all times and have our temperatures taken every single morning. I remember the last day I went up to Garrett to get my temperature taken and he looked at me and said, 'Are you feeling okay?' I told him

that I felt fine and he said, 'Good, I'm kinda over this shit.'

"Garrett was nonetheless a great cowboy and role model and his funeral went to show with how many lives he had touched. His funeral was held in the Kiplinger Arena in McCook which was so fitting since he spent so much time there. The fairgrounds manager told us that they had enough room for 1,500 to sit with plenty of standing room. I didn't get a chance to look closely, but there were plenty of people standing.

"One hell of a cowboy' is an understatement for a man like Garrett Nokes."

Another Valentine student, Aluxyn Hollenbeck said, "Within four hours of meeting Garrett Nokes, I knew I wanted to attend MPCC and be a part of his rodeo program. Even though Garrett told me I could take some time to think it over, I signed my letter of commitment right there at the arena. Garrett's personality was like nobody else's, he was genuine, easy to talk to, and he connected with people right away. I was impressed by his commitment to see everyone on his team succeed in and out of the arena. Garrett made it clear on the day I met with him that we all had responsibilities to the team, that we were to work hard but school came first, then rodeo. Garrett's knowledge in the arena helped me become a better athlete and in the short time I had with him, he taught me many life lessons. I remember when we went to Fort Dodge, IA for a college rodeo. I didn't catch a breakaway calf or a steer all weekend. I left Iowa with no points in any of my events. I was discouraged, but Garrett didn't seem to be discouraged with me. He told me 'Just go rope and have fun.'

"Garrett believed in me and that meant a lot. The next weekend we went to our last fall rodeo in Dickinson, ND. I placed in the second round and ended up second in the average in the breakaway. At every rodeo when I backed into the box to rope Garrett was there. My nerves disappeared when he would walk up to talk to me about the calf or steer I drew. I loved hearing him yell 'Yeah!' from the box when I would get out in the breakaway and team roping.

"That one word and his belief in my ability gave me the confidence to just go out and rope. He was a great coach and that's why he was chosen coach of the year. Garrett will be missed by many, he had a positive impact on so many people in the rodeo world and beyond, he was one of those guys that made the world a better place. I am grateful I had the opportunity to know him."



The third place team is pictured back row, L to R: Chad Gaver, Austin Harp, Quinton Nelson, Michelle Garwood, Andrew Utecht. Front row, L to R: Tyler Harp, Cole Boes, Tanner Two Strike, Trevor Two Strike, Isaac Utecht.

Cherry County 4-H first Lego League Robotics Team qualifies for state competition



Cole Boes and Austin Harp launch the robot during the competition.

Cherry County 4-H made history on February 20, 2021, by sending its first Lego Robotics Team to a regional qualifier competition in Columbus. They walked away with third place in the robotics games and won the Core Values award. This qualified them for the Nebraska 4-H State Robotics Competition which will be held in Grand Island on March 20.

The FIRST LEGO® League Robotics Challenge introduces students in fourth through eighth grades to real-world engineering challenges by building LEGO®-based robots to complete tasks on a thematic playing surface. Participants discover exciting career possibilities and, through the process, learn to make positive contributions to society.

To win the Core Values award is a huge honor as it is the cornerstone of the program. This award recognizes teamwork, discovery, inclusion, innovation, and other character-focused attributes.

Members of the team include Quinton Nelson, Austin Harp, Tyler Harp, Tanner Two-Strike, Trevor Two-Strike, Cole Boes, and Isaac Utecht. Coaches are Chad Gaver and Andrew Utecht and Team Administrator is Michelle Garwood, 4-H Educator for Cherry County.

There are many more youth participating in the Cherry County robotics program on non-competitive and junior tracks. If you want to learn more or volunteer for the growing program, contact Michelle at 402-376-1850.

Initiative would extend life-saving practices for K-12 schools across the state

by Kateri Hartman
Nebraska News Service

LINCOLN - Lawmakers are considering a proposal that would offer an anonymous school safety tip reporting line to all Nebraska K-12 schools.

The tipline, Safe2Help Nebraska, is an anonymous reporting line for students, parents and community members concerned about school or personal safety. The Safe2Help Nebraska pilot program launched on January 6, 2020, for Douglas County K-12 schools. LB322 would make Safe2Help Nebraska available to all Nebraska K-12 schools.

The Douglas County School Threat Advisory Team, a group of law enforcement, school officials and mental health professionals, created the Safe2Help Nebraska pilot program in 2019.

Safe2Help Nebraska was modeled after Safe2Tell, a Colorado tipline created after the school shooting at Columbine High School in 1999. Seventeen other states have reporting lines modeled after Safe2Tell, but those lines often go directly to police dispatch.

"What makes Nebraska unique is that we are having our calls go into a crisis counseling center within Boys Town where all of the other 17 states, it goes directly to law enforcement," said Jolene Palmer, school safety and security director with the Nebraska Department of Education.

Susan Payne, Safe2Tell Colorado founder, called Safe2Help Nebraska's model "the next level," according to the Denver Post.

The threat advisory team researched other tiplines and noticed that most tips were mental health and crisis-related. Many tiplines were housed in dispatch centers and would send law enforcement to respond to a call.

In some instances, a student may not need law enforcement. Instead, they may need to work with their parents to create a safety plan, or they may need to talk to

someone who can de-escalate a mental health crisis. Utilizing crisis counselors also saves money by reducing law enforcement involvement. However, crisis counselors can still involve them when necessary.

"The goal by having a crisis counselor respond is that they can de-escalate the crisis in the moment and help determine what [callers] need right away," said Diana Schmidt, manager of Safe2Help Nebraska at the Boys Town National Hotline. The Boys Town National Hotline has 20 staff members trained to respond to Safe2Help tips.

In 2020, Safe2Help Nebraska handled 81 percent of suicide threat tips without police intervention. The number one presenting problem for tips in 2020 was suicide threats, followed by drugs, bullying, depression, and information requests. Safe2Help Nebraska received 470 tips in 2020.

Students, staff, parents and community members can submit tips anonymously by phone call, the website safe2helpne.org or the Safe2Help Nebraska mobile app. These options allow tipsters to reach out in a way that's comfortable to them. Once a tipster submits a report by a call, the app or website, a crisis counselor at the Boys Town National Hotline responds to the information and acts accordingly. They forward the information to the school and involve third parties as needed, such as law enforcement, Child Protective Services, school officials or parents.

For example, there were instances where parents thought their child was safe but learned that they needed medical attention upon following up with them. In other cases, there were faculty members that were having thoughts of suicide. They said something to a colleague, and then the colleague called the anonymous reporting line.

Anonymity is important because research showed that when

tragic events happened, someone else knew about them. However, they may not speak up out of fear of repercussions or retaliation, according to Schmidt.

"We conducted school security assessments across the state the past couple years, and 99 percent of 6,225 students that we talked to said that they would be more likely to report a gun brought to school if there was a way that they could report that anonymously," Palmer said.

Before the Safe2Help tipline existed, some schools had safe school numbers that went to staff members. These staff members often weren't trained to talk to students who were having thoughts of suicide or mental health crises.

"Our school districts were also recognizing that they were receiving some of the calls...to deal with students in crisis, and they just weren't equipped to handle that. So [they] very much supported the idea of utilizing Boys Town as our triage center to take the calls," said Denise Rieder, coordinator for the Douglas County School Threat Advisory Team.

With the Safe2Help tipline, schools can be more aware of struggling students or larger problems that may be happening within the school due to the tipline's direct line of communication with schools. It is now a group effort between mental health professionals, law enforcement, parents, students and schools to resolve issues.

The Safe2Help Nebraska program in Douglas County has funding to run through December 2021, and the program may become available statewide through LB322.

"I cannot think of any administrator that does not have a heart for kids. And because administrators and school staff typically have a giant heart for kids, my guess is they will always do what they know can help kids," Palmer said. "This is just one more... tool in the tool belt to help students."

Smith announces 2021 Congressional Art Competition

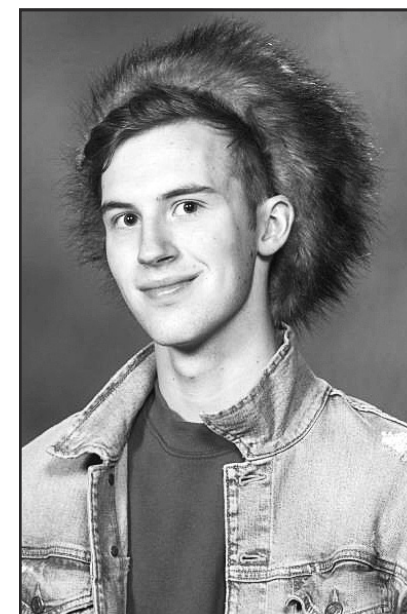
Washington, D.C. - Congressman Adrian Smith (R-NE) invites high school students from across Nebraska's Third District to submit their artwork for the 2021 Congressional Art Competition by Friday, March 19.

"The Congressional Art Competition is an opportunity for young Third District artists to showcase their talents in the U.S. Capitol," said Rep. Smith. "I look forward to partnering with the Nebraska Art Teachers Association to review this year's submissions."

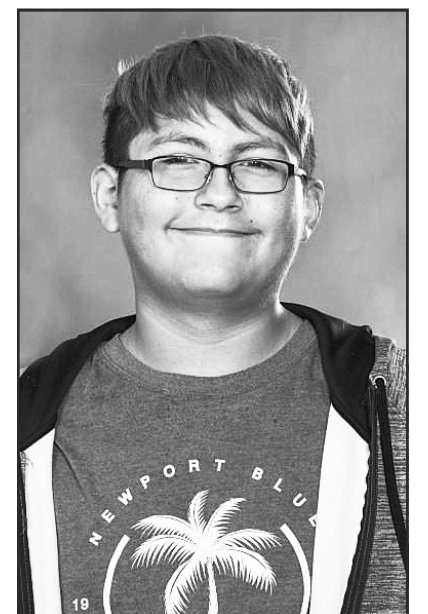
The Nebraska Art Teachers Association is working with Smith to coordinate the competition. Official rules, guidelines, and submission forms are available on Congressman Smith's website: adriansmith.house.gov/services/art-competition.

First-place artwork will be displayed in the U.S. Capitol, alongside winning entries from across the country, and Smith will display the runners-up in his Washington, D.C. and Third District offices.

The Congressional Institute annually sponsors the Congressional Art Competition for high school students from all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories.



BADGER OF THE WEEK
Calvin Stoeger, Senior, Speech



SCHOLAR OF THE WEEK
Jesse Waugh, Sophomore

Calvin placed second in Informative and fourth in Entertainment at Districts. He has been strong in both of these events all year and has earned his spot to represent VHS at state speech on March 18!

Calvin has been a leader in speech for several years. He shows up for practice. He practices on his own. He plans, writes, executes and refines creative and interesting speeches with professional visuals. He is kind and encouraging to his teammates. This year, he even designed our speech shirts. We are proud of you, Calvin, we appreciate you, and we are going to miss you. Thank you for all that you do for VHS...good luck at state!
- Katie Galvin and Alana Cardinal, Speech Coaches

Jesse Waugh has worked very diligently to improve in all areas of academics, and has succeeded in doing so. I'm proud of the effort he is putting in and the dividends are beginning to pay off. Keep up the good work.
- Shevaun Adams, Biology teacher

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Organization of FM Enterprises, L.L.C.

A Nebraska Limited Liability Company

1. The name of the limited liability company shall be FM Enterprises, L.L.C.
2. The address of the designated office is 111 East 3rd Street, P.O. Box 67, Valentine, NE 69201.
3. The name and address of the registered agent/offices: Kurt Dam Arganbright, 111 East Third Street, P.O. Box 67, Valentine, NE 69201.
4. The general nature of the business to be conducted by the limited liability company is any lawful act or business, other than banking or insurance, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the

State of Nebraska.
5. The limited liability company commenced on the 16th day of February, 2021, and will be perpetual.
6. The affairs of the limited liability company are to be conducted by the members.
DATED this 16th day of February, 2021.

FM Enterprises, L.L.C.
A Nebraska Limited Liability Company,
BY: Kurt Dam Arganbright,
NSBA #24375
Its Attorney
18345-24, 3, 10 ZNEZ

Notice of Organization of 4 Seasons Furniture, LLC

Notice is hereby given that 4 Seasons Furniture, 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 Iris V. Smith whose address is 210 N. Main St. Valentine, NE 69201 and its initial designated office is at 210 N. Main 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 February 24, 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, Iris V. Smith in accordance with its Operating Agreement.
By Its Organizing Member
Iris V. Smith
210 N. Main St.
Valentine, NE 69201
18364-3, 10, 17 ZNEZ

Notice to Contractors

Call Order: 850 Contract ID: M80036 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 March 18, 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 from: <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/>.
18340-24, 3, 10 ZNEZ

Notice to Contractors

Call Order: 855 Contract ID: M80035 State Project No. M80035
Location: District 8 Grading
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 March 18, 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 from: <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/>.
18341-24, 3, 10 ZNEZ

Notice

A total of 113 cases will be heard by the Board in March, 2021. The following case(s) sentenced in Cherry County will be seen by the Board of Parole.
March 24, 2021, 8:30 a.m.
Community Correctional Center - Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska
Watson, Ryan, 211663, Manu/Dist/Del/Disp or Poss W/I
Rosalyn Cotton, Chair
Nebraska Board of Parole
18373-10 ZNEZ

Notice of Organization

Notice is hereby given that Meat & Complete, LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with its initial designated office at 404 E 5th St, Valentine, NE 69201. The initial agent for service of process of the Company is Chelsea Luthy, 404 E 5th St, Valentine, NE, 69201.
18371-10, 17, 24 ZNEZ

Meeting Notices

Valentine City Council meeting change

Notice is hereby given that the regular meeting of the Council of the City of Valentine, Nebraska has been moved to Thursday, March 18 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
18372-10 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.
18374-10, 17, 24 ZNEZ

Cherry County Veterans Service Committee

Notice is hereby given that the quarterly meeting of the Cherry County Veteran Service committee will be held at 7:00 p.m. on March 15, 2021. The meeting will be held at the county Veteran Service Office, at 365 N. Main St. Ste. # 2. The Meeting is open to the public. The agenda for the meeting is available for review during normal business hours at the Veteran Service office.
18365-3, 10 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.
18376-10, 17, 24, 31 ZNEZ

Notice of Public Hearing

The Keya Paha County Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing at 11:00 a.m. on March 23, 2021 in the meeting room in the Keya Paha County Courthouse in Springview. The purpose of the hearing is to consider a Conditional Use Permit submitted by Cams West LLC for electrical hook ups and additional cabins located at Rocky Ford Camp Grounds on River Road in Keya Paha County. For more information contact Zoning Administrator Dolly Kienke at 402-497-2868.
The Keya Paha County Board of Commissioners will hold a public

hearing on March 23, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. in the Commissioners room in the Keya Paha County Courthouse in Springview. The purpose of the hearing is to hear a recommendation from the Keya Paha County Planning Commission on a Conditional Use Permit submitted by Cams West LLC for electrical hook ups and additional cabins at Rocky Ford Camp Grounds on River Road in Keya Paha County. For more information contact Zoning Administrator Dolly Kienke at 402-497-2868.
18375-10 ZNEZ

Dormant spraying alfalfa weeds

As our weather warms, alfalfa producers are reminded to eliminate weeds in their fields before plants break dormancy. Herbicides for controlling winter annual weeds such as pennycress, mustards, and shepherd's purse should be applied before alfalfa regrowth reaches two inches of height. If alfalfa shoots are green when sprayed, its growth may be set back a couple weeks.
Broadleaf weeds can lower yields, reduce hay quality; and slow first-cutting alfalfa dry-down. Grassy weeds such as downy brome, cheatgrass and bromegrass can have even higher impact on lowering hay quality.
If your alfalfa variety is Roundup Ready, then glyphosate can be applied to the alfalfa almost any time without harming the fields.

Fortunately, if you treat your alfalfa soon; you can have cleaner, healthier alfalfa at first cutting.
Before spraying these weeds, be sure they are causing economic damage to your crop. Spraying will provide a purer alfalfa stand; but may reduce your overall total tonnage.
Our new Nebraska Extension Weed Guide, EC 130, lists herbicides labelled to control weeds in alfalfa. To be most successful, apply herbicides before alfalfa shoots green-up this spring to avoid alfalfa injury. If it does get late, use either Raptor or Pursuit; because they tend to cause less injury to your alfalfa.
Get ready to control unwanted weeds now before alfalfa plants break dormancy. Spray timing is critical.

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A household is defined for the purposes of the Lifeline program as any individual or group of individuals who live together at the same address and share income and expenses. Lifeline service is not transferable, and only eligible consumers may enroll in the program. Consumers who willfully make false statements in order to obtain a Lifeline discount can be punished by fine or imprisonment and can be barred from the program.

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- 718 Candice St. • Valentine \$164,900 • 2,008 Sqft.

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NEBRASKA HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SYSTEM

Valentine Police Department: 2020 Annual Report

Continued from Page 1

tions were slowly becoming limited. As the government increased unemployment payout, it became harder for small businesses to find help. There were some businesses that did not survive the year as more people were staying home to stay healthy. The police department and jail made policy changes to incorporate social distancing. Misdemeanor offenses were ticketed from a distance and we treaded lightly on arrests. Zoom meetings increased, cleaning requirements increased, and wearing masks became the norm.

"The county court and district court were able to remain open by using teleconference for court cases. Other businesses in town locked their doors and were only taking business by appointment only. In fact, many businesses are still only seeing customers by appointments.

"The school system also closed their doors for the last quarter of the 2019-2020 school year. Many parents struggled with daycare, work, and becoming an overnight teacher for their children. As much as we complain about 2020, there were some perks that came out of it. People were spending more time together as a family. Being home made people reinvent ways to play and learn. They were forced to make the most of what they had available.

"COVID-19 forced everyone to slow down and step aside from their busy schedules. Society also had to cook more at home since the state mandated take out at restaurants. Numerous households took to gardening and food preservation. Many locals took to the outdoors this summer; enjoying the walking, biking, river and boating activities, kayaking, and star gazing. Although these activities are always an option for us, busy schedules usually don't give us a chance to enjoy them on a regular basis. We were reminded how much we do enjoy being active or snuggling up in a blanket and getting lost in a book. As for now, we are all looking forward to ditching the masks and getting back into a routine."

Officer Jasmine Hoefs has been serving since December 2014 and is a Milo instructor. She attended Domestic Violence Response and Digital Class Assessment. She said, "As with many things in 2020,

the Valentine Police Department looked a little different when it came to public relations. Despite the worldwide pandemic, the VPD continued to find avenues to make sure the faces of VPD were familiar ones without compromising the safety of offices and citizens.

"This year's annual First Responder's Memorial was a digital presentation spotlighting all of the area responders and paying respects to those lost along the way. VPD was also able to complete several investigations utilizing social media and the involvement of area citizens to resolve cases."

Officer Hoefs obtained her Special Deputy State Sheriff status in order to work together with agencies statewide to conduct investigations and enforcement efforts to combat human trafficking. This task force conducts operations throughout the state which have successfully identified and assisted victims as well as identified and prosecuted persons who solicit trafficking and exploit the victims. The VPD in conjunction with RDAP, Nebraska Health and Human Resources, other area law enforcement, Cherry County Hospital Ambulance members and other various members of the community have joined together to combat trafficking on a local level. This task force combines area resources to properly identify and respond to incidents of human trafficking.

It is a goal of the task force to provide public training events in which area citizens can be educated in how to identify and report incidents of human trafficking including recognizing risk factors of possible victims, signs and indicators of trafficking and how to respond when trafficking is suspected. Due to the coronavirus, much of the public education has been put on hold as the task force develops online and digital training events in order to educate the public safely.

For more information on how to identify and respond to human trafficking, visit the Nebraska Attorney General's website at www.ago.nebraska.gov and click on the human trafficking link.

Officer Brandon Ormesher has been serving since September 2014 and is a Drug Recognition Expert. He attended the following specialized trainings:

- Desert Snow Drug Interdiction
- Drug Recognition Expert Update
- Driving Under the Influence of Cannabis Training
- Evolving Drug Trends
- DUI Report Writing
- Officer Support Seminar

Officer Ormesher said, "As in years past, the possession, consumption and transportation of illegal narcotics continues to take place in the City of Valentine. The year started out with a bang for us at the police department with several large seizures of illegal narcotics. Most of those seizures were from people traveling through the area along Highway 20 and Highway 83; bringing the drugs right down the middle of Valentine.

"Two of those seizures totalled 12 pounds! We continue to see an uptick in the amount of illegal narcotics that people are willing to travel with in their vehicle. The majority are smaller seizures being from a half ounce and up. As we continued to perform our duties to keep the citizens of Valentine safe and do our part in slowing the spread of COVID-19 in our community, we continued to see drug activity in the City of Valentine.

"This year we had a total of 47 drug offense related cases up from 33 in 2019. Most of those cases involving marijuana and methamphetamine. In the end of November and the beginning of December, thanks to concerned citizens and them noticing stop and go traffic from motels, we were able to serve two search warrants for the motel rooms. Both search warrant services were successful in seizing both marijuana and methamphetamine that were being sold in the community. One search warrant resulted in several arrests and the other resulted in a warrant be sought for the suspect; as they had fled prior to our arrival.

"With that being said, the community of Valentine plays a big role in helping to stop the sale and use of illegal narcotics in our community by those who see things that look suspicious and reporting it to the Valentine Police Department. You play a big role in keeping our community safe. We will continue to work hard to take illegal narcotics off the street to make the City of Valentine a safer place."

Officer Ryan McSweeney has

been serving since October 2020. "I was born in Barstow, California and was a military brat growing up. After high school I joined the Marines and was in the service from August 1, 2010 to August 1, 2014. After the military I went to the University of Cincinnati and got a Bachelor's Degree in Operation's Management Business. After college my wife, Ashley and my son, Maxx, moved to Valentine where I started working for Olson's Pest. After that I was the Youth Activities Director for two years before transferring to this job."

Officer McSweeney will be attending the academy with class 207 and looks forward to serving the community of Valentine.

In 2020 officers responded to 5,949 calls for service. This is a 17.3 percent decrease from 2019 in which officers responded to 7,190 calls. Some of this decrease can be contributed to the decline of operations during the peak of the pandemic.

Property calls were again the leading category this year. The bulk of that being business checks, standard patrol within our community, issues like suspicious activity, home/business alarms, trespass, criminal mischief and code violations. Assistance to citizens, fire departments, jail staff, medics, outside agencies, other law enforcement, and our own officers made up the second largest category this year.

In 2020 there were 107 arrests that brought 350 charges against suspects. In 2019 there were 132 arrests with 396 charges brought against suspects. Group A offenses would be your violent crimes, while Group B would be considered non violent. The other category is defined as misdemeanor offenses and include many traffic violations. The low arrest numbers and high charges of 2020 are indicative of drug affiliated arrests; which generally have multiple charges for a single suspect. COVID-19 and staffing changes also played a part in the lower numbers this year.

Group A offenses in 2020 were 68.5 percent; Group B 17.8; and other offenses 13.7.

Our peace officers were still busy during the pandemic and we'll see how the pandemic plays a role in 2021.

CVA to sell Valentine tire store

YORK – Central Valley Ag (CVA) has announced the sale of their tire store located in Valentine, to Pit Stall Tire Pros. This decision to sell was made after careful and deliberate consideration, discussion and research.

Pit Stall Tire Pros owns a tire store to the west of the CVA Valentine tire facility. "They are growing their tire business at their current location and have invested in new equipment," said Jeff Ingalls, CVA SVP of Energy. "We believe that

they will do an excellent job serving the area customers with their tire needs."

"We are excited to purchase this location and will continue to provide the Valentine community with great products and services," said Gregg Perrett, Pit Stall Tire Pros Owner.

The purchase agreement was finalized and signed on March 3, 2021. The transfer of ownership will be made official on March 31, 2021.

Game and Parks to host virtual pre-K Nature Tails program

LINCOLN – Join the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission on Tuesday mornings for a series of virtual pre-K programs titled Nature Tails that began March 9.

Each week at 10:00 a.m. CT, outdoor educators will read a nature-themed children's book in-line with that week's theme. The children then will be given an activity.

The schedule of programs and themes: March 9 – Dinosaurs, March 23 – Weather, March 30 – Worms, April 6 – Prairies, April 13 – Seeds.

All Nature Tails programs are free and no registration is re-

quired. Go to outdoornebraska.zoom.us/j/99354189353 to join each program.

Each virtual event will be recorded and posted to the Nebraska Game and Parks Education Channel on YouTube.

Contact monica.macoubrie@nebraska.gov with questions or for more information. Also, check out the events on the Game and Parks' Facebook page, the Wildcat Hills Nature Center and State Recreation Area Facebook page, or the Nebraska Wildlife Education Facebook page.

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Nebraska right-to-repair bill gears up

by Colby Woodson
Nebraska News Service

LINCOLN--Nebraskans voiced their stance on a bill that would give agriculture equipment owners greater access to tools needed to do their own repairs.

Sen. Tom Brandt of Plymouth introduced the Agricultural Equipment Right-To-Repair Act, a bill that would give farmers access to all the tools needed to fix their own ag equipment. People packed the room for the Judiciary Committee's public hearing February 26.

"We need to ask ourself, would these farmers have driven here today if this was not an issue?" Brandt asked the Judiciary Committee, clarifying that the intention of the legislation was to function as "a bill of rights" for farmers and independent technicians to purchase the same repair tools available to dealerships at an equivalent price.

With the modernization of farming equipment, newer combines and tractors have become digitized control centers. Sensors, firmware, microchips, touchscreens and webs of wiring have created the need for access to diagnostic tools and replacement components. But finding out what the fix is can be a challenge.

"I simply want to have access to all the diagnostic features of the equipment, to be able to perform repairs in a timely manner," said Jerrad Stroh, a farmer from Juniata. "During the compressed seasons, there's not enough technicians to go around, sometimes you're on a waiting list."

Tom Schwartz, a farmer from Bertrand, was adamant that he has the ability to repair his vehicles but that issues with software can create roadblocks.

"The tractor has to accept that new component. It's gotta be told it's OK, it's compatible, it's gonna run, and that's got to be done through a computer program," he said.

Manufactures, dealerships and industry representatives voiced opposition to the bill. They highlighted their investments in manufacturer-certified repair programs.

"We spend hundreds of thousands of dollars a year making sure our technicians are well trained, particularly through John Deere's training school," said Kevin Clark, co-owner of AKRS Equipment Solutions, a John Deere certified dealership with 27 locations in Nebraska. AKRS employs 700 people in the state.

The Nebraska Chamber of Commerce issued a statement on February 23 opposing the bill warning that repairs attempted by untrained personnel could lead to "some very significant personal consequences," and said the law would give away software source code that is manufacturers' intellectual property.

"We listened to the dealers and manufacturers to address their concerns," Brandt said.

The senator specified that the bill doesn't grant farmers access to the underlying programming language, known as source code, but rather the parts of the surface-level software needed to return equipment to a functional state.

"There are still those manufacturers that will be against any right-to-repair legislation no matter what," he said.

The legislation drew endorsements from agricultural and repair organizations. Lance Atwater, a board director with the Nebraska Farm Bureau, gave the bureau's approval saying that the bill addressed farmers' and ranchers' concern that "farm-equipment manufacturers have maintained exclusive control over equipment, information and technology."

Willie Cade, a bureau member and board director at repair.org, noted that after Massachusetts passed an automotive right-to-repair law in 2012, automotive manufacturers agreed to a national plan to implement Right-to-Repair. Vern Jantzen, vice-president of the Nebraska Farmers Union, added the union to the list of proponents.

"I like the option to support my local repair shop," Jantzen said.

Opponents pushed back against the idea that repair tools and personnel are hard to access. Grant Suhre, a John Deere customer support manager, said that "there is varying levels of access up to and including the same access the dealer has."

"There will never be a time that you won't be able to look it up if you have the right information," Suhre said. He clarified that if necessary error and override codes weren't listed in the owners' manual, customers could go to the online bookstore, download an app, or call customer service to access all of the codes.

Brandt disagreed. When asked how often diagnostic issues confront farmers, Brandt responded "every day."

Proposal for new prison faces opposition

by Hanna Christensen
Nebraska News Service

LINCOLN--Nebraska State Corrections Director Scott Frakes has proposed a plan to construct a new \$320 million state prison between Omaha and Lincoln, but he has to get it through the Appropriations Committee and the Legislature first.

The prison would be a 1,512-bed correctional facility that spans 450,000 square feet and allows for future expansion. In a statement on the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services' website, Frakes referred to the new prison as a "necessary next step" as Nebraska's prison population is projected to keep growing.

"We are confronted with an inability to expand existing facilities and an aging infrastructure at the Nebraska State Penitentiary," he said.

According to Sam Petto, American Civil Liberties Union of Nebraska communications director, Nebraska has the second-most overcrowded prison system in the country, and some facilities are currently operating at two to three times above capacity. He said Nebraska is in an overcrowding emergency that, by law, mandates a reduction in the prison population.

Sen. John McCollister of Omaha is a strong critic of the prison proposal and said there are better ways to deal with the overcrowding

issue including sentencing reform, parole reform and drug treatment courts.

"Reform efforts are going on around the country," McCollister said. "So, Nebraska is a bit of an outlier in this idea of building a new prison."

According to a poll by ACLU of Nebraska, the majority of Nebraskans agree too much taxpayer money is proposed to be spent on the prison. Poll results showed they support focusing on reform that meets mental health and addiction needs instead.

Petto said diverting someone out of the prison system also makes much more fiscal sense.

"The average cost to have someone under supervision for a year if they're participating in a mental health court program is \$3,000 a year," he said. "By contrast, it costs taxpayers about \$40,000 a year to house someone in prison."

According to state Legislature budget reports, the growth in how much the state spends on prisons is more than that of other significant state funding areas.

"The last 20 years, despite constant construction, Nebraska's prison overcrowding system has continued as we have given the Nebraska prison system about a 7% budget increase every single year," Petto said. "That's a lot higher than say we're spending on education or other priorities."

The proposal has also raised

questions about how the prison would be staffed. According to Petto, understaffing issues have caused the Corrections Department to need to bus employees to locations, give large signing bonuses and implement mandatory overtime.

"It [the prison] is such a crazy idea because we can't even staff the prisons we have," McCollister said.

McCollister said the proposal will have a difficult time getting

through the Appropriations Committee. With the exception of the Corrections Department and Gov. Pete Ricketts, he said he has not heard many people pushing for its approval.

"The opposition to a new prison construction spans the political spectrum," he said.

Petto encouraged Nebraskans to contact their senators to tell them how they feel about the proposal.

Grow an earlier and more abundant tomato harvest

by Melinda Myers

Be the first in your neighborhood to enjoy a garden-ripe tomato. Then continue harvesting an abundance of flavorful tomatoes throughout the growing season. A little planning and strategic planting can help you get an earlier and bigger tomato harvest.

Jump start the season by warming the soil for an earlier start. Cover the planting space with a floating row cover, clear plastic or a cloche. Once the soil is warm, you are ready to plant your tomatoes. Use the row cover or cloche to protect your plants when cold temperatures or frost is in the forecast. You will get a two- to four-week jump start to the season.

Further shorten the time to harvest by planting an early ripening tomato like Early Girl, Fourth of July, and Quick Pick. Check the catalog description or plant tags for the number of days the tomato variety needs to reach maturity. Growing these or others that require fewer days between planting and harvesting means you'll be enjoying fresh tomatoes sooner.

Train at least one of your tomato plants onto a stake for an earlier harvest. Loosely tie one or two stems to a tall stake. Continue securing the stems throughout the season as the plant grows. Remove the suckers, the small branches that form between the main stem and leaf, as they appear. You'll have fewer fruit, but they will be ready to harvest sooner than those caged or grown sprawled on the ground.

Staking also saves space and helps reduce the risk of disease. If staking seems like too much effort, grow your tomatoes in cages. Use tall, sturdy cages for larger indeter-

minate tomatoes that grow, flower, and produce fruit until frost. Caging tomatoes also increases airflow and light penetration for greater yields and fewer pest problems.

Save even more space while bringing the harvest to your kitchen door, balcony, or window box with compact tomato varieties, like Patio Choice Yellow Sweet and Neat or Tumbling Tom. Plant one in a 10-inch pot or grow several in a larger container. You'll have a large crop of bite-sized tomatoes in about two months.

To improve the quality of your harvest, choose disease- and crack-resistant varieties. Cooks and canners will love Early Resilience Roma-type tomato. It is resistant to late blight, blossom end rot and several other common tomato diseases. This determinate tomato plant only grows two feet tall, so will not need staking. It is great for containers, small spaces, and traditional vegetable gardens. Reducing the risk of disease means a bigger harvest with less effort on your part.

With a little planning you will be ready to enjoy an early and bountiful harvest of tasty tomatoes from this season's garden.

Replacing thin alfalfa

Planting new fields of alfalfa is expensive. So many of us put off tearing up old fields and planting new ones. But is this smart?

Alfalfa stands usually reach peak production by year two or three. After this, yields tend to decline each year. By year four or five, yields are often much lower than their peak years, especially for dryland fields, because the subsurface moisture that plants were using during the early years is all gone. This is most noticeable during drought years when regrowth is almost zero after the first or second cut. Yield decline in irrigated fields is slower but usually is a ton or more lower by year five or six. In addition, thin stands with densities of less than 50 stems per square foot can open the door for weed encroachment.

So, should you try to squeeze another year out of your alfalfa stand? Calculate the costs. First, and most obvious, how will the lower yield of your old field compare to yields from a younger field. A second loss, is the lost rotation benefit received by crops like corn that follow alfalfa in the rotation. Not only will alfalfa reduce your nitrogen fertilizer needs by one hundred to one hundred fifty pounds over the next couple years, much research has shown that corn after alfalfa often yields ten to twenty bushels more per acre than it will even with extra fertilizer.

This rotation benefit could be especially valuable this year if corn prices stay high. So, if you have alfalfa fields that are past their prime, or maybe show winter damage this spring, this might be an excellent time to rotate those fields to a different crop and plant some new, higher yielding acres to alfalfa.

Both your alfalfa crop and the rotated crop could benefit.

Valentine High School Weekly Calendar

Wednesday, March 10	Mental Mornings	7:20 a.m.
	FBLA officer meeting	7:30 a.m.
	Seniors work on college scholarship applications in aud.	Period 6
	Board meeting	5:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 11	No School-Spring Break	
Friday, March 12	No School-Spring Break	
Monday, March 15	Quiz Bowl at Ainsworth	1:00 p.m.
	depart at noon	
	6th Grade play practice in auditorium	3:35 p.m.
Tuesday, March 16	Badger Den	during lunch
	6th Grade play practice in auditorium	3:35 p.m.
	FFA Hired Hand Auction-CC Fairgrounds	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, March 17	Mental Mornings	7:20 a.m.
	FBLA officer meeting	7:30 a.m.
	B.I.O.N.I.C. meeting	3:30 p.m.
	6th Grade play practice in auditorium	3:35 p.m.

LUNCH MENUS

Cody-Kilgore School

Monday, March 15 - Breakfast: Cody - Omelet, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, and milk. **Kilgore** - Mini banana bread, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, and milk. **Lunch: Cody** - Turkey & noodles, mashed potatoes, corn, cookie, dinner roll, fruit, salad bar and milk. **Kilgore** - Breaded chicken patty, bread, lettuce, relish tray, fruit, and milk.

Tuesday, March 16 - Breakfast: Cody - Breakfast burrito, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, and milk. **Kilgore** - Breakfast sandwich, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, and milk. **Lunch: Cody** - Taco or taco salad, corn chips and bean dip, bread, fruit, salad bar, and milk. **Kilgore** - Goulash, peas, bread, lettuce, relish tray, fruit, and milk.

Wednesday, March 17 - Breakfast: Cody - Pancakes w/ hot syrup, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, and milk. **Kilgore** - Cream cheese bagels, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, and milk. **Lunch: Cody** - Cabbage burgers, roasted potatoes, cooked carrots, bread, fruit, salad bar, and milk. **Kilgore** - Ham and cheese wraps, bread, lettuce, relish tray, fruit, and milk.

Thursday, March 18 - Breakfast: Cody - Waffles w/ peaches and cream, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, and milk. **Kilgore** - Yogurt, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, and milk. **Lunch: Cody** - Beef stroganoff, corn, cheese rolls, fruit, salad bar, milk. **Kilgore** - Chili or tomato soup, crackers, cinnamon rolls, cheese sticks, lettuce, relish tray, fruit, juice, and milk.

Friday, March 12 - No School!!
*** All menus subject to last minute change!!

Valentine High School

Monday, March 15 - Breakfast: Muffin top and yogurt, cereal choices w/ Goldfish Grahams, Smucker's peanut butter and jelly Uncrustable, peaches, juice and milk choices. Lunch: Baked ham and cheese sub, sloppy joe, grilled chicken sandwich, crinkle cut fries, baby carrots, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.

Tuesday, March 16 - Breakfast: Iced long john, cereal choices w/ Goldfish Grahams, Smucker's peanut butter and jelly Uncrustable, applesauce, juice and milk choices. Lunch: Baked combo sub, cheeseburger, Italian dunkers w/ marinara dipping sauce, corn, broccoli, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.

Wednesday, March 17 - 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, BBQ pulled pork sandwich, chicken BLT salad with roasted flatbread, BBQ baked beans, carrots, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.

Thursday, March 18 - 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, baked ham w/ dinner roll, popcorn chicken bites, broccoli, ranch potatoes, green bean casserole, cookie, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.

Friday, March 19 - 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, toasted sausage breakfast sandwich, 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, March 15 - Breakfast: Pancake sausage stick, cereal choices with toast, peaches, juice and milk choices. Lunch: Baked ham and cheese sub, grilled chicken sandwich, sloppy joe, crinkle cut fries, baby carrots, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.

Tuesday, March 16 - Breakfast: Muffin top and yogurt, cereal choices with toast, applesauce, juice and milk choices. Lunch: Baked combo sub, cheeseburger, Italian dunkers w/ marinara dipping sauce, corn, broccoli, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.

Wednesday, March 17 - Breakfast: Stuffed potato breakfast burrito, cereal choices with toast, pineapple tidbits, juice and milk choices. Lunch: Oven roasted hot dog, BBQ pulled pork sandwich, chicken BLT salad with roasted flatbread, BBQ baked beans, baby carrots, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.

Thursday, March 18 - Breakfast: Chocolate chip breakfast round, cereal choices with toast, pears, juice and milk choices. Lunch: Baked ham and cheese sub, baked ham w/ dinner roll, popcorn chicken bites w/ dinner roll, broccoli, green bean casserole, ranch potatoes, cookie, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.

Friday, March 19 - Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, cereal choices with toast, orange slices, juice and milk choices. Lunch: Baked ham and turkey sub, pepperoni pizza, toasted sausage breakfast sandwich, cheese pizza, green beans, baby carrots, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.

**Menus are subject to change without notice!!

Valentine Elementary School

Monday, March 15 - Breakfast: Pancake sausage stick, cereal choices with toast, peaches, juice and milk choices. Lunch: Grilled chicken sandwich, sloppy joe, crinkle cut fries, baby carrots, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.

Tuesday, March 16 - Breakfast: Muffin top and yogurt, cereal choices with toast, applesauce, juice and milk choices. Lunch: Cheeseburger, Italian dunkers w/ marinara dipping sauce, corn, broccoli, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.

Wednesday, March 17 - Breakfast: Stuffed potato breakfast burrito, cereal choices with toast, pineapple tidbits, juice and milk choices. Lunch: Oven roasted hot dog, BBQ pulled pork sandwich, BBQ baked beans, baby carrots, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.

Thursday, March 18 - Breakfast: Chocolate chip breakfast round, cereal choices with toast, pears, juice and milk choices. Lunch: Baked ham w/ dinner roll, popcorn chicken bites w/ dinner roll, broccoli, green bean casserole, ranch potatoes, cookie, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.

Friday, March 19 - Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, cereal choices with toast, orange slices, juice and milk choices. Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, toasted sausage breakfast sandwich, cheese pizza, green beans, baby carrots, fruit of the day, and choice of milk.

**Menus are subject to change without notice!!

Valentine Senior Center

Thursday, March 11 - Chicken noodle soup, 3 bean salad, bread, peaches.

Friday, March 12 - Tater tot casserole or fish fillet, peas, roll, tropical fruit.

Monday, March 15 - Ham, au gratin potato, green beans, roll, pears.

Tuesday, March 16 - Pork roast, mashed potatoes, carrots, bread, apple crisp.

Wednesday, March 17 - Spaghetti and meat sauce, lettuce, garlic bread, peaches.

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.

FFA HIRED HAND AUCTION

Tuesday, March 16

Free Soup & Sandwich Supper 6:00 p.m. Auction to follow.

Cherry County Fairgrounds, Valentine

This is a chapter fundraiser for state & national conventions. Each member will work an 8 hour day for the buyer.

Branding trailer with two branding stoves and propane tank built by the Manufacturing Class will also be auctioned off.

If you have any questions or can't attend the auction, please feel free to call Mr. Nollette or Mrs. Houdek at 402-376-1780 and he can assist you.

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Opportunity Statement

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination.

We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

AG EQUIPMENT

FOR SALE: Heavy bottomless stock tanks. Buckley Steel. 402-387-0347 or evenings 402-387-2785. (1TF)

HELP WANTED

THE CITY of Valentine and Frederick Peak Golf Club is now accepting applications for seasonal/part time grounds maintenance at the golf course. Competitive pay and flexible scheduling is available. Positions are available from April 1st through October. Applicants must be 16 years old or older with a valid driver's license. Applicants must be able to lift 50 lbs. and perform moderate physical activities. Applications may be picked up and turned in at Valentine City Hall at 323 N. Main Street, or at the golf course maintenance shop. City of Valentine is an equal opportunity employer and positions are subject to a veterans preference. (10TF)

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FOR RENT

STORAGE UNITS. Contact Great Plains Mini Storage, call 402-376-3421 or 402-376-4714. (1TF)

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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)

WAREHOUSE AND offices for rent in Valentine. Excellent location at 1st and Government Streets. Warehouse 3,000 sq. ft. with two 12 ft overhead doors. Offices (2) 800 sq. ft. and 1,000 sq. ft. 402-389-0438. (8-10A)

Thank You

Thank you to Farm Credit Services for the very generous donation to our food pantry. Many families in the community will be able to be helped thanks to you.
Northwest Community Action

Thank You

Thank you to the Valentine Rotary Club and those who took time to support our First Responders during the recent KVSH Radiothon. Your support helps us purchase equipment that allows us to better serve you!
Valentine Police Department

Thank You

Dearest family and friends,
What a wonderful surprise when all of the cards and letters started coming for our 65th Wedding Anniversary. The wonderful comments and cards were so special. We will cherish the comments forever. Such beautiful remarks from our friends and family filled our hearts with joy. God bless all of you for the beautiful cards and wishes.
Thanks,
Bob and Evelyn Lower

Thank You

Thank you for the 50th Anniversary cards and messages. We enjoyed hearing from many friends and family.
Gary and Margaret Brinda

Thank You

The family of Sonny Harms would like to thank all our friends and relatives for the many cards, phone calls, food, flowers and memorials we received. It was greatly appreciated.
Suze Harms
Melinda Mattson
Marty Harms
and families

Thank You

The family of Clarence Danielski would like to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, memorials, plants, flowers, phone calls or your visit. We thank you for sharing your special memories with us of our dad. Your kind words were well appreciated and comforting.
The Danielski Family
Betty
Dave, Don, Mike, Susan,
Leonard and Tom
and families

NEBRASKA STATEWIDE CLASSIFIED NETWORK



APPLYING FOR Social Security Disability or Appealing a Denied Claim? Call Bill Gordon & Assoc., Our case managers simplify the process & work hard to help with your case. Call 1-866-818-0868. Free Consultation. Local Attorneys Nationwide [Mail: 2420 N St. NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. FL (TX/NM Bar).

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SEEKING FRIENDLY, energetic person to manage our meat department in Winner, SD. Three years meat management experience required. Great salary, bonus, health insurance, and 401K. Resume to msteck58@gmail.com.

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JUNE 28 - JULY 1 • HASTINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL • Boys & Girls-Commuter Only
JULY 6 - 9 • DOANE UNIVERSITY • Boys & Girls-Overnight & Commuter
JULY 18 - 21 • CCC-COLUMBUS • Boys & Girls-Overnight & Commuter
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NSEA Thank a teacher.
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HELP WANTED CapRock Ranch

JOB DESCRIPTION - Director of Lodging & Experience

Summary/Objective
Responsible for managing and maintaining cottages for our members and their guests. Maintains the rooms and ensure they are ready for guests upon check-in/check-out and communicates all needs to appropriate departments in advance. Ensures the reservation process is coordinated and organized to maximize efficiency. Provides an overall professional and enjoyable experience to member's and guests' experiences. Ensures members and their guests have a pleasant experience and accommodates member/ guest requests within the guidelines of the club.

Essential Functions:

- Monitors, maintains, and manages reservations of the cottages.
- Schedules all transportation needs while visiting both to/from the airports, or any other venue when applicable. Assigns available pre-approved drivers.
- Resolves guest problems quickly, efficiently, and courteously.
- Be a "Club Ambassador" and uphold the club's commitment to hospitality by providing concierge-type services to guests.
- Manages within allotted budget restraints; takes corrective actions to help ensure that budget goals are attained.
- Maintains records of Lodging revenue and occupancy.

Competencies:

- Ability to effectively present information in one-on-one and small group situations to guests, clients and other associates of the organization.
- Ability to effectively and professionally deal with members, some of whom may require high levels of patience, tact and diplomacy to defuse anger.
- Ability to listen effectively and to speak English clearly over the telephone.
- Ability to efficiently use Microsoft Office as well as other computer programs.

Seasonal Job Opportunities:

- Player Service Attendant
- Greenskeeper
- Housekeeping
- Golf Shop Attendant
- Bar and Wait Staff
- Kitchen Staff

To Apply: Visit www.caprockranch.com and click on the job opportunities button at the bottom of the main page.

“WHO DO YOU SAY I AM?”
- Jesus
Matthew 16:15



53rd Annual Registered Angus Bull Sale

March 25, 2021 1:00 pm

Burwell Livestock Market | Burwell, NE

SELLING: 50 Yearlings & 15 Fall Bulls/Coming Two's

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You can fax your application, along with your resume to 605-685-1166, drop them off at the Bennett County Rural Health Clinic or email them to smoran@bennettcountyhospital.com

Bennett County Hospital & Nursing Home is an equal opportunity employer.

Janie and Doris, part I

I'm nurtured from hearing true stories of folks who have tasted real and sometimes hard lives. We need each other. We gain relational and maturity skills that may be missing in us when we watch someone else live out loud. Seamlessly, we learn from each other. Community has always been God's idea, particularly multi-generational community. When children, parents and grandparents live, play, work and grow together, relational skills are transferred. Ultimately that leads us into a more stable and satisfying life with God and others. But sometimes those skills are missing ...and not transferred.

Janie lived with her father and sisters. Her mother was out of the picture. They lived in a little house her father had built. He decided it would be a good idea to make the ceiling lower than normal to accommodate his shorter height. He decided it would be a good idea to put a drain in the middle of the kitchen floor. That way they could place the tub there and drain out

the water under their house after their baths. He also thought it was a good idea to put the hog pen next to the back door of their home so throwing out the "slop" would be easier, closer. When she was 13 years old, Janie decided it would be a good idea to launch out on her own. And she did. The world became a fascinating place of discovery for a teenager.

At about age 15 or 16, Janie found herself pregnant and alone. She knew she needed help from a community. So she asked different couples at different times if she and her daughter, Doris, could stay with them for awhile. Janie would look for a job and work during the day. In most of the homes, the young mother with her daughter was allowed to stay for a few weeks before they had to move on. Little Doris didn't always have the care

and oversight she needed when her mother was away. At times she wasn't fed properly. They were homeless and the world felt harsh. About the time little Doris was five years old, Janie met Alex and they married. He was a kind man and brought stability and provision into their world. Doris was thrilled to have a father...to be a family.

A church nearby was having a visiting pastor who was preaching in the evenings. Revival broke out and many accepted Jesus as Savior. Janie went by herself one night and went forward to the altar with others wanting to trust Christ as Savior. This out of town pastor stayed and continued to preach because there was so much response. The next week Janie went forward again. Questioned about her reason, she answered, "I'm here for prayer for

my husband to get saved."

"No he's not mean to me; he's the kindest man I ever met; but he doesn't know Jesus!" Within a week Alex had gone to the little church revival and accepted Jesus as his Savior. Little Doris experienced a change in their home.

At age seven, Doris received Jesus at her mother's knee while seeing a vision of Jesus. Doris lived from that time on with the assurance of a good God who loved her and dwelt with her. God began to redeem the tough earlier years as Alex, Janie and Doris grew in the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit. That little church where her parents were saved became their community of faith there in Brunswick County, NC. That pastor, Woodrow Robbins, would be a strong and loving influence for them all their lives.

"Call unto Me and I will answer you and show you great and mighty things which you know not." Jeremiah 33:3

POINTS TO PONDER

Pam Keech Bryan

Calving in May or June? We're not that smart yet!

At this time, calving is well underway here at the Spearhead Ranch. Due date on our heifers was February 22, and the cows were due to start just two days ago, on February 28. They have kicked right into gear. We don't do any artificial insemination, so all of the heifers and cows are bull bred. Over 40 percent of the heifers have already calved, and about 10 percent of the cows have accomplished their birthing task.

Tonight promises to be fairly pleasant, so the calves can be born outside and left outside. Our slightly flexible rule of thumb is that if it is no colder than 20 degrees, with no wind, the calves can survive being left outside with their mothers. If it is colder than that, either actual temperature or with the wind chill factor, they should probably have shelter. Of course how vigorously the cow licks off her newborn calf, and how quickly it gets on its feet to suck makes an immense difference.

We have the luxury of a night calver again this year. A pleasant and capable young lady from Kansas

has been hired, and she is doing a splendid job. She has a good horse and a bright flashlight, along with adequate yard lights to monitor the progress of calving cows. We have box stall space for up to 64 pairs if need arises, but with relatively

SOAPWEED SOLILOQUY

Steve Moreland

nice weather the past few years, we have not needed to fill them all at the same time. We are again this year hoping for the best, but trying to be prepared for the worst. The rest of us on the crew greatly appreciate the opportunity to get uninterrupted sleep each night.

The rest of the crew consists of: our son, Brock, who is the head honcho and hardest worker; his mother Carol, who is the glue that holds the whole outfit together by filling the roles of cowgirl, cook,

secretary, hay feeder, grandkid baby-sitter, and thankfully being my dear wife; my sister Sybil, who has experience in other more civilized occupations, but has always kept up with the continuing education necessary in the field of ranching; and myself, a senior citizen slightly crippled by West Nile a few years ago, but still actively involved as chief feeder of hay. Sybil rides along to open gates and cut net wrap. All in all, our crew operates fairly efficiently. We do enjoy the capabilities of pickups with Hydra-Beds and our gentle but active Polaris Rangers.

Brock's delightful bride, Chelsie, rode a Ranger this evening to help get in the heavies. After the cows were situated into large lots for ease of night calving, I told Chelsie how times have changed in recent years. Not too long ago, about three of us would saddle horses each night to get in the cows. Pairs are dropped back, and the cows yet to calve were pushed into the night corrals with some reluctance on their part. As a chain is much easier to pull than to push, so are cattle. Now we string out a bale of hay each evening, and the cows practically corral themselves. The pairs even seem to stay behind better in this fashion, and a quick trip on a Ranger around the day lot gives the satisfaction that all remaining cows are paired up with their new babies.

Our new method lacks the glamour of being horseback, with Stetsons worn at a jaunty angle and spurs a-jingling, but this works very well. We are trying to work smarter instead of quite so hard. Of course, if we were really trying to work smart, we would calve in May and June when the sun shines every day and only gentle breezes blow, but I regretfully confess we are not that smart yet.

Flexible funding for Cherry County

Northwest Community Action Partnership is reaching out to our partners to let you know that we have flexible funding for Cherry County residents. We can assist and consider paying for items such as fixing broken pipes, vehicle repair, bed bug fumigation, etc.

Please contact Northwest Community Action Partnership Valentine Emergency office at 402-376-1886 and ask to speak with Shelley. Our office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 p.m.

Check out the news @ www.valentineneews.com

Valentine Police Department Week in review February 21-27, 2021

On 02/21/2021 at 4:36 p.m., an officer made a traffic stop near 3rd and Cherry Streets. Following an investigation, a 21 year old Arizona man was cited for possession of marijuana less than one ounce and possession of drug paraphernalia. A 21 year old man from South Dakota was arrested on an active Cedar County warrant.

On 02/23/2021 at 5:22 a.m., an officer was requested to respond to the 100 block of West Highway 20 for a trespassing issue. A 48 year old man from California was arrested for trespassing.

On 02/24/2021 at 9:08 p.m., an officer responded to the 100 block of West 4th Street for a vehicle accident. Following an investigation, a 23 year old woman from South Dakota was arrested on suspicion of operating her vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and for driving while revoked.

On 02/26/2021 at 11:31 a.m., an officer was requested to respond to the area of Highway 97 and Highway 20 for an assault. The suspect fled prior to law enforcement arrival. All information has been forwarded to the Cherry County Attorney.

Officers responded to 99 calls for service this week.

Dana Miller, Chief
Valentine Police Department
402-376-3055
dmiller@cityofvalentine.com

VALENTINE POLICE REPORT



02-14-21 TO 02-20-21

CALLS		
Accident Non-Injury	3	My goodness we forgot how to drive in icy conditions! Three accidents all involving a lower coefficient of friction and speed. Luckily nobody got hurt! Although several shaken up individuals.
Alarm	1	Business alarm was reportedly sounding. Not sure why because everything looked and was fine. Advised to check EVP recordings.
Assist Citizen	8	
Assist Other Law	2	Officers assisted the Cherry County Sheriff's Office,
Assist Other Agency	3	Valentine Fire Department and the Valentine Youth Activity Department this week.
Assault	1	Fight reported. Officers found that to be true. Somebody went to jail.
Business Check	27	
Civil Matter/Standby	2	
Code Violation	20	LOTS of folks didn't bother to scoop their sidewalks this last round of snow. Reminder...you have to scoop your sidewalks when it snows. It is a safety issue for everyone that utilizes them if you don't. Oh...and it's a city ordinance.
Complaint	3	
Disturbance	2	Complaint of a disturbance leads to a need for a shuttle service to avoid further complications.
Domestic Disturbance	2	
EPC	2	
Found Property	1	
Follow Up Investigation	10	Report of a scam involving a Nebraska police department. Come to find out it wasn't a scam at all. It was legitimate but a clerical error was what resulted in the issue to start with.
Fraud	2	Report of a fraud threatening to send inappropriate photos to friends and family if you don't pay a "ransom fee." This is a scam. On a side note, it is easier to identify this scam if you don't have those photos floating around somewhere.
Public Relations	1	
Special Assignment	2	
Suspicious Person/Vehicle	3	Vehicle blazing west out of town, found out to have skipped out of paying for fuel. Skipper has not been located to date.
Theft	3	Not locking your vehicle makes it an easy target for thievery. Officers fielded a report of a theft from a vehicle. Unknown who the suspects are.
Traffic Stop	12	Dearest Criminals, if you would just make sure all of your vehicle's safety gear is working and that your vehicle is actually registered, the police would likely just pass you by and subsequently not find your stash of dope. Respectfully, the Valentine Police Department.
Welfare Check	1	
Total Calls	111	

Continued from Page 2

From the Governor

freedom to choose the best educational options for their children is one of the best ways we can help the next generation achieve their dreams.

My budget includes \$12 million for Nebraska Career Scholarships over the next two years at our community colleges, state colleges, and public universities. I'm also recommending \$3 million to expand the Career Scholarship program to the private colleges in our state. This will bring the total number of career scholarships to at least 2,110 by 2023. These scholarships are equipping Nebraska's young adults to take great jobs in high-demand fields such as healthcare and manufacturing.

Our strong fiscal position also gives us the opportunity to make a critical investment in public safety. The Nebraska State Penitentiary (NSP), which opened in 1869, is a decaying structure nearing the end of its lifespan. My budget proposes building a replacement for the NSP in anticipation of the current facility aging out of service by the end of the decade. In the interest of protecting our communities and giving our corrections officers a safe work environment, we must ensure that we have sufficient operational capacity to adequately manage our inmate population in the years ahead. My plan would invest the initial funds needed to have the NSP's modernized replacement

completed and operational by 2025.

Thanks to Nebraska's strong economy, the Legislature can deliver significant property tax relief, invest in our schools, train the next generation of leaders in key industries, and protect public safety. You can view my plan to accomplish these priorities at budget.nebraska.gov/biennium-2021-2023.html. If you want additional property tax relief, call your State Senator to make your voice heard. You can find their information at www.NebraskaLegislature.gov. If you have questions about my budget proposal, email pete.ricketts@nebraska.gov or call 402-471-2244.

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