



The Wayne Herald



Single Copy \$1.00
Sections - 4
Pages - 72

Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014 138th Year - No. 22

Daily updates, video and more on the Web at www.mywaynenews.com

Time in Wayne 'spiritually rewarding' Volunteer continues to help recovery efforts

By CLARA OSTEN
Of The Herald

Wayne residents may have noticed a camper parked in Henry Victor Park on the south end of Wayne in recent months.

While a camper in the park in the middle of winter is slightly unusual, the fact that the person staying in it has been providing volunteer assistance to those families affected by the Oct. 4 tornado is more important.

Ken Merlin, a volunteer with the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Lincoln, has been spending 3-4 days a week in Wayne since shortly after the Oct. 4 tornado hit the east end of town.

Earlier this week, Merlin spoke to members of the Wayne Kiwanis Club during a weekly meeting, and said he has spent 67 days in Wayne. He alternates his time between Wayne, his home in Lincoln and traveling to Colorado to assist families that were affected by last year's flooding there.

Merlin said he was asked to provide assistance by members of Team Rubicon, a group of retired military persons who came in to provide organizational assistance shortly after the tornado hit.

Since that time, he has been spending a great deal of time working with the families affected by the tornado, working on long-term recovery efforts.

"The first thing I did was arrange for home visits with the families. I contacted the Wayne Ministerial Association and, when possible, had a pastor go on these visits with me. Pastor Ray McCalla (pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Wayne) went on a number of these visits," Merlin said.

He said these visits allowed the families to express themselves emotionally and spiritually and in the process, the families bonded with other families who had similar experiences.

Merlin said this phase of the recovery process lasted through De-

ember, and when he returned to Wayne after the first of the year, he moved on to Phase II – determining what the un-met needs of these families are at this point.

"We knew where the shortfalls were in regard to what these people had and what they needed, but we also want to respect their privacy," Merlin said.

He noted that there are currently 13 'cases' that are still open, meaning that he is continuing to work with these families to provide assistance. Some of the work will be completed as soon as the weather warms up and the ground thaws.

Merlin said that a number of the families and individuals who were affected by the tornado was not immediately known and was hampered by a language barrier. He continues to be in contact with these families and live the St. Vincent de Paul Society's philosophy of helping the poor and those individuals in need.

Merlin meets each week with Mike Varley, president of the Wayne United Way, to determine how best to distribute the funds that have been donated to assist the tornado victims. All of the funds to aid in tornado relief are being funneled through the United Way and dispersed to those in need.

Merlin is now working with those affected by the tornado in the mitigation phase of recovery.

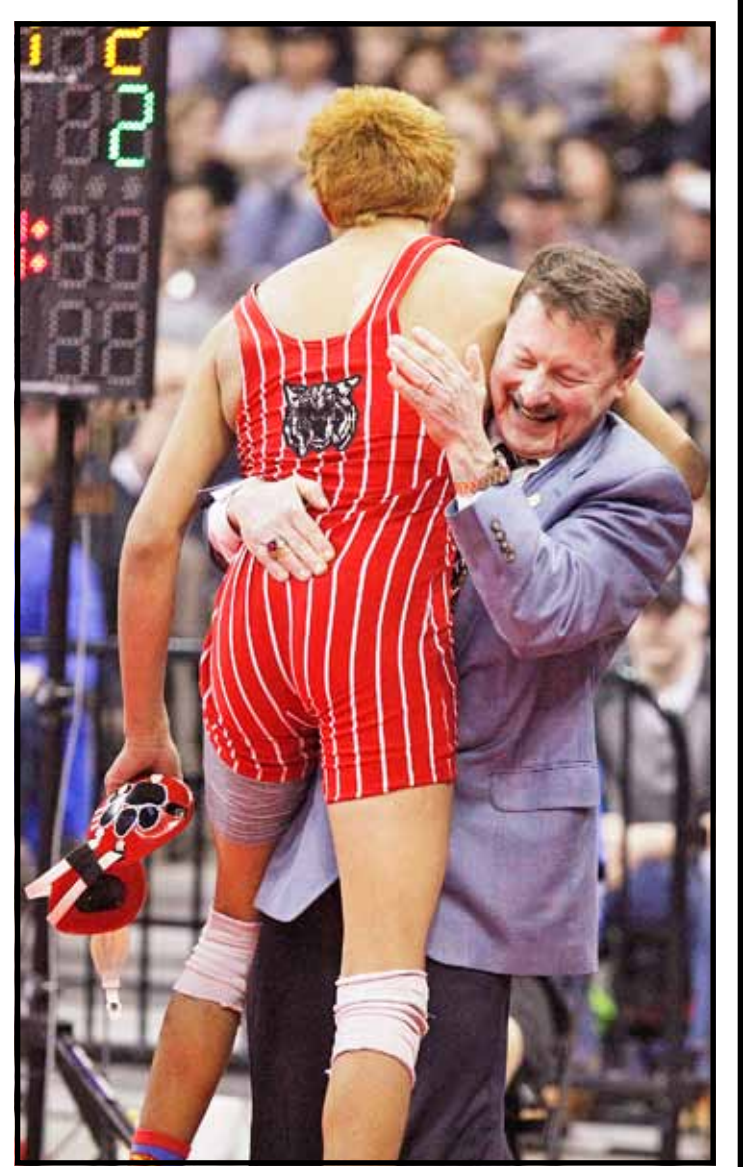
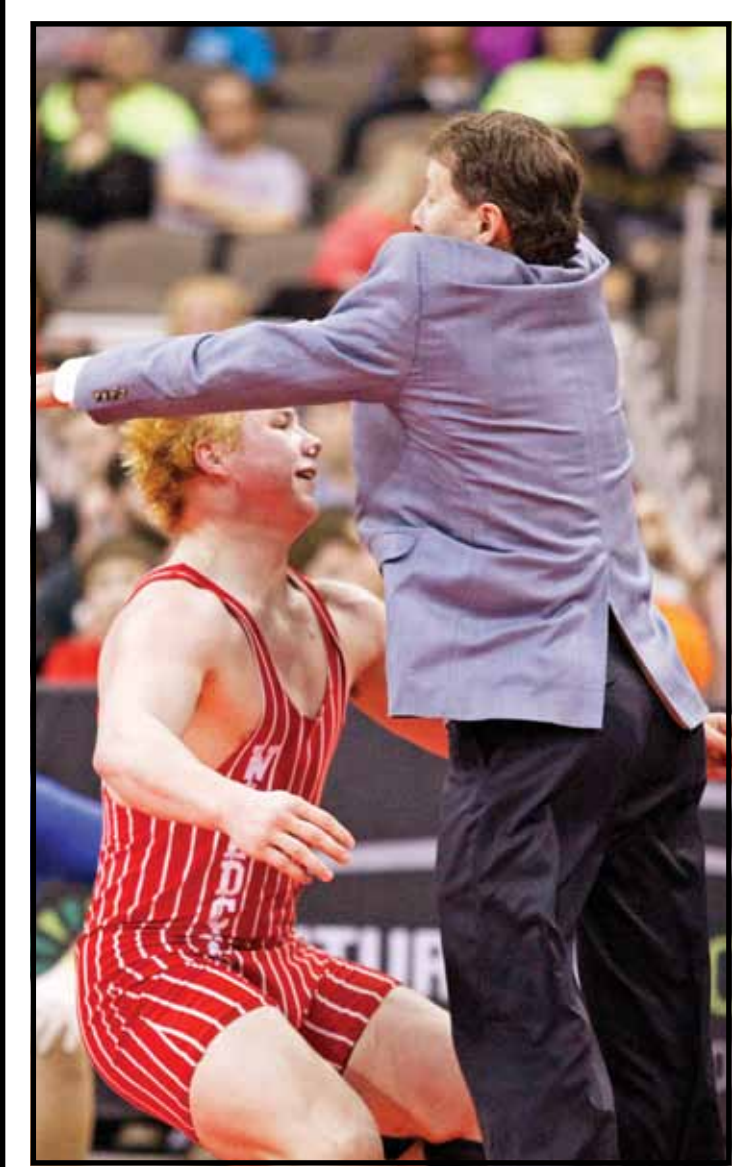
He said that this has been "a fairly difficult situation, because while FEMA generally handles this aspect of the recovery, it didn't happen here in Wayne. FEMA did not include families in the disaster declaration."

Merlin said he is unsure how long he will remain in Wayne or how long it will be before all those affected by the tornado will return to normal, but he said his time in Wayne "has been spiritually rewarding. My work makes me feel closer to the Lord and I think faith plays a big role in the way these people are recovering."



(Photo by Clara Osten)

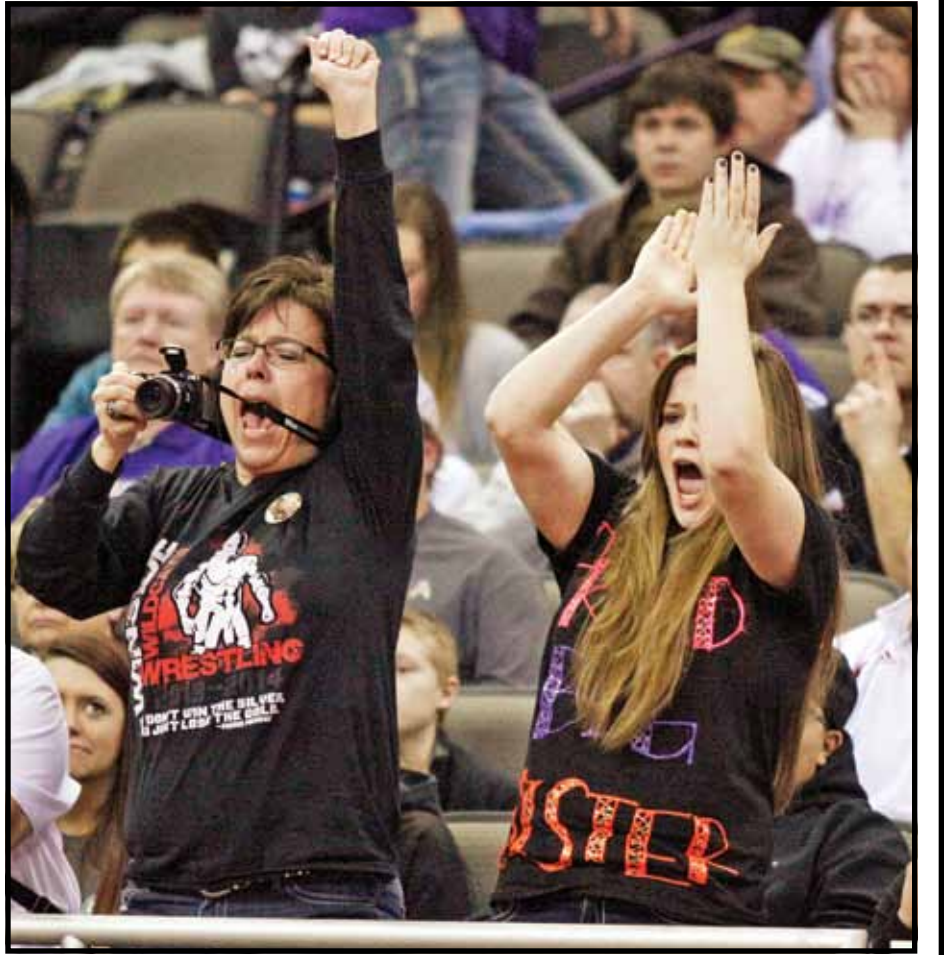
Ken Merlin, a volunteer with the St. Vincent dePaul Society in Lincoln, has helped out with tornado recovery efforts in Wayne while camping out in a Wayne park 3-4 days a week.



(Photos by Michael Carnes)

Celebration!

There was a lot of Winside-related celebrating going on at the Nebraska State Wrestling Championships on Saturday afternoon in Omaha as the Wildcats brought home a pair of state champions and a fourth-place team finish. In the photo at top left, coach Paul Sok changed things up a bit and jumped into the arms of Caleb Lienemann after Lienemann won the Class D, 220-pound state title. Later on, at right, Winside celebrated in the more traditional fashion after Marcos Escalera pinned his way to the 132-pound championship. Some of the Winside faithful got a close-up view of the finals as Caleb Lienemann's mother, Laurie, and sister Shelby cheered him on to his championship win. Stories and photos of all 20 area wrestlers who competed in the three-day tournament can be found in Section B.



WAYNE COUNTY ELECTION FILINGS

| County Ticket | | Nonpartisan Ticket | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| County Clerk | *-Deb Finn (R) | Wayne School Dist. 17 | *-Jeryl L. Nelson |
| County Assessor | *-Dawn Duffy (D) | | *-Carolyn V. Linster |
| County Sheriff | Clayton Bratcher (R) | | Scott A. Hammer |
| | Domenic Consoli (R) | Winside School Dist. 95R | Chris Olander |
| | Cory Moeller (R) | Wayne City Mayor | *-Kenneth Chamberlain |
| County Treasurer | *-Karen McDonald (R) | Wayne City Council Ward 1 | *-Rodney Greve |
| County Attorney | *-Michael E. Pieper (R) | Wayne City Council Ward 2 | *-Matthew Eischeid |
| Clerk Dist. Court | *-Debra K. Allemann-Dannelly (R) | Wayne City Council Ward 3 | No candidate listed |
| County Surveyor | *-Terry L. Schulz (D) | Wayne City Council Ward 4 | *-Jill Brodersen |
| Dist. 1 County Commissioner | *-Randy Larson (D) | Wayne Airport Authority | *-Mitchell Nissen |
| Dist. 3 County Commissioner | *-James Rabe (R) | | *-Denotes incumbent |

City Council still has open seat to fill

By MICHAEL CARNES
Of The Herald

With a few days to go before the deadline for filing for elections, one seat on the Wayne City Council does not have a candidate listed.

Kaki Ley is not running for re-election to her seat as the Ward Three representative on the board, which leaves that seat without a candidate as the Monday, March 3 deadline approaches. She is the only current member of the City Council who is not running for re-election. The other three current sitting members – Rodney Greve in Ward One, Matthew Eischeid in Ward Two and Jill Brodersen in Ward Four – all have filed for election to the board. All three were appointed by Mayor Ken Chamberlain to serve out the remainder of terms of previous City Council members who stepped down from those seats during the past four years.

One current member of the Wayne Board of Education has opted not to run for re-

election, as Mark Evetovich is not joining current board members Jeryl Nelson and Dr. Carolyn Linster in their bids for re-election. A third candidate has, however, filed for one of the three board seats, as Scott Hammer added his name to the list of school board candidates this week.

As of Wednesday's press deadline, Chamberlain does not have an opponent for his re-election bid, nor do any of the aforementioned City Council candidates.

Only one county race has more than one candidate listed, and that race will be decided in the May primary as three Republicans – Clayton Bratcher, Domenic Consoli and Cory Moeller – have all filed as Republicans for the County Sheriff seat. Longtime County Sheriff LeRoy Janssen is stepping down after serving eight terms as the county's top law enforcement officer.

All the other current county officeholders are running unopposed as of late Wednesday afternoon, including District 1 County Commissioner Randy Larson and District 3 County Commissioner Jim Rabe.

City sees new record for sales tax receipts

Biggest monthly total since 2012

The Christmas shopping season was very good in Wayne, as the city received its biggest monthly intake of city sales tax receipts since the city began collecting local sales tax in fiscal year 2000-2001.

February's receipts, which are based on sales during the month of December 2013, were \$61,886.80, bettering the previous high mark of \$58,512.80 set in October of 2012.

For the fiscal year to date, the city has received \$263,768.88 in city sales tax receipts, putting it slightly ahead of the city's projections for fiscal year 2013-2014.

| CITY OF WAYNE SALES TAX RECEIPTS | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Month | 2012-13 | 2013-14 |
| October | \$58,512.80 | \$58,512.80 |
| November | 51,422.31 | 50,983.45 |
| December | 52,655.09 | 52,655.09 |
| January | 46,492.88 | 46,492.88 |
| February | 55,997.00 | 61,886.80 |
| March | 47,852.09 | 47,852.09 |
| April | 45,991.79 | 45,991.79 |
| May | 56,329.08 | 56,329.08 |
| June | 46,649.10 | 46,649.10 |
| July | 54,159.37 | 54,159.37 |
| August | 50,983.45 | 50,983.45 |
| September | 47,782.19 | 47,782.19 |
| Total | \$614,827.19 | \$614,827.19 |
| Average | \$51,235.60 | \$51,235.60 |

– Figures courtesy City of Wayne

WillyCon XVI set for April 4-6

Wayne State College will host WillyCon XVI, April 4-6.

WillyCon, the annual sci-fi convention sponsored by the WSC Science Fiction and Fantasy Club, includes guests of honor each year. Chloe Neill, Arden Ellen Nixon and Ron Bales will be honored this year.

A New York Times and USA Today bestselling urban fantasy author of the Chicagoland Vampires and Dark Elite series, Neill has written stories that have been embraced by readers around the world. Her subject matter includes vampires, shapeshifters, sorcerers/witches, nymphs, fairies, angels, demons and trolls. Nixon graduated from Chadron State College in 2005. After spending some time in Chadron and New York after graduation, Nixon lives in Lincoln. Her art business is thriving. Nixon submits her work to around 20 conventions throughout the year. Nixon is often commissioned for paintings.

The Fan Guest of Honor is Ron Bales. He has been involved with science fiction and conventions for more than 35 years. This will be his first guest of honor appearance. His first convention was Big Mac, the World Science Fiction Convention in Kansas City in 1976. He was also instrumental in Electra-Con, the first three-day science fiction convention in Nebraska, held in Kearney in 1980. He was also a founding member of the Visionary's, the group responsible for Electra-Con.

WillyCon activities include:

- An art show and auction, displaying/selling science fiction and fantasy art, and a vendors' room with gaming supplies and miscellaneous items. WSC art students and local artists are encouraged to submit their art. The art show, art auction, and vendors' area at WillyCon are open to the general public.

- Presentations and panels by students, faculty, and fans talking about a variety of things including gaming and movie/TV-related panels, panels exploring the possibility of time travel, silicon-based life, and Haitian Zombies, the opportunity to interact with our guest of honors and see their talent in action and more

- Board, card and role-playing games, a masquerade show, gaming tournaments

- An Authors' Workshop where you can learn from a successful author and gather information about the craft of writing, or an Artist's Workshop where you can gain specific instruction from a talented artist on illustrative drawing or painting techniques.

WillyCon is an inexpensive weekend for all ages. Registration for the convention is \$25 for the weekend at the door. WSC students can attend at no cost.

For more information, e-mail Ron Vick at rovick1@wsc.edu (include "Willy Con" in the subject line), or visit their website at www.willycon.com.



Music Alumni Day

The Wayne State College Department of Music hosted a Wayne State College Department of Music Alumni Day on Feb. 22. The event featured former Wayne State ensemble conductor Dr. Gary Davis. Davis is a long-time director of the University of Nebraska-Kearney band and recipient of the NSBA Outstanding Bandmaster Award.

Need to know land rental rates? There is an app for that

Each year University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension specialists are asked questions regarding farmland rental rates.

Now, a new UNL Extension app can provide some answers.

Land Lease Calculator is designed to assist producers in collecting information to help determine what might be charged for agricultural land leases, said Wayne Ohnesorg, extension educator in Madison County.

Users enter data into the app and it produces an estimated cost for the lease.

The app is available for \$1.99 in the Apple iTunes Store as well as on Google Play.

The app helps landowners estimate how much their land is worth.

"It also works very well for those who are looking to rent land because it gives them an idea of how much they might be willing to pay," said Ohnesorg.

He said that ultimately, it is up to the landlord and tenant to decide on an appropriate leasing price.

"The app is a tool to give them a starting point," Ohnesorg said.

The app is funded by the Nebraska Soybean Board.

It is now available at itunes.apple.com/us/app/land-lease-calculator/id791573086?mt=8.



John Dunning of Wayne State College and Dr. Cornell Runestad talk following the Wayne State College Department of Music Alumni Day on Saturday, Feb. 22. Dunning performed as part of the alumni during the day. Dunning studied under Runestad as a vocalist during his years at WSC including performances with the Madrigals. Runestad is the recipient of the Nebraska Choral Directors Association Lifetime Achievement Award. Socials and rehearsals were held throughout the day. Alumni had the opportunity to work with Dr. Elise Hepworth, director of concert choir, and Dr. David Bohnert, director of bands. A performance by the WSC Concert Choir and Wind Ensemble took place in Ramsey Theatre with performances by the WSC Alumni Band and Chorus. The event concluded with a reception in the Peterson Fine Arts Atrium.



(Photo by Clara Osten)

Winter/Spring Fest

The ninth annual Winter/Spring Fest, hosted by St. Mary's Catholic Church, was held Feb. 23 at Wayne City Auditorium and drew hundreds to the roast pork/beef dinner, silent auction and raffle.



(Contributed photo)

Taste of Chocolate

Residents of The Oaks were able to take advantage of this year's Taste of Chocolate event sponsored by the Wayne Optimist Club. The event raises money for the Optimist Scholarship fund.

WSC concert choir, chorale will perform at Wayne UMC March 3

The Wayne State College Concert Choir and Chorale will perform on Monday, March 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the First United Methodist Church in Wayne.

The Concert Choir, directed by Associate Professor of Voice and Music Education Elise Hepworth, is a 45-member auditioned ensemble and serves as the flagship touring

choir for WSC. They will perform eight musical pieces in the program, including "Glory to God in the Highest" by Randall Thompson, "Shenandoah" arranged by Darmon Meader, "My God is So High" by Moses Hogan, and other compositions by highly acclaimed musicians.

The WSC Chorale, directed by Staff Accompanist Philip Pfaltz-

graft, is composed of 68 WSC students and members of the surrounding community. The chorale will perform "Psalm 121" by Philip Pfaltzgraft, "Sure on This Shining Night" by Samuel Barber, "Little David Play on Your Harp" by Paul Christiansen, and other pieces.

The concert is free and open to the public.



Winside speech members competing were (from left) Connor Lemke-Elznic, Keith Mundil, Taylor Anson, Victoria Doffin, Breanna Lemke-Elznic and Selena Finn.

Winside speech team keeps busy with four recent tournaments

The Winside speech team has attended four speech tournaments since the season started three weeks ago.

The speech season for Winside started on February first with a meet at Hartington. The day was successful with Breanna Lemke-Elznic placing first in varsity extemporaneous and second in persuasive speaking. Connor Lemke-Elznic earned second place in novice poetry.

On Feb. 8, Winside hosted their annual speech meet. Thirteen area schools attended for a day of forensic events. Overall, there were 198 entrants at the home meet, making for a busy, exciting, an successful day for the team.

Winside finished fourth place overall at the home meet. Four of the five events entered made finals. Connor Lemke-Elznic ranked fifth overall in Poetry, Selena Finn and Taylor Anson's Acting duet ranked second, and Breanna Lemke-Elznic won first place in Extemporaneous and Persuasive speaking. Victoria Doffin and Connor Lemke-Elznic performed in Serious Prose as well. Crofton won Winside's meet overall with 47 points. Wisner-Pilger got second and Creighton came in third. Winside tied with Humphrey for fourth place with 19 points.

This past weekend, the team went to two meets; Lindsay Holy Family on Friday, and Humphrey on Saturday. On Friday Breanna Lemke-Elznic won Extemporaneous and placed second in Persuasive. Victoria Doffin earned fifth in Serious Prose. This was also the first time the OID was able to compete.

On Saturday, every person on

the team made finals in at least one event. The OID of Keith Mundil, Selena Finn, Victoria Doffin, and Taylor Anson medalled in sixth. Selena Finn and Taylor Anson's Duet tied for second, Victoria Doffin's serious prose placed third, Connor Lemke-Elznic's Poetry came in seventh, and Breanna Lemke-Elznic got second in both Extemp and Persuade.

The Winside speech team would

like to thank Fine Arts Boosters for hosting the hospitality room and concession stand, and would also like to thank Sarah Kesting, David Greunke, Morgan Quinn, and Brian Kesting for helping with tabulations; the teachers who allowed the use of their rooms; Sarah Remm and Lenell Quinn for helping monitor the halls, and all the judges, coaches, and speakers who attended the home meet.

The Wayne Herald

114 Main Street Wayne, NE 68787 402-375-2600

PUBLICATION NUMBER USPS 670-560

on the web at: www.mywaynenews.com

Serving Northeast Nebraska's Greatest Farming Area

Established in 1875; a newspaper published weekly on Thursday. Entered in the post office and periodical postage paid at Wayne, Nebraska 68787.

POSTMASTER: "Address Service Requested" Send address change to The Wayne Herald, P.O. Box 70, Wayne, Nebraska, 68787



PRIZE WINNING NEWSPAPER 2013

Nebraska Press Association

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Official Newspaper of the City of Wayne, County of Wayne and State of Nebraska

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

In Wayne, Pierce, Cedar, Dixon, Thurston, Cuming, Stanton and Madison Counties - \$46.00 per year. Out-of-Area and Out-of-State - \$56.00 per year. Single copies \$1.00. Six-month: Area - \$35.00 Out-of-Area \$45.00.

Plains Writers Series, Poetry Slam XXXI coming

Wayne State College's Language and Literature Department, the School of Art and Humanities and the WSC Press will hold this spring's Plains Writers Series on Thursday, March 6.

The Plains Writers Series is held several times a year in an attempt to bring attention to the prose and poetry of local Great Plains writers through reading and interacting with area audiences.

This spring's Plains Writers Series will highlight four poets – Erik Campbell, Cat Dixon, Barbara Schmitz and Sean Garner. The authors will share selected pieces of their recent works in the second floor lounge in the Humanities Building at Wayne State College at 1 p.m. and again at 2 p.m.

The schedule is as follows:
1 p.m. – Sean Garner and Barbara Schmitz;
2 p.m. – Cat Dixon and Erik Campbell.

Following the Plains Writers Series will be Poetry Slam XXXI. The poetry slam will be held at the Max Bar and Grill in downtown Wayne, starting at 7 p.m., with registration preceding at 6:30 p.m. Anyone who would like to participate in the slam will need four original poems and \$5 for registration at the door. All events are free and open to the

public. Erik Campbell is a native Nebraskan and former English teacher turned technical writer. His poems and essays have recently appeared or are forthcoming in The Iowa Review, The Virginia Quarterly Review, Gulf Coast, Massachusetts Review, New Delta Review, Tin House, Nimrod, Rattle, and other journals.

His essay, "Shirtless Days," was a finalist for the 2004 Iowa Award in Literary Nonfiction, and he was nominated for a 2005 Pushcart Prize in poetry. His first full-length collection of poems, "Arguments for Stillness," was published by Curbstone Press in April 2006 in a Curbstone/Rattle edition.

Cat Dixon teaches creative writing at the University of Nebraska, Omaha. She is the secretary of The Backwaters Press. Her work has appeared in Sugar House Review, Midwest Quarterly Review, Coe Review, Eclectica among others.

Her full length poetry book, "Too Heavy to Carry," was just released from Stephen F. Austin University Press. Her website is www.catdix.com.

Barbara Schmitz is emeritus professor of English at Northeast College where she taught literature and writing for 30 years, coordinat-

ed the Visiting Writers Series and was an editor for Elkhorn Review. She has published in such journals as Prairie Schooner, Laurel Review, Nebraska Review, South Dakota Review, Iconoclast, Poetry Motel, Chiron Review, River Styx, and Kansas Quarterly, and in several anthologies, most recently Nebraska Presence, and Times of Sorrow, Times of Grace.

She is the author of "Making Tracks," "The Lives of the Saints," "How to Get Out of the Body," "The Upside Down Heart," "How Much Our Dancing Has Improved" (winner of the 2005 NE. Center for Book Award) and "What Bob Says" (Pudding House, 2010). A former Writer-in Residence at the Mabel Dodge Luhan House in Taos, she won a Nebraska Arts Council Grant in 1997, and she is on the staff of The Caravan of the Beautiful, teaching writing to spiritual seekers. Her memoir "Path of Lightning" – a spiritual autobiography – is available through Pinyon Publishing at www.pinyonpublishing.com. She also has a new book of poetry, Always the Detail, out now through Stephan A. Austin State University Press.

Sean Garner is a poet stationed in Northeast Nebraska. He has studied at Wayne State College and recently won a poetry slam.



(Photos by Clars Osten)

GOP gathering

The Wayne County GOP held its 2014 Lincoln-Reagan Forum/Dinner on Saturday at the Hoskins Community Center, with more than 100 people on hand to meet with candidates for state and federal public offices. In the photo above, U.S. Senate candidate Shane Osborn talks to those in attendance. At right, Jon Bruning recently threw his hat into the GOP race for governor and made an appearance at Saturday's event.



(Photo by Clars Osten)

Chamber Coffee

Wayne Kiwanis Club President Bob Foxhoven (right) spoke of the work of the Kiwanis Club in Wayne over the last 90 years during last week's Chamber Coffee. Looking on are Kiwanis members Sarah Townsend and Ray McCalla.

Advice offered to prevent complications from diabetes

The Control Diabetes for Life program on Wednesday, March 26 will be offered from 1:30-4 p.m. at Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department, located at 215 North Pearl Street in Wayne.

You probably already know that diabetes can lead to devastating problems with the heart, kidney, eyes and nerves. Did you also know that by taking control of diabetes and identifying problems early you can prevent or slow many of these conditions?

High blood glucose is a major cause of serious diabetes complications. Recognizing diabetes early and getting blood glucose levels under control allows for swift action to slow its progression and avoid complications. Lowering a person's A1C by just one percentage point lowers his or her chance of getting eye, kidney or nerve disease by 40 percent.

Blood glucose control is just one aspect of preventive care. Following a meal plan, being physically active, losing excessive weight, keeping

your blood pressure and cholesterol levels in check, quitting smoking and taking aspirin are all important ways to prevent future health problems.

Good control requires both diligence and willingness to try new strategies. Learn new strategies by attending Control Diabetes for Life. The March 26 session will focus on "What's New in Diabetes Self-Management."

Set a goal to take control of your diabetes. Aim for lower blood glucose levels to feel better now and stay healthy for years to come. The March 26 topics include: Kidney Disease: Action Steps to Take to Protect Your Health, Ways to Cut Food Costs, and What's New in Diabetes Self-Management. There will also be a question and answer period.

Participants will receive recipes for diabetic appropriate foods. Team-teaching the program will be Stacie Petersen, B.S.N. and Certified Diabetes Educator; Deborah Willcox, R.D.,L.M.N.T., both of Franciscan Care Services in West Point and Debra Schroeder, UNL Extension Educator in Cumming County. These sessions are designed to supplement the education that participants receive from the local diabetes education team and are not a substitute for diabetes classes through your local health care providers.

Control Diabetes for Life is a joint project of University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension and Franciscan Care Services of West Point. The program is offered free-of-charge.

To pre-register for Control Diabetes for Life, call UNL Extension-Wayne County at (402) 375-3310. Please register by Monday, March 24, so the proper number of handouts may be prepared. Nebraska School Food Service Association has approved this session for two hours of continuing education credits.

SOURCE: Amy Topp, UNL Extension Educator.



(Contributed photo)

Rolling for dough

First Nebraska Bank of Wayne recently sponsored the annual Roll for Dough event in conjunction with a Wayne State men's basketball game. Winners included Lincoln Ruybo, Beau Johnson, Zach Lynch and Daniel Olson.



(Photo by Clara Osten)

Remember when?

Former Wayne Kiwanis members Leon Meyer, Pat Gross and Duane Schroeder reminisce about their years as part of the service organization. The Kiwanis Club hosted last week's Chamber Coffee in observance of its 91st anniversary as a club in the Wayne community.

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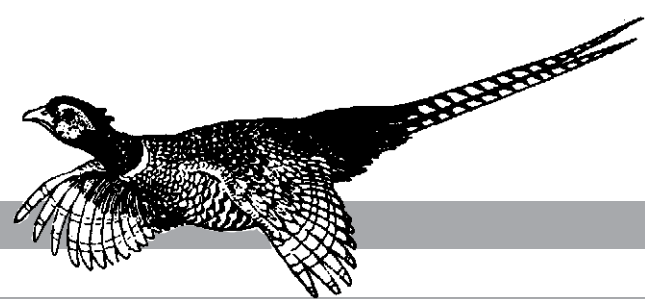
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Sports

The Wayne
Herald



Wildcats add two more champs

Three medalists lead Winside wrestlers to fourth-place finish at state wrestling

By MICHAEL CARNES
Of The Herald

OMAHA — If you've spent more than 15 minutes around high school sports, you'll understand that how you start isn't near as important as how you finish.

Two Winside wrestlers grasped that concept perfectly Saturday afternoon during the championship round of the 2014 Nebraska State Wrestling Championships, and the efforts of senior Caleb Lienemann and sophomore Marcos Escalera resulted in a trip to the top of the medal stand as Class D state champions.

The efforts of Winside's two champions, along with a fourth-place finish by 106-pounder Sean Mann, propelled the Wildcats to a fourth-place finish in Class D to highlight the efforts of the 20 area wrestlers from Winside, Wayne, Wakefield and Laurel-Concord/Coleridge who were among the 896 qualifiers for the 2014 Nebraska State Wrestling Championships.

For Lienemann, it was a second chance at taking the Walk of Champions Saturday at the Century Link Center, as well as a chance to make amends for last year's loss in the championship finals.

"Since last year, I've watched that film over and over again to give

me the fuel to finish," Lienemann said after winning the state title. "I didn't want to be average. I wanted to dominate everybody, and that's what I went out and tried to do."

After losing in the finals of the season-opening Creighton Invitational, the Winside senior had been on a mission, setting a new school record for pins in a season and looking to take that final step up the medal stand to the top.

"His only loss this year was to the kid from Parkston, S.D., and it showed him right off the bat some of the things he needed to tweak if he wanted to take that next step," Winside coach Paul Sok said. "He was able to focus on that and had some good competition, and he's been as focused as any kid I've had in the room in some time. He knew what he wanted from the start, worked on what he needed to, and the outcome speaks for itself."

Lienemann did it in grand fashion Saturday afternoon. With the NSAA deciding to start the finals at 195 pounds, rather than the traditional 106-pound start, Lienemann saw his opportunity early and took advantage to post a 4-3 win over undefeated Stevin Horrocks of Hay Springs to claim the Class D 220-pound championship.

Both wrestlers came out cautious in the first period, but Lienemann

drew first blood early in the second period with a reversal out of the bottom position. Horrocks would escape to make it 2-1, but Lienemann came through with an important takedown late in the second period to give himself a three-point cushion.

"We've worked on that shot-counter-shot thing a lot in practice," Sok said. "Last year, he had some good shots and good penetration but didn't finish what he started, and this year, when he came in on those against the Hay Springs kid, he was able to finish it."

That late takedown would prove to be the difference, as Horrocks was able to reverse position in the third period against the Winside senior but couldn't tilt him for any bonus points. Lienemann raised his hands in celebration as the final whistle sounded, pointing to the Winside faithful gathered on the west side of the arena to cheer him on.

"It's an awesome feeling," Lienemann said. "I watched my cousin (Bo Brummels) win three times, and it's awesome to be in those shoes and wear the Winside stripes with pride."

While many experts were looking at a possible title run for Lienemann, few saw what was coming later in the final round, where Escalera was looking to end a three-match losing streak to Randolph freshman Drew Loberg.

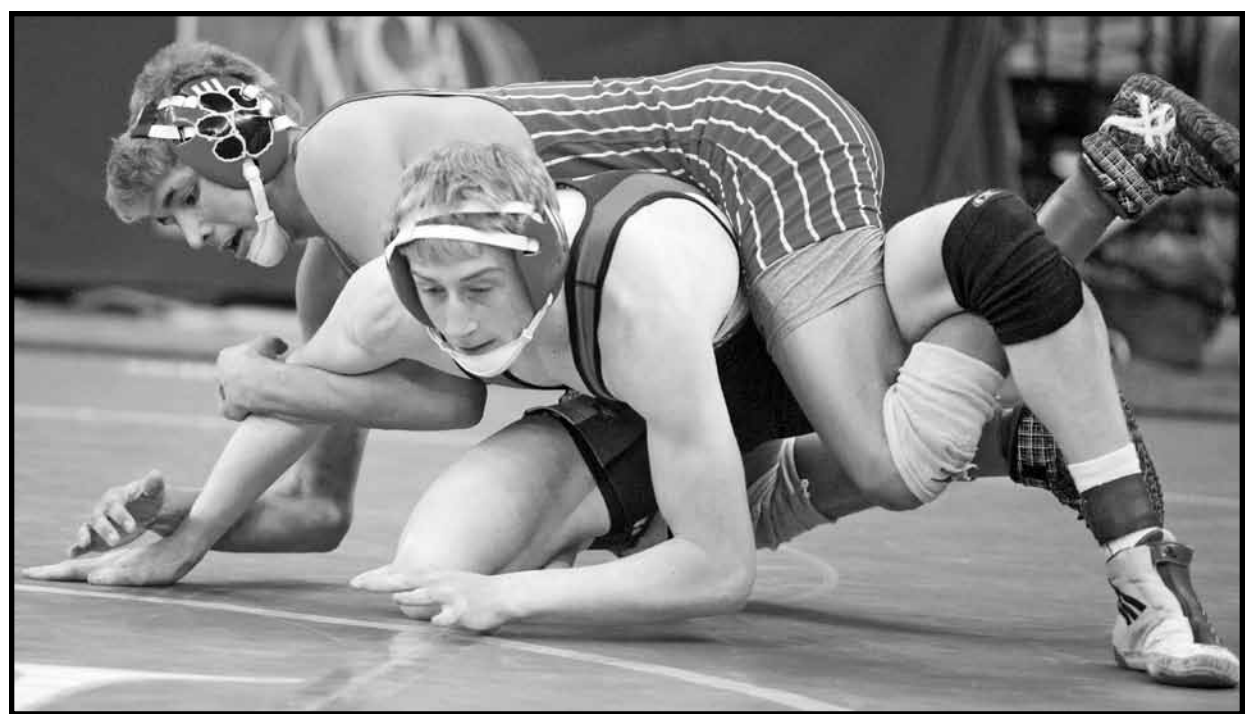
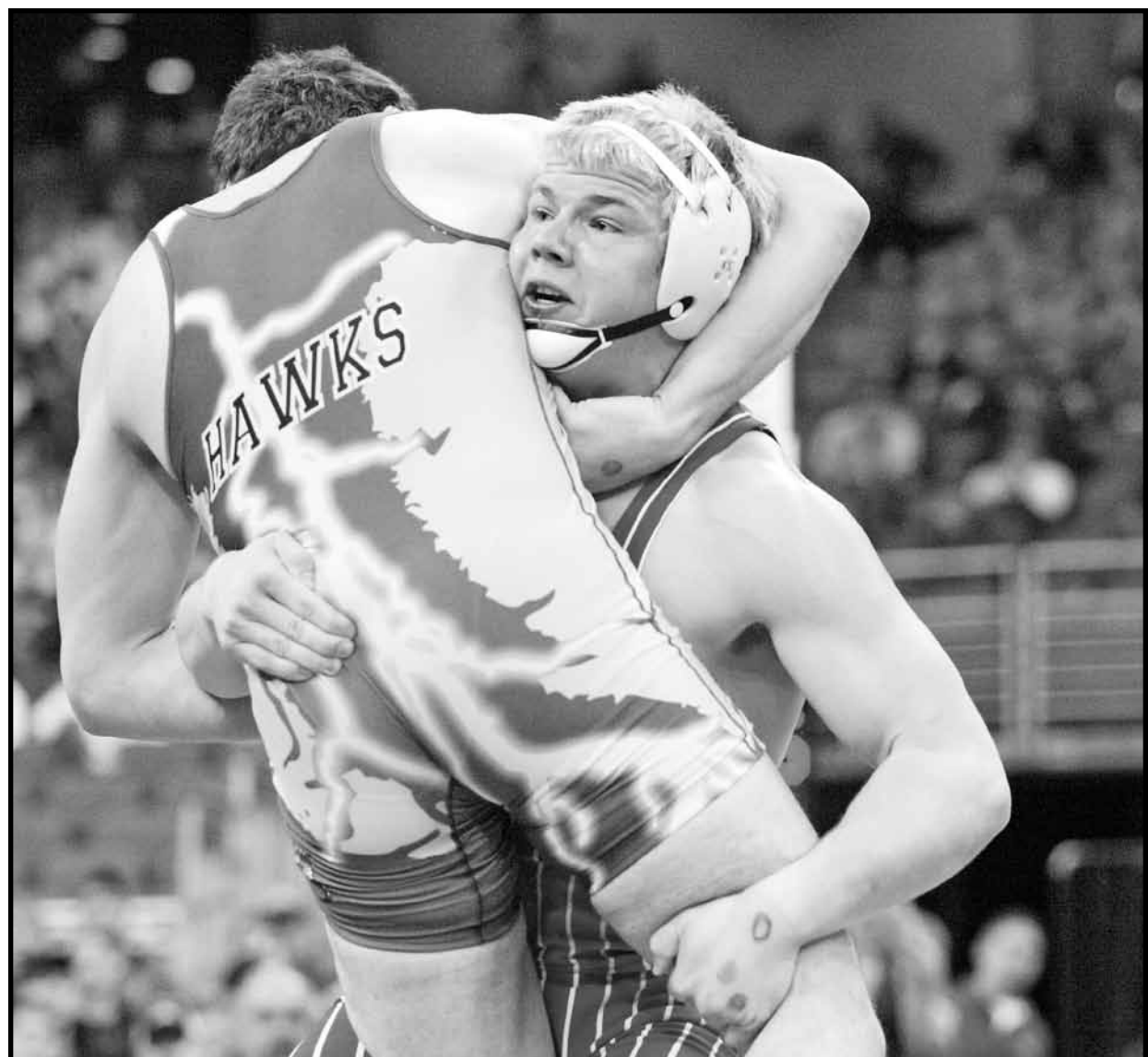
During the season, Loberg literally owned Escalera on the mat, recording two pins and a major decision. It was a different story on Saturday, though, as the Winside sophomore nearly got a pin in the first period, then finished the job in the second period to take home the Class D championship at 132 pounds.

"We've been on the other end of that, so I'm sure it was in the back of (Marcos') mind," Sok said. "He knew what he needed to do and kept true to his game, and getting that first takedown was big to help him keep the pressure on him."

After giving up a takedown, Escalera reversed position and tilted Loberg for two back points. He nearly got his trademark spladle in place before Loberg slipped out as the first period drew to a close.

"The Loberg kid could have rolled through that, and it's something

See CHAMPS, Page 2B



(Photos by Michael Carnes)

(top) Winside senior Caleb Lienemann would not be denied a gold medal after last year's runner-up finish, capping a dominating season with a win in the finals at 220 pounds. (above) Marcos Escalera avenged three previous losses to Drew Loberg of Randolph with a second-period pin to win the 132-pound state title.



(Photo by Lee Koch)

Carlos Escalera (left) and Caleb Lienemann added their names to the ceremonial sheet that honors Winside's state wrestling champions. They are the 35th and 36th state champions in Winside's long wrestling history, which dates back to 1970.

Two more names on sheet of champs

There is a time-honored tradition in Winside, a tradition that seems to take place every year about this time.

Unless you're new to town or have lived in a cave, you know that Winside loves its wrestling. I know of few towns in the state that share the devotion and passion that our neighbors to the southwest have for man's original sport.

Back in 1972, an old bedsheet with the words "Welcome home, State Champ. Good Job!" was set up at the house of Dave Jaeger, who won the school's second state wrestling title (Steph Carlson was the original Wildcat champion, winning in 1970). As the school continued to grow as a wrestling power in the state, the congratulatory linen went from house to house.

In 1982, when Mark Koch won a state title, his dad, Lee, came up with the idea of having the state champions autograph the banner every year. The signing ceremony was always held at Lee and Rosie's, the old hangout Koch and his wife ran for many years, with all the Wildcat faithful on hand to cheer on the champion as he signed his name to the town's history.

This past weekend, the old bedsheets (which, according to Koch, has never been washed), was brought out again for a pair of new autographs, those belonging to Caleb Lienemann and Marcos Escalera. They are the 35th and 36th Winside wrestlers to etch their moment in the school's proud wrestling tradition after winning state titles last week in Omaha, adding their names alongside the autographs of past Winside champions like Brad Langenber, Bob Bowers, Dave Jaeger, Keith Suhl, Max Kant and many more.

For Lienemann, it was the next step up the ladder after a disap-

From The Bleachers

Michael Carnes



pointing finish in the state finals a year ago. He was mentioned as one of the contenders for the Class D, 220-pound title this year and lost just one match the entire season, that coming in the finals of the season-opening Creighton Invitational to one of the top wrestlers in South Dakota.

Lienemann was a monster for much of the season, setting new school records for pins in a season and fastest pin in school history. In fact, during the Winside Invitational, his record-setting seven-second pin was one of three he had on the day that came less than 10 seconds (yes, you read that right) into the match. In his final home tournament, he was on the mat for less than the equivalent of one period of a normal six-minute match.

For Escalera, the trip to the top of the medal stand was somewhat unexpected by just about everybody who follows high school wrestling in Nebraska. Escalera was unranked heading into the state tournament, and yet there he was, a win away from immortality — and from putting his name on an old, dirty piece of linen.

The one wrestler standing in his way was Randolph freshman sensation Dylan Loberg, one half of the Loberg brothers who had terrorized wrestlers in this part of the state

See SHEET, Page 2B

Blue Devils get wins at state meet

By MICHAEL CARNES
Of The Herald

OMAHA — Although there were no medals to be had for the Wayne High wrestling team, there was still a sense of accomplishment for the coaches who are trying to rebuild the program.

Head coach David Wragge patted 138-pound senior Mike Cliff on the back after he won his first-round consolation match on Friday at the Nebraska State Wrestling Championships in the Century Link Center. Cliff's 5-1 win over Jackson Coffin of York was the Blue Devils' first state tournament win in a couple of years, prompting the Wayne High coach to exclaim "We're not in the basement anymore."

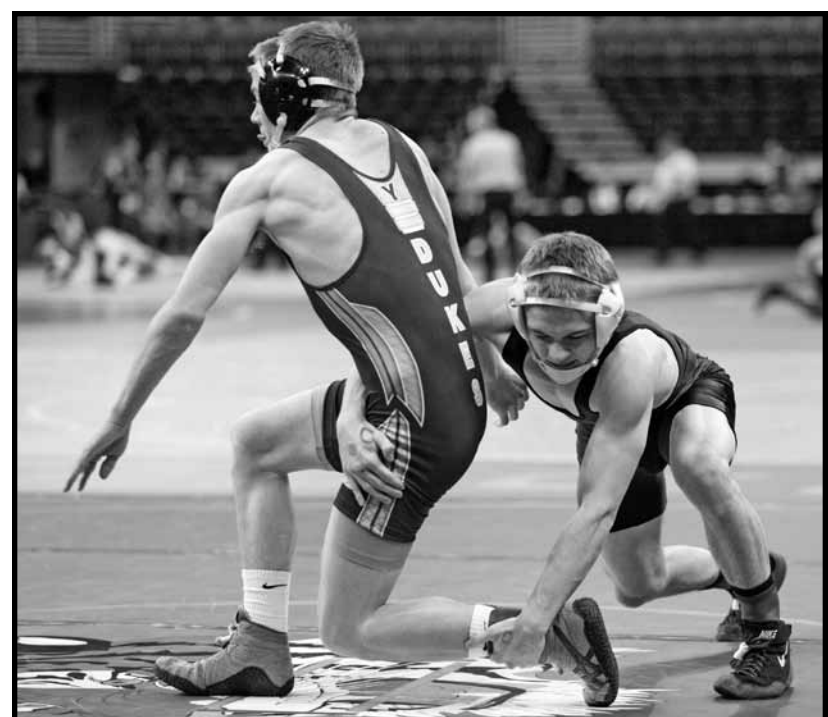
Indeed, the Blue Devils are a long way from the penthouse of the top teams in Class B, but the matches won by Cliff, Demetrius Alexander and Schuyler Schweers did get them out of the bottom of the standings and into a four-way tie for 37th place after the three-day tournament completed Saturday.

"I think that it is all a process, and we are moving in the right direction," he said. "We would have liked to win some more matches and bring home a medal or two, but winning some matches is a good start. I think Mike started something when he won his match, and the guys seemed to feed off of it and, we got a roll that round. I think with some work this summer and another year of experience, we can get some guys winning more matches down there next year."

With all six qualifiers finishing fourth at districts, each wrestler had to start his tournament by facing a district champion. It wasn't much of a surprise, then, that Wayne High went 0-6 on that first day, but Wragge was proud of the way the Blue Devils battled, even in those first-day defeats.

"I thought that the kids wrestled well. We did not win any of the first round matches but for the most part we wrestled tough. I was happy to see that the guys didn't back down

See STATE, Page 3B



(Photo by Michel Carnes)

Michael Cliff got Wayne High its first win at the state wrestling tournament in two years, one of three Blue Devils to pick up a win at this year's tournament.

WSC women nab NSIC regular-season title

For the third time in four years, the Wayne State women's basketball team are tops in the Northern Sun Conference.

The Wildcats wrapped up the regular-season conference title with a pair of road wins over the weekend, setting the 26-3 (19-3 NSIC) Wildcats up for a first-round matchup that was played Wednesday against Bemidji State at Rice Auditorium.

Wayne State finished things off Saturday as reserve forward Jaylan Spencer came off the bench to score a game-high 16 points to lead the ninth-ranked Wildcats to a 78-56 win at Upper Iowa.

Wayne State got off to a big lead early, tak-

ing a 14-0 advantage while holding Upper Iowa scoreless for the first eight minutes of the game.

Upper Iowa went on an 11-4 run late in the first half to get as close as four points, but the Wildcats responded with a run of their own. Spencer hit a jumper right before the buzzer to give Wayne State a 38-27 halftime lead, and a 10-0 run early in the second half helped the Wildcats put things out of reach.

Spencer and her sister, Jordan, led the Wildcats in scoring with 16 and 14 points, respectively. Ellen Hansen was also in double figures with 12 points, while Addy Roller added 10.

As a team, the Wildcats shot 53.6 percent from the floor, marking the 11th time this season the

team shot better than 50 percent from the field. Wayne State also outrebounded the Peacocks 37-32, with Ashton Yossi grabbing a career-best nine rebounds and Hansen adding seven. Wayne State committed just six turnovers in the blow-out win.

It was a game of record-setting efforts for Wayne State on Friday night, as the Wildcats used white-hot shooting from the outside to roll over Winona State 83-47 at Winona, Minn.

It was a tough battle early, but the Warriors couldn't keep pace with the blistering pace being set by the Wildcats on the perimeter. Wayne

See NSIC, Page 5B

Wells sisters dominate, Thomsen wins two events at South Dakota Invitational

The Wells sisters and a Wayne native helped lead the effort for the Wayne State indoor track and field teams during the South Dakota Twilight Meet, held at the Dakota Dome in Vermillion, S.D.

In women's action, Sara Wells captured first place in the shot put with a new school record throw of 50 feet, 2 1/2 inches. It's the third time she broke her own school record in the event this season and tops her previous school mark of 48-10 set at the Wildcat Open on Jan. 25. She also finished sixth place in the weight throw at 53-7 1/2.

Her sister, Emily Wells, took first place in the weight throw with an NCAA provisional mark and season-best throw of 59 feet. The remaining first place finish for the Wildcats came from the 1,600-meter relay team, as the quartet of Elizabeth Pille, Danielle Hart, Re-

becca Davenport and Mary Alderson crossed the line first with a time of 4:09.28.

Alexis Guhl posted a third place finish in the 60 meter hurdles in 9.19 seconds while sophomore Amanda Ramberg tied for fourth in the high jump, clearing 5-1. In the long jump, senior Sidney Blum finished fourth at 16-6 1/2, while Megan Svitak was right behind in fifth place at 16-6. Jessi Pongratz took fifth in the shot put (45-0 1/2), and Michaela Dendinger came in ninth at 43-3 3/4. In the weight throw, sophomore Kyndra Sturm finished eighth at 53-5 3/4 while Pongratz was 10th at 53-3 1/2.

Other top finishers included Skyler Lippman taking 10th in the mile run (5:47.89) while Danielle Hart was 10th in the 200-meter dash in 27.78 seconds.

In men's action, Wayne native Zach Thomsen crossed the line first in the 800 meter run with a time of 1:58.02 and was part of the first-place 1,600-meter relay team that recorded a time of 3:24.52 to lead the Wildcats. Other runners on the

winning relay included Mike King, Jared Balady and Derek Lahm.

Lahm recorded a second-place finish in the long jump at 21-5 1/2, Balady had a third-place finish in the 400-meter dash in 51.09 seconds, while Nick Schmit placed in two events, taking seventh in the 1,000-meter run (2:39.75) and eighth in the 800 at 2:04.34.

Other top finishers for the Wildcats included Bryan Dunn finishing fifth in the weight throw (54-

10), William Ernst took sixth in the 200 (23.03), Joe Warth came in seventh in the shot put (48-6 1/4), Corbin Marksmeier had a seventh-place finish in the 60-meter hurdles (8.68), Cody Clark was seventh in the long jump (17-8) and Adam Hochstein was 10th in the mile run (4:40.16).

Wayne State will compete this weekend at the Northern Sun Conference Indoor Championships in Bemidji, Minn.

Kutnink is tabbed as rugby magazine's POY

RUGBYMag.com has named Wayne State College senior Amber Kutnink as their Small College Women's Player of the Year for 2013.

Kutnink is a flanker for the two-time defending NSCRO national champions, where she led them to national titles in 2012 and 2013. She captained the Great Plains U23

team and toured with the Midwest Thunderbirds U23 team before returning to Wayne State to lead them to a second-straight NSCRO title in 2013. Kutnink was named MVP of the 2013 national championship as she helped Wayne State cap off a 16-1 season.

As well as an excellent player for Wayne State, Kutnink distinguished herself as a leader, orchestrating the team's conditioning workouts and communicating with players unable to attend practice. When the Wayne State rugby facility was struck by a tornado, Kutnink was instrumental in helping clean up not only at the rugby field, but area farms that were also damaged.

She leads the team's bible study group, as she has for the last three years, and is active on the leadership team for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Kutnink and several other players were nominated by NSCRO coaches from around the country.

Honorable mention honors went to Leslie Ota of Fordham University and Kayla Lindros of the University of New England.

Sheet

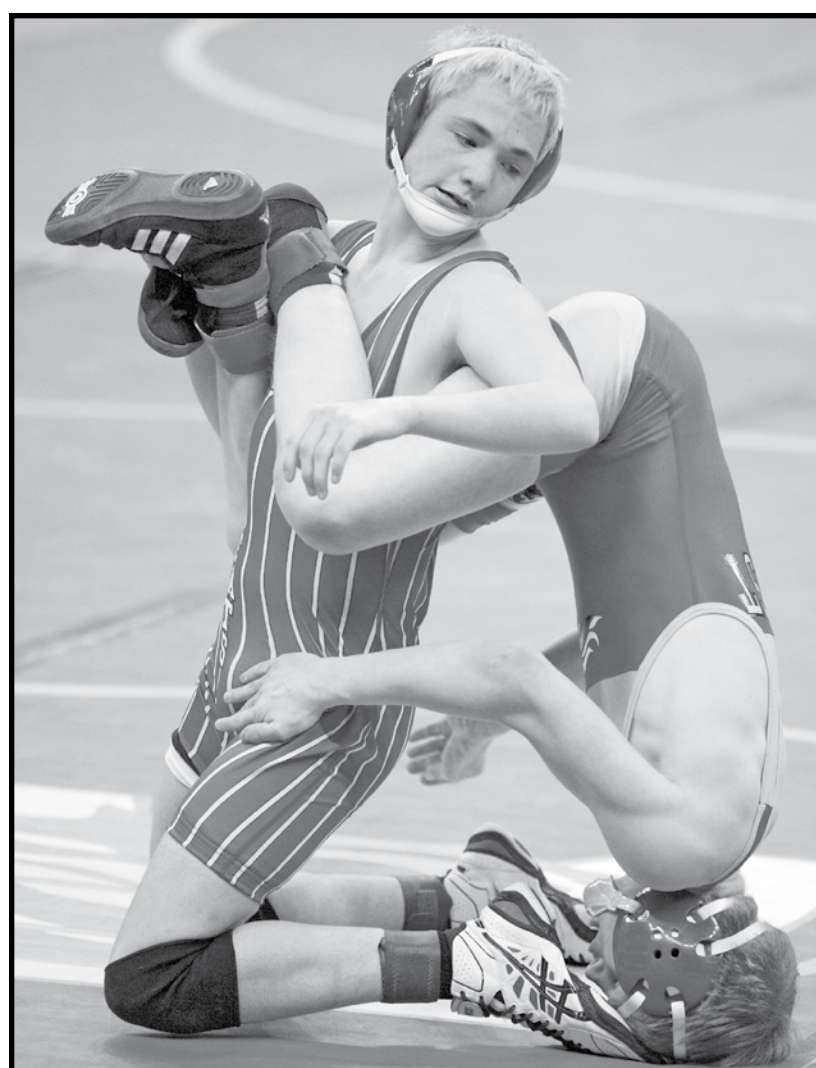
From Page 1B throughout the year. Older brother, Drew, was expected to win the 195-pound title while Dylan was one of the contenders at 132 pounds.

On paper, this didn't look like a good matchup for Escalera. Loberg had owned the Winside sophomore throughout the course of the season. Their first match ended in a first-period pin for Loberg. The second match went to the third period before Loberg stuck Escalera. In their third meeting, Escalera went the distance but was dominated in a major decision.

So, naturally, Escalera was due. And so, after the team returned home from an impressive fourth-place finish in the Class D division, the two newest members of Winside's state championship family were handed the special marking utensil (probably a Sharpie that Lee had quietly liberated from a neighbor's computer bag on press row) and added their names to Winside sports history in a get-together downtown at Jensen's Cafe. With the sign tacked to the wall over a Husker flag and assorted farm-related wall hangings, the gathering applauded the two newest members of Winside's most exclusive fraternity.

Afterwards, as the kids left to enjoy their celebration with friends, the parents - former state champions among the throng - packed the local bar, Fugglies, down the street to toast the winners' parents and recall some of the memories of championships past.

Meanwhile, the graying old bed-sheet is put away for another year, waiting for the next guy in the trademark red and white-striped Winside singlet to have his hand raised on the afternoon of the third Saturday in February - the next in line to add his name to the autographs of champions past.



(Photo by Michael Carnes)

Freshman Sean Mann came away with a fourth-place medal at 106 pounds for the Winside wrestlers, who finished fourth as a team in Class D.

Champs

From Page 1B where Marcos gets himself in those situations and was ready for it," Sok said.

Escalera continued his aggressive approach in battling the Randolph standout, eventually getting a pinning situation that worked to stick Loberg 31 seconds into the second period, joining Lienemann among Winside's 36 state champions in school history.

"It's amazing. I'm on top of the world right now," Escalera said after the match. "I just wanted to go out and give it my all and not give up the match. This feels awesome."

Those wins, along with a fourth-place finish by 106-pound freshman Sean Mann in the consolation rounds, propelled the Wildcats to an impressive fourth-place finish in the Class D team standings. Winside scored 73 team points to finish nine behind Pender. Amherst ran away with their fifth straight team title with a Class D-record 241.5 points, while Plainview was second with 94 points.

The Wildcats brought seven

wrestlers to state, with five of them winning at least one match. Mann bounced back from a semifinals loss to reach the consolation finals, settling on a fourth-place finish at 106 pounds to account for Winside's third medal. Colby Erickson (120) and Zach Jones (160) both won a match in consolation action, while Zach Morris (138) and Zane Jensen (285) both went 0-2 in their first trips to the state tournament.

The fun doesn't end for the Winside wrestling team, however. With their runner-up finish in last week's D-2 district tournament, the Wildcats qualified as the No. 3 seed for the Class D Duals State Tournament on Saturday at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. The Wildcats wrestle No. 6-seed Thayer Central in the first round of the eight-team tournament.

"I think everybody's excited about it, and the kids are talking about it," Sok said. "The other half of the team is sitting in the stands watching these guys, and that will fire them up, and I think we'll be ready for Thayer Central."

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| Other High Games: Trent Beza 223, Rich Rethwisch 222/202, Mike Grosz 216, Bennett Salmon 215. | |
| Hits and Misses | |
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| Tacos & More | 13.0 15.0 |
| Kathol & Associates | 12.0 16.0 |
| Kelly's cHair | 4.0 24.0 |

| High Game: Kathy Bird, 193. High Series: Stefanie McLagan, 523. | |
|---|----------|
| Other High Games: Jessi Jensen 185, Stefanie McLagan 184, Linda Stewart 183. | |
| Other High Series: Jessi Jensen 494, Kathy Bird 519. | |
| Wed-Nite Owls | |
| Week #15 2/19/14 | |
| Alley Cats | 12.0 4.0 |
| Split Happens | 4.0 0.0 |
| Split Or Swallow | 8.0 8.0 |
| Ghost | 0.0 8.0 |
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mywaynenews.com's Michael Carnes sits down each week to talk to Wayne State coaches about their teams' efforts throughout the 2013 season. We'll recap the previous week's games and talk about upcoming opponents.

State Wrestling — 2014



Winside — Caleb Lienemann — 220 — State Champ, Class D2



Winside — Marcos Escalera — 132 — State Champ, Class D2



Winside — Sean Mann — 106 — 4th Place, Class D2



Wayne — Mike Cliff — 138

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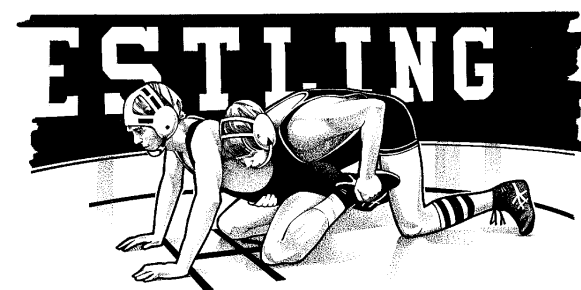
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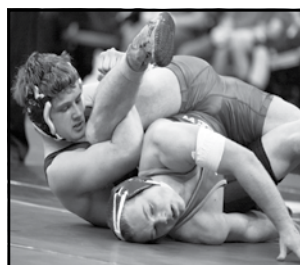
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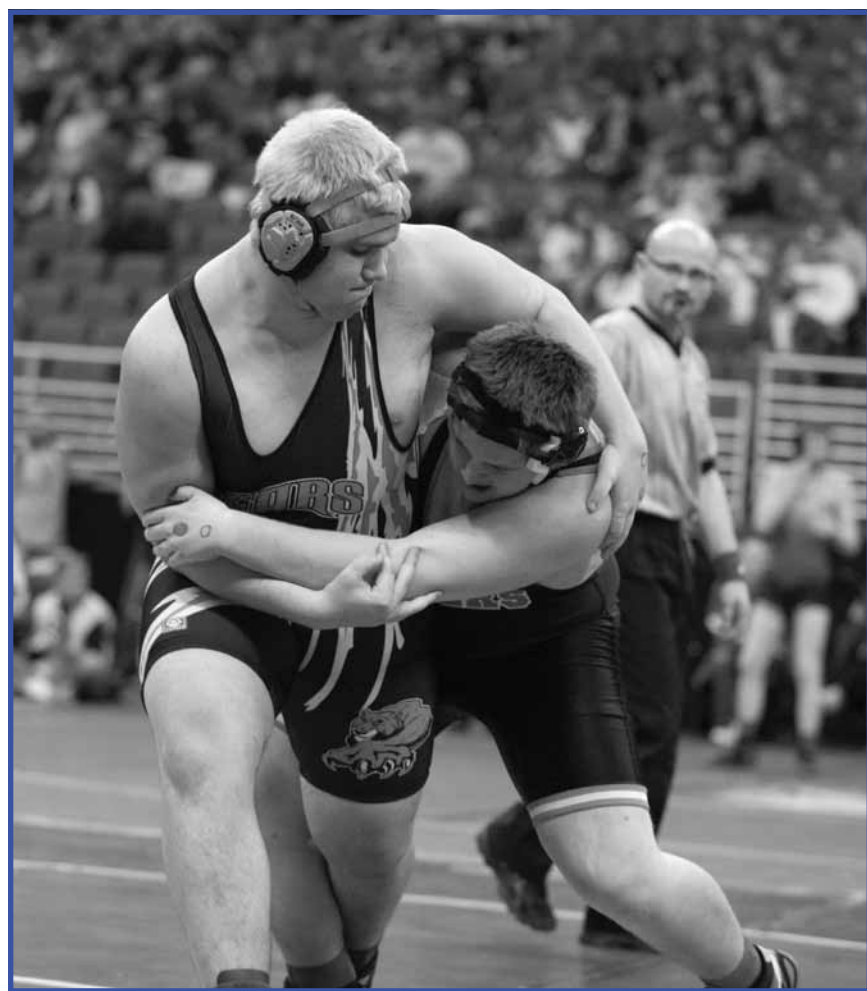
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LCC — Brett Haisch — 182



Wakefield — Cody Thomas — 170



LCC — Ethan Hirschman — 285



Wakefield — Efren Godinez — 182



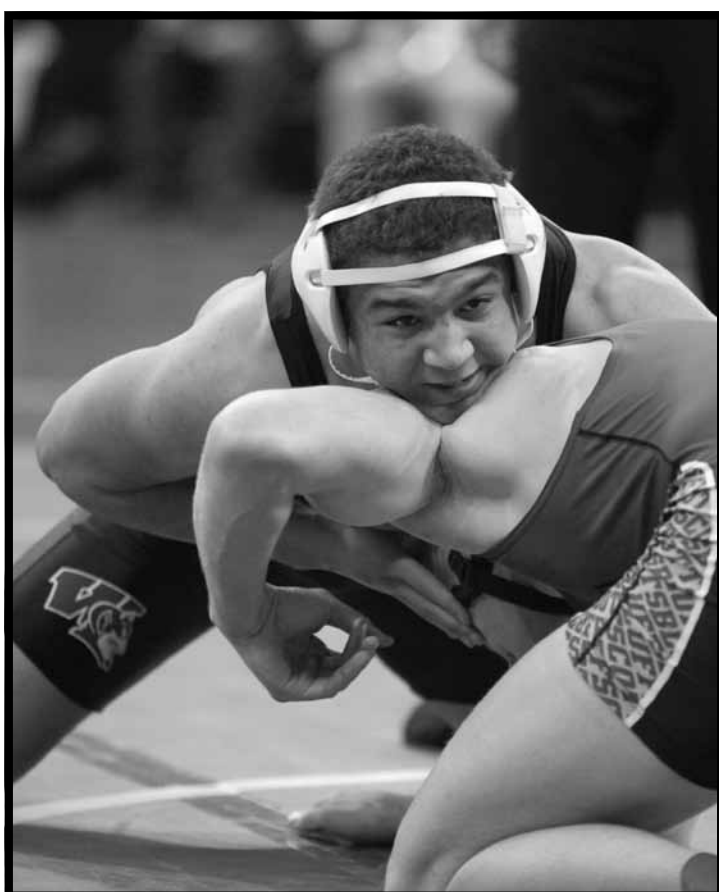
Wakefield — Irvin Ramirez — 113



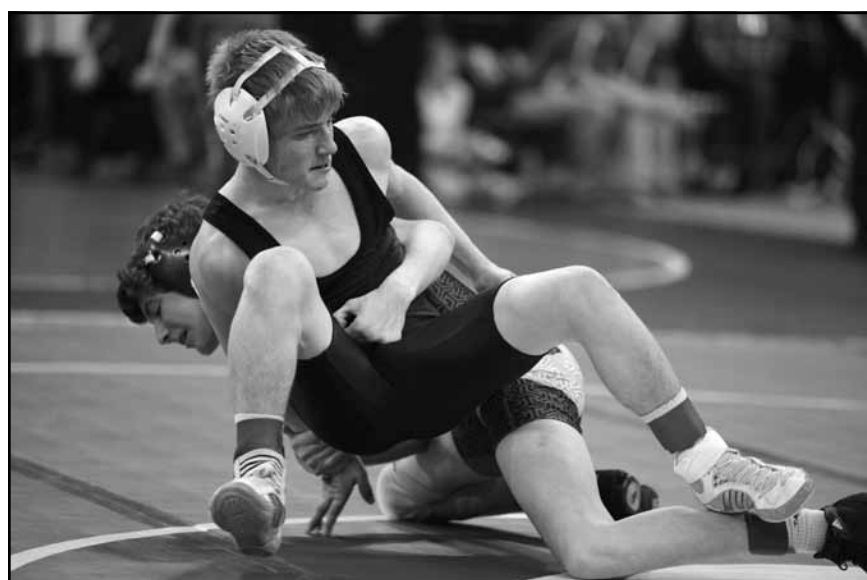
LCC — Chris Heydon — 160



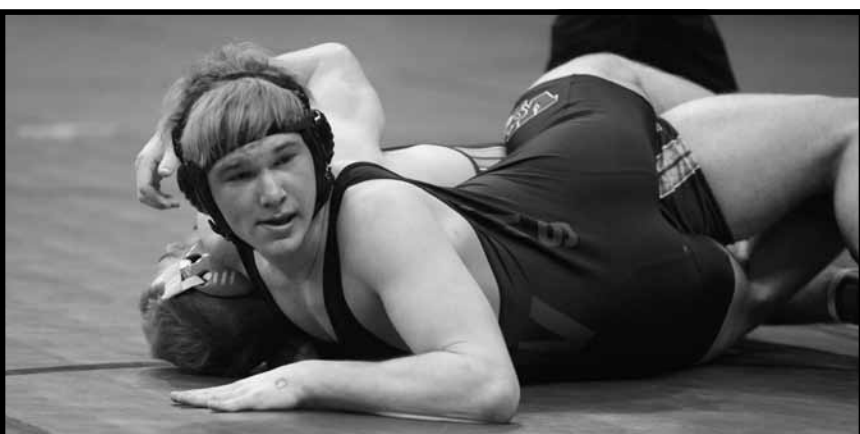
Wakefield — Nick Gonzalez — 120



Wayne — Demetrius Alexander — 182



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State Wrestling — 2014



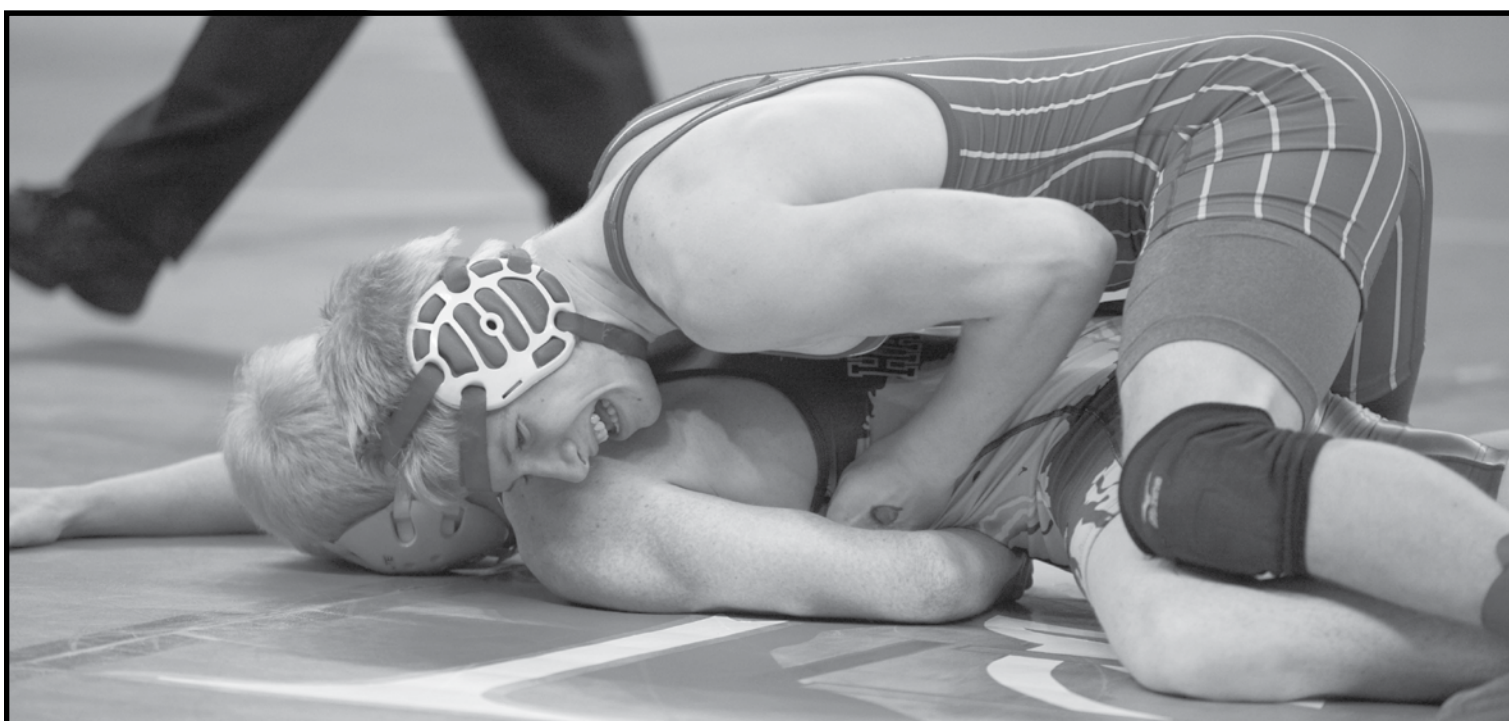
Winside — Zane Jensen — 285



Wayne — Logan Reinke — 152



Wayne — Kody Frahm — 220



Winside — Zach Morris — 138



Winside — Zach Jones — 160

Photos by Michael Carnes

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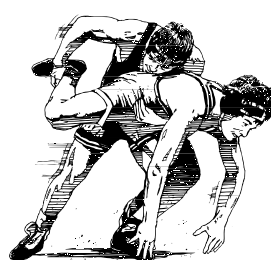
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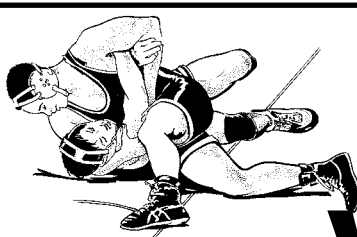
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Congratulations Wrestlers!



GREAT JOB THIS YEAR WRESTLERS!

Winside Public School



*Congratulations
on your season
and trip to state*

HOSKINS MFG. Co.
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Laurel-Concord/Coleridge
wrestlers, congratulations
on a great season!

**Congratulations to our
state qualifiers:**

**Ethan Hirschman - 285 Lbs.
Chris Heydon - 160 Lbs.
Brett Haisch - 182 Lbs.**

Laurel-Concord/Coleridge Public School
502 Wakefield St. - Laurel, Nebraska — 402-256-3731

Winside High School Wrestlers



**Great Job
This Season!**

D&T REPAIR

WINSIDE, NE • 402-286-4616

Congratulations on making
state from Eugene &
Nancy and the employees!



Jensen's AK Cafe
402-286-4300 • Winside, NE



Congratulations!



Winside Store
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**Great job
at State!**



Thies Family Lockers
402-286-1010 Winside, Nebraska
John and Nancy Thies



The Wayne Herald

Agriculture

Economics Outlook Meeting to focus on crop, livestock production

Chemigation applicator certification will be held next Thursday March 6th at the Haskell Ag Lab in Concord, beginning at 9:00 am. This certification is free but you must attend the training and pass a test to qualify for the chemigation applicator certification.

Also on March 6 at the Nielsen Center in West Point, the Cornhusker Economics Outlook meeting will focus on the agriculture outlook and management decisions for farmers and ranchers. This meeting is offered by University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension and the Department of Agricultural Economics and is available free to participants with the series support of the Nebraska Corn Board and the Great Western Bank along with several local sponsors. The outlook meetings are scheduled for a concise, fast-paced discussion of crop, livestock, policy and land outlook. Several people will present at the meeting.



Ag Happenings
Keith Jarvi
Extension Educator

They are; Kate Brooks, extension livestock economist at UNL. Brooks will provide outlook and analysis for

beef and other livestock producers. Brooks' expertise is in market analysis and production economics. She recently led a study of livestock industry trends in Nebraska. She will interpret emerging livestock market fundamentals, meat supplies and meat demand to assess producer profit potential and sound marketing and production decisions in 2013.

Cory Walters, a new extension crop economist at UNL. Walters is new to Nebraska. His expertise is in crop marketing and risk management, with substantial research on crop marketing and decisions. Walters brings experience from both Kentucky and a farm background in Montana to his new role in Nebraska. He will discuss the outlook for corn, soybeans and wheat to help producers make sound production, marketing and risk management decisions.

Brad Lubben, extension policy specialist at UNL. Lubben will provide

perspectives on the policy environment in Washington and the long-awaited farm bill. With the efforts of Congress in January and early

February, producers finally appear ready to focus on farm program decisions instead of continuing deliberations. Lubben will discuss the policy

outlook and program alternatives to help producers effectively combine farm programs, crop insurance, and marketing strategies for success.

Livestock Market Report

The Nebraska Livestock Market conducted a fat cattle sale on Friday.

Prices were steady on all classes. There were 200 fat cattle sold.

Strictly choice fed steers, \$139 to \$142.25. Good and choice steers,

\$135 to \$139. Medium and good steers, \$130 to \$135. Standard

steers, \$120 to \$130. Strictly choice fed heifers, \$139 to \$142. Good

and choice heifers, \$135 to \$139. Medium and good heifers, \$130 to

\$135. Standard heifers, \$110 to \$120.

Beef cows, \$80 to \$85. Utility cows, \$85 to \$95. Canners and cut-

ters, \$77 to \$87. Bologna bulls, \$100 to \$123.50.

Farm Bureau conducts February meeting

Members of the Wayne County Farm Bureau met Feb. 17 at TWJ Feeds in Carroll.

Business items included the following:

1) **Scholarships:** Wayne County offers two \$1,000.00 scholarships to graduating seniors who are choosing a career in agriculture. Applications are due by April 15. More information may be obtained by contacting Bob Dowling at (402) 360-3932.

2) **Ag Awareness:** Teachers are asked to be looking for Beef Readers to be delivered to area elementary schools during Ag Week in March to assist children in learning about the importance of agriculture and where their food comes from.

3) **Recruiting:** Wayne County is offering Investment into the Future of Ag for anyone ages 18-35 who is active in an agricultural field can receive a Farm Bureau membership at one-half price.

On Monday, March 17 at 7 p.m. at the office of Lynette Krie in Wayne, members of the Wayne County Farm Bureau will meet for a Legislative Conference call with GRD.

Deck attends Weed Control Conference

Doug Deck, Wayne County Weed Superintendent, recently attended the Nebraska Weed Control Association 67th Annual Conference. This year's conference was held at the Divots Conference Center in Norfolk Feb. 11-12. The theme was Early Detection- Rapid Response (EDRR)

Topics on Feb. 11 included: Mitch Coffin, Nebraska Department of Ag, What is EDRR?; Rich Walters, The Nature Conservancy, NEWMAC's EDRR Efforts; Mike Reed, Douglas County Weed Superintendent, Nebraska's Weed Risk Assessment Program; Brent Meyer, Lancaster County Weed Superintendent, Nebraska's Watch List & Eco-region Breakout session; Brian Korman, National Parks Service "Saltcedar on the Missouri River National Recreational River"; Gerry Steinhauer, Nebraska Game and Parks, Invasive Grasses; Justin King, NPPD, Aquatic Invasive Species Detection and Mitigation Planning; Patty York, Colorado EDRR Specialist, Colorado's Noxious Weed Program.

Tuesday evening was the Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony, with a presentation by Chris Helzer of the Nature Conservancy, followed by entertainment from Comedian/magician Gayle Becwar.

Session topics on Feb. 13 included: The Battle Against Invasive Plants video; Ron Moehring, SD Department of Ag, South Dakota's EDRR program; Patty York, Colorado's EDRR Program, Scott Marsh, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas's EDRR Program; 4 State Round Table Discussion about EDRR; Marty Craig, Dawson County Weed Superintendent, Nebraska's Mapping Program; Rod Stolpart, Rock County Weed Superintendent, Computer Filing System.

The Annual Business Meeting Luncheon was held on Wednesday noon, and resulted in Todd Boller

of Fillmore County being elected as the new NWCA Vice President. Brian Crabtree of Hamilton County is now the NWCA President for 2014-2015.

With every training offered by the NWCA, each superintendent must answer roll call twice per day, complete and pass the exam at the

end of each day to receive 10 hours continuing education credit. There are four opportunities offered per year, and every superintendent must complete 20 hours annually. The next opportunity will be the NWCA Spring Training on April 1-2 at Central Community College in Hastings.

UNL Extension Board - Wayne County meeting planned

The UNL Extension Board - Wayne County will meet on Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at the courthouse meeting room in Wayne. (NOTE - This is a change from the normal meeting date of the second Tuesday of the month.) The 7:30 p.m. meeting is open to the public. An agenda is available at the Extension Office at 510 Pearl Street, Suite C, in Wayne.

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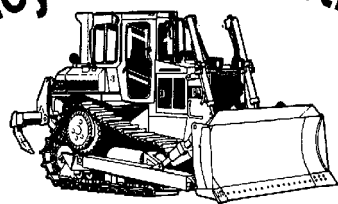
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Natural Resources District



NORFOLK NEBRASKA

Forest Service warning of increased danger of wildfires

The combination of a lack of moisture, consistent high winds and dry air masses may increase the danger of wildfires across Nebraska this year. Recent snowfall has been welcome, but the outlook is still a concern, especially considering wind trends so far in 2014.

"Most of Nebraska has recorded less than a quarter-inch of rainfall in January and, without significant snow cover to compress fire fuel materials such as grass and other vegetation, the wind can quickly and easily carry a spark across a yard or field," said Casey McCoy, Nebraska Forest Service wildland fire training manager. "It's important to stay alert and be prepared when conditions are favorable for fires."

After a record-breaking year in 2012 and record low numbers of wildland fires reported in 2013, 2014 appears to be shaping up as a busy one for Nebraska's fire departments. Fire has historically proven to be a valuable tool in land management, but under the conditions that exist in Nebraska so far this year, it can be a nuisance at best, a deadly threat at worst. Unfortunately, each year thousands of acres and millions of dollars are lost to careless burning practices. The Nebraska Forest Service urges Nebraskans to be careful with fire and offers these tips:

- Check local, county or state laws on open burning. Nebraska has a full-time burn ban that can only be waived by obtaining a permit from your local fire department. Be sure to notify the fire department when you start burning.

- Check weather conditions and forecasts, not just for the day of the burn but for the days following the burn and be flexible. If weather conditions are unfavorable or forecast to be unfavorable, one of the hardest decisions you might need to make is to postpone burning to a later date.

- Look up, look down and look around. Protect buildings and fences and watch out for power poles, power lines and tree branches.

- Build a firebreak to contain a fire in the area to be burned. Even if your burn is just a small brush pile, reduce or remove the grass and other fuel around it. And leave at least 30 feet of separation between your burn and homes, outbuildings and other structures.

- Remember, fires can grow extremely fast. A small fire can rapidly become a raging wildfire with a gust of wind. If a fire appears to be getting away, call your fire department immediately. Never leave a fire unattended; check it multiple

- Burn piles can hold heat for weeks as they continue to consume remaining fuel. If the forecast includes dry conditions and wind, check any piles burned recently to ensure there is no heat remaining. Pour water on it, stir the ashes and pour more water on it.

- Be certain all burning materials such as fireplace ashes and cigarettes are completely out before moving them outside.

- Be very careful with anything that can create a heat source such as welding or cutting equipment. One small spark outdoors on a windy day can lead to a fast moving fire.

Nebraska's more than 14,000 career and volunteer firefighters are the state's primary wildland fire suppression force.

"These dedicated members of the community are your neighbors, friends and fellow farmers and ranchers," McCoy said. "One careless mistake can result in many hours away from jobs and families for them. They willingly put themselves in harm's way with no expectation of anything in return, so please keep them in mind the next time the wind picks up and Nebraska fuels are primed to burn."

These tips are condensed from the Nebraska Forest Service publication "Fire Prevention on the Farm and Ranch." This and many other wildland fire and fire prevention publications are available online.

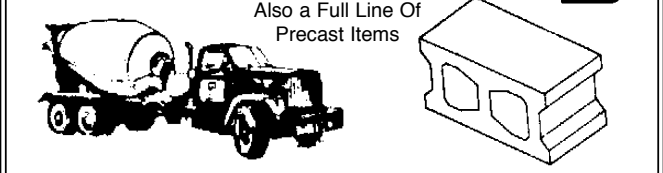
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POLICIES — We ask that you check your ad after its first insertion for mistakes. The Wayne Herald is not responsible for more than ONE incorrect insertion or omission on any ad ordered for more than one insertion. *Requests for corrections should be made within 24 hours of the first publication. *The publisher reserves the right to edit, reject or properly classify any copy.



HELP WANTED

Field Services **TRIM CARPENTERS** earn over **\$42,000 a year** including paid travel time, in addition to a great family health care program and earn even more with our 401(k) contributions.

Paid travel and meals, out overnight 2 to 4 nights a week doing siding and interior trim all over the state.

See or call Dick Broders



1320 E. 7th St - Wayne, NE 1-800-759-2782

HELP WANTED

Night Auditor

Full-Time 4-5 Nights per Week

References Required.

Experience preferred but not necessary.

Apply to Kim at:

Cobblestone Inn & Suites

505 Tomar Drive • Wayne • 402-833-1300

Help Wanted: Driver with CDL

Heritage Transportation, located in Wayne, NE, is looking for a qualified driver for their expanding company fleet to deliver modular house sections across the midwest. Applicants must be 21 years or older & have a good driving history. Willing to train inexperienced drivers for oversized loads. Benefits include year round work with good pay, home on weekends, health insurance, 401K retirement program, paid holiday & vacation plan, paid downtime/motels/meals when on duty.

To apply call (800) 759-2782 and ask for Greg.



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Apply online: WisnerCareCenter.com or in person at:

Wisner Care Center • 1105 9th St, Wisner, NE 68791

Ph. 402-529-3286 • Fax: 402-529-6560

POLICE OFFICER

The City of Wayne has an opening for a Police Officer. The annual salary range is \$37,280 to \$50,843 DOE. Nebraska Law Enforcement Certification preferred but not required.

Successful applicant must be a U.S. citizen, at least 21 years of age, high school graduate or equivalent and possess or be able to obtain a valid Nebraska operator's license. Nebraska Civil Service rules and testing procedures apply. Contact the Wayne Police Department at 306 Pearl Street, P.O. Box 8, Wayne, NE 68787, (402) 375-2626 or police@cityofwayne.org for application information. Applications must be returned by 5:00 p.m. by Wednesday, March 5, 2014. City of Wayne is an EOE/AE.

HELP WANTED

Housekeepers Needed

Part-Time Weekends and Weekdays

Apply in person at:

Cobblestone Inn & Suites

505 Tomar Drive • Wayne

ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTER

Heritage Homes of Nebraska, Inc. is currently hiring for a full time Architectural Drafter with AutoCad knowledge to draw construction plans for a leading modular home manufacturer. Home building experience preferred, but will train qualified individual. Benefits include excellent pay, health insurance, paid vacations and holidays and 401k retirement plan. Send resume to Craig, Drafting Supervisor, at Heritage Homes, PO Box 37, Wayne, NE 68787 or email to craig@heritageind.com



— HELP WANTED —

CNA's

Full-Time
Day Shift

Cook/Dietary Aide

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& ASSISTED LIVING**

702 Cedar Ave. • Laurel, NE • 402-256-3961

Wayne State
College

Custodian (Two Positions)

Wayne State College invites applications two custodians (one day shift; one evening shift) with some weekend duties. This is routine custodial work which includes cleaning and performing related tasks in and around campus buildings, offices, and facilities. Qualifications: High School Diploma or equivalent; minimum of six months to one year experience in custodial work; knowledge of proper cleaning methods, procedures, products, and materials; knowledge of use and care of cleaning equipment and supplies; ability to learn repetitive tasks quickly; and ability to interact courteously and tactfully with students, faculty, and the general public.

Please refer to our website at (<http://www.wsc.edu/hr/jp.php?type=4>) for more information about the position, including materials required for application. Review of completed applications will begin immediately and continue until filled. Beginning salary range is \$1693.47 - \$1,934.40 per month.

Custodian Search
Director of Human Resources
Hahn 220
Wayne State College
1111 Main Street, Wayne, NE 68787
or email to: hrwork1@wsc.edu
Phone: (402) 375-7365

Wayne State College is an equal opportunity institution. WSC does not discriminate against any student, employee or applicant on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, or age in employment and education opportunities, including but not limited to admission decisions. The College has designated an individual to coordinate the College's nondiscrimination efforts to comply with regulations implementing Title VI, VII, IX, and Section 504. Inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies and practices may be directed to Dr. Cheryl Waddington, Director of Human Resources, Title VI, VII, IX Compliance Coordinator, Wayne State College, 1111 Main Street, Wayne, NE 68787, (402) 375-7403. Applicants who need a reasonable accommodation during the selection process may contact Dr. Cheryl Waddington for assistance. Successful Background Records Check required as part of employment process.

LIFEGUARDS AND SWIM TEAM COACHES

The City of Wayne is now accepting applications for Lifeguards and Swim Team Coaches for the 2014 Summer Season. Applicants must show that they have a good work record and that they are dependable and mature in their work habits. Current certifications and experience required. Applications may be obtained at the Wayne Community Activity Center, 901 W. 7th Street. Persons interested should return their application to the Recreation Services Director no later than Friday, March 7, 2014. EOE.

— HELP WANTED —

Dietary Aide Part-Time

Activity Assistant Part-Time

Apply in person at:

WAKEFIELD HEALTH CARE CENTER
306 Ash Street, Wakefield, NE 68784
Phone 402-287-2244 EOE



Customer Relations Representative

State Nebraska Bank & Trust is looking for a Customer Relations Representative to join our team.

The successful candidate must be an outgoing, people-oriented person with a strong attention to detail and ability to multi-task. The job involves a wide range of duties related to customer service, including opening new accounts, greeting customers, answering questions and directing calls to Bank staff, and maintaining knowledge of the Bank's products and services.

Candidate must possess excellent communication skills, both verbal and written; excellent organizational and time management skills; proficiency in computer skills, including Word & Excel; and the ability to maintain confidential customer and Bank information in a responsible and secure manner.

This is an entry level, full time position. This position will give you an opportunity to join a community-focused bank that offers a competitive salary and benefits package, including paid holidays, PTO, medical/dental/eye insurance, and 401(K) with an annual percentage employer match. Requirements include: At least two years of financial institution experience and Bachelor's Degree preferred. Qualified applicants must be proactive and work well in a team environment; community involvement is highly encouraged. Credit history screened for this position.

Submit a cover letter and resume to State Nebraska Bank & Trust, Attn: HR Dept., 122 Main Street, Wayne, NE 68787 or via email to info@statenebank.com.

State Nebraska Bank & Trust is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

STATE NEBRASKA BANK & TRUST

122 Main Street Wayne, NE 68787 (402) 375-1130 www.statenebank.com



Help Wanted

Employment Works, Inc. is seeking to fill a part-time Skills Training Specialist position in the Wayne area to provide support services for people who are experiencing a disability.

Services include training to increase proficiency with independent living and employment. The majority of the hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. with one weekend per month. Must be available to work some evenings during the week. Must be a high school graduate. Applicants must have a valid driver's license, insurance, registration, excellent written and oral communication skills, strong work ethic, and a desire to help others succeed. We conduct thorough background checks and drug testing. Starting wage is \$9.00.

If you are interested please stop by Employment Works, Inc. at 1203 S. 8th St., Norfolk or call 402-371-1011, Ext. 103 and speak with Jodi Ronspies or Aleigha Lawless or apply online at www.employmentworksinc.com



Is Now Accepting Applications For Full Time Assembly / Production Work

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1200 N. Centennial Road • Wayne, NE 68787

A Division of Great Dane Limited Partnership EOE • ISO 9001: 2008 Registered Plant

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

Wanted – Allen Correspondent

Our Allen correspondent is retiring at the end of 2013, and The Wayne Herald is looking for somebody who can write well and cover news in the community of Allen. Duties include compiling local news stories and taking the occasional photo for inclusion in our Allen News page in The Wayne Herald.

Anyone interested may contact
Michael Carnes, managing editor,
 at (402) 375-2600
 or e-mail sports@wayneherald.com.



Great Dane Trailers

OFFICE CLERK / RECEPTIONIST NEEDED

Great Dane Trailers is accepting applications for a full time office clerk/receptionist position. We are looking for a dependable, organized, self motivated professional to operate our switchboard, greet and route visitors and work with candidates for employment, sort and distribute mail, type reports, sort and input time cards, and assist with some Human Resources and Accounting assignments when needed. Qualified applicants should have strong data entry and typing skills, be able to multi-task, be knowledgeable of Microsoft Excel and Word, and have excellent organizational and interpersonal skills.

Candidates are to successfully complete a post job offer drug screen and medical examination. Individuals wanting to join a winning team need to apply in person at:

Great Dane Trailers • 1200 N. Centennial Road • Wayne, NE 68787
 A Division of Great Dane Limited Partnership EOE
 ISO 9001:2008 Registered Plant

Full-time HELP WANTED

General Farm help and truck driving. New John Deere equipment. CDL. Good working facility. No livestock. Phone: 402-256-3500

Help Wanted Looking for Dozer/Excavator operator.

Wages based upon experience. CDL required. Apply at Milo Meyer Construction, Inc. 1002 Industrial Road Wayne, NE 402-375-3440



Mid-States School Bus, Inc

SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS NEEDED

Mid States School Bus is now hiring school bus drivers for the Wayne and Winnebago School Districts.

- *CDL Licensure not initially required (will train)
- *Help with Licensing
- *Competitive Pay (one of the best part-time pay scales)
- *Position Available for Activity Trips

This is a perfect part-time position for those with children in school or for those wanting to attend activities.

Contact: Main Office at 402-375-2887 or 866-525-0341

Needed Immediately:

Full-Time Position at our Wayne Plant. Contact Jim Knapp, Wayne Plant Manager 402-833-5600 • jknapp@sandcreekpostandbeam.com Pick up an application at the Main Office, 116 West 1st Street



FULL OR part-time help needed for farm/feedlot/cow-calf operation. Experience preferred and should speak English. Ph. 402-833-8944 days or 402-256-9353 evenings.

HELP WANTED: Immediate opening for night time waitress/bartender in Laurel. Must work nights and weekends. Will train. Call 402-256-3105 and ask for Doug.

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PMC offers competitive wages and a generous benefit package. Quality patient care is our priority.

Please apply online at www.providencemedical.com under career opportunities 1200 Providence RD, Wayne, NE 68787



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Longer trips by the mile –
Shorter trips by the hour

Valmont Coatings – West Point Galvanizing is now hiring for a truck driver interested in hauling steel product from our customers to our site in West Point. Driver would be required to drive Valmont's tractor and flat bed trailer. This is a full time position with minimal over night driving. Candidates must have 3 years of over the road experience with a valid Commercial Drivers License and current medical certification including drug screening required by the DOT. Candidates must have a good driving record and be able to lift up to 50 pounds on a regular basis. One year of flat bed experience is preferred. Driver will be responsible for keeping current records of duty status according to DOT regulations with miles driven and fuel purchased. Questions regarding this position may be directed to the e-mail address rschinstock@valmont.com. For immediate consideration apply online at www.valmont.com

Come Join Our Team!

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability or protected veteran status.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR CNAs

Full-Time Evenings Hire-On Bonus

Apply in person at:

WAKEFIELD HEALTH CARE CENTER
 306 Ash Street • Wakefield, NE 68784
 Phone: 402-287-2244 EOE

Wayne Softball Association is hiring coaches for the 2014 summer season

Applications may be picked up at the Wayne Activities Center

Please mail applications to Dallas Dorey at 913 Pearl St., Wayne NE, 68787

Questions - Please call 402-369-0040 or email waynedirtdevils@gmail.com

City of Wayne Public Works Park and Street Department

Summer time help needed. Preference given to individuals who can work 40 hours during the week and once a month for 2 to 3 hours on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

Applicant will complete a variety of duties, including but not limited to, operating a skid loader, pickup with dump box, maintenance duties around the mechanic shop, and cleaning vehicles. Summer work includes mowing, trimming, water flowers, picking up debris in parks and city property, etc.

Position is part-time and willing to work around class schedule. Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license. Pay Range is \$8.50 to \$10.00 per hour.

TO APPLY: Applications are available at Wayne City Hall, Monday through Friday, from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, 306 Pearl Street. On the application please write: **ATTN: TODD** Questions please contact the Public Works Department at 402-375-1300 and ask for Todd. City of Wayne is EEO/AEE

Full-Time Pharmacist

Pender Community Hospital, a 21 bed Critical Access Hospital, has an excellent opportunity for a full-time Pharmacist to join our team. This position screens physician orders to ensure the correct medications are given to individual patients that range from birth to 90+ years assuring that the correct drug and dose is prescribed, dispensed, administered and properly monitored. Pharmacists at PCH provide for the educational needs of health care professionals, patients and their families.

We offer a generous compensation package including paid time off, health insurance, flex-benefits, life insurance and 403B retirement match.

This institution is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action provider and employer.



Apply today in confidence to:
Pender Community Hospital
 Attn: Human Resources
 P.O. Box 100, Pender, NE 68047

Apply online at www.pendercommunityhospital.com

Thurston™

Manufacturing Company



Thurston Manufacturing is currently seeking a:

**Sales Technician
 Production Scheduler
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Join Our Growing Company for:

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- Premium Pay for Night Shifts • Outstanding Work Conditions •

For complete job descriptions, benefits information and additional opportunities, visit:

www.WorkAtThurston.com

Call: 402.385.3041
 Stop in at: 1708 H Ave, Thurston, NE 68047



Loan Officer

State Nebraska Bank & Trust is looking for a Loan Officer to join our team. The successful candidate must be an outgoing, dependable, customer-focused professional with a strong attention to detail. The job duties include meeting with applicants to obtain information for loan applications. Analyze applicant's financial status, credit and property evaluations to determine feasibility of granting loans. Explain to customers the different types of loans and credit options that are available, as well as the terms of those services. Process loan applications and disburse loans in accordance with lending regulations, policies and procedures. Review and update credit and loan files.


Candidate must possess excellent communication skills, both verbal and written; excellent organizational and time management skills; proficiency in computer skills, including Word and Excel; and the ability to maintain confidential customer and Bank information in a responsible and secure manner.

This is an entry level, full time position. This position will give you an opportunity to join a community-focused bank that offers a competitive salary and benefits package, including paid holidays, PTO, medical/dental/eye insurance, and 401(K) with an annual percentage employer match. Requirements include: Bachelor's Degree, at least two years of financial institution experience, preferably in a lending position. Qualified applicants must be proactive and work well in a team environment; community involvement is highly encouraged. Credit history screened for this position.

Submit a cover letter and resume to State Nebraska Bank & Trust, Attn: HR Dept., 122 Main Street, Wayne, NE 68787 or via email to info@statenebank.com.

State Nebraska Bank & Trust is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

STATE NEBRASKA BANK & TRUST
 122 Main Street Wayne, NE 68787 (402) 375-1130 www.statenebank.com



MORE HELP WANTEDS — PAGE 8C

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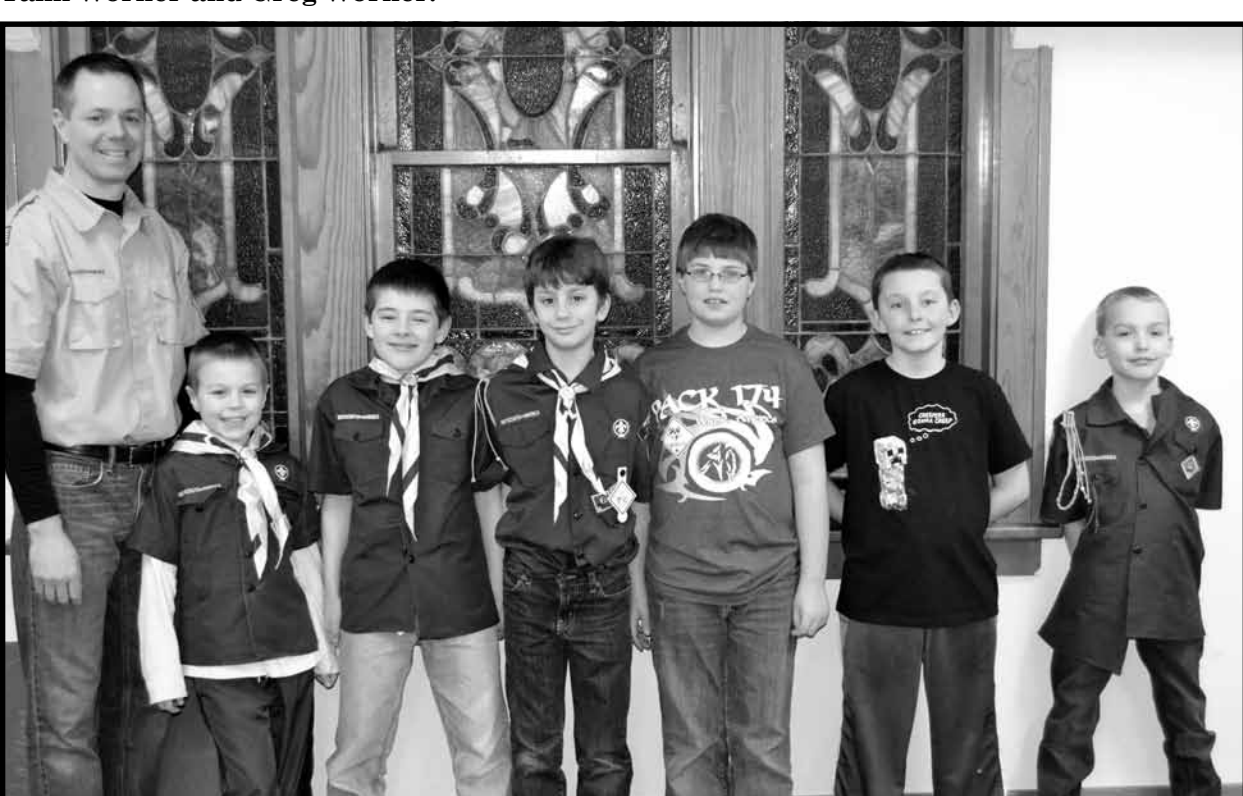
Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts celebrate Scouting Month



Troop Leaders include (front) Bob Liska, Jeff Simpson, (back) Scott Abraham, Stacy Schenk, Tami Worner and Greg Worner.



Boy Scouts in Troop #174 include (front) James Simpson, Steven Keiser, Bishop Cavenee, Zach Schenk, (back) Jacob Abraham, Andrew Simpson, RJ Liska, Parker Wren and Nolan Kruse. Not pictured: Jon Worner and James Kielty.



Cub Scouts in the Bears program include (left) Bear den leader David Bohnert, Ethan Bohnert, Ethan McCraney, Quin Zach, Brandon Sebade, Shayne Geidner and Brogan Foote.




Tiger members of the Wayne Cub Scout Pack include (left) Tiger den leader Marlon Brink, Brayden Woehler, Ty Zach, Kingston Hanson, Andrew Brink and Hunter Foote.

Also part of the Cub Scout program, but not available for a picture, are the Webelos. Members include Isaac Davis, Jacob Karsky, Nathan Kufner, Zach Nordhues, GW Robinson and Ethan Sebade.



Boys involved in the Wolves group of Cub Scouts include (left) Jesus Zavala, Brayden Navarro, Laythn Hanish and Bralen Murphy. Not pictured: Conner Worrel, Giovanni Davidson and Ryan Karsky.

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- Vel's Bakery**
- White Dog Pub**
- Tom's Body & Paint Shop, Inc.**
- Pac 'N' Save**
- TWJ Feeds, Inc.**
- Quality Food Center**
- Wayne East — Prime Stop**
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- Pizza Hut**
- First National Insurance Agency**
- Accounting Plus**
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- State Nebraska Bank & Trust Co., Member FDIC**

- State National Insurance Agency**
- Wayne Area Economic Development • Chamber • Main Street**
- Drs. Burrows & Holloway Family Dentistry**
- Helena Chemical Company**
- The Wayne Herald / Morning Shopper**
- American Broadband**
- The Max**
- Concord Components**



Scout Facts

- The Wayne Boy Scouts have been in existence for 91 years; they have been part of Wayne since 1923.
- The Wayne Cub Scouts have been in existence for 69 years; they have been part of Wayne since 1945.
- Between the Wayne Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts, they have 160 years of combined service to the community.
- The Scouts have accumulated approximately 500 months of continuous paper drives, helping Wayne's recycling efforts, since the early 1970s.
- The Scouts take part in numerous civic projects.
- Both groups welcome participants from all religions and ways of life.



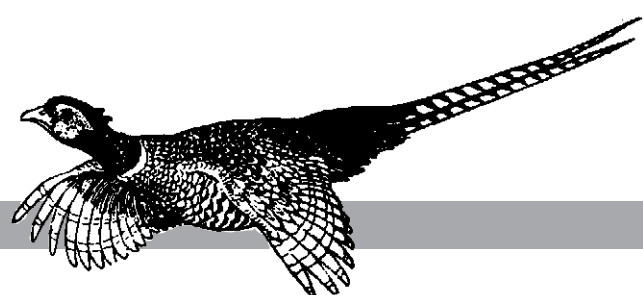
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Opinion

Don't get me started

By: Michael Carnes
Managing Editor

I'm really good at procrastination

I was reading an article by Megan McArdle on The Atlantic's website titled "Why Writers Are The Worst Procrastinators." She was trying to explain to the rest of civilized society why writers make the best procrastinators.

According to McArdle, the writer's ability to procrastinate has its roots in school, where writing and reading came easy for some but not for others. "We were too good in English class," she surmised.

It reminded me of my youth, when I was far and away the best reader and writer in my class. I'm not bragging here - I'm just stating the truth. If you were to describe my classmates' reading levels using board games, I was playing chess . . . they were playing Candy Land.

People my age (and those teachers still around who were teaching back when people my age were kids) may remember the old SRA reading comprehension system that schools had back in the 1970's. As I seem to remember, there was a folder with reading material that a student would have to read, and then they would take a test once they had done all the work in the folder to determine whether they had achieved a certain level of reading and writing comprehension. The folders were color-coded and got tougher the deeper you got into the system.

Most of the kids in my class got through the system by the end of the school year - I had it mastered before Christmas.

And when it came to writing, I was better than most of the kids two and three grades ahead of me. I actually wrote a "book" one summer about a little boy who grew up to be a big-league baseball player. My fourth-grade teacher thought it was good enough for me to read to the class, taking a moment in between pages to show the artwork I had created to help tell the story (and it should be noted that, for as good as I am with the written word, I am equally as pathetic when it comes to drawing).

And so, it would make perfect sense (at least, it does to me) that I should be - and am - an outstanding procrastinator. In fact, I'd like to share some of my legendary capabilities in the art of procrastination with you (and believe me . . . it IS an art).

Before I do that, though, I'd like to tell you about my youngest nephew, John, and his amazing talents at hitting a golf ball. This kid has the potential to be the next Jack Nicklaus or Tiger Woods. He eats, sleeps and drinks golf. If he lived someplace where he could play golf 12 months out of the year, the only way I'd be able to spend time with him is if I caddied for him.

Last summer, he and I were out playing on the golf course, and I was having trouble hitting my putter. He saw my problem and offered to give me a putting lesson. He showed me how to adjust my grip, and wouldn't you know it, I started putting the ball better.

OK, now where was I? Oh yes - I was going to tell you about what makes me such a fantastic procrastinator. I mean, it is not something that you can really work hard at becoming. It really is one of those natural gifts to be able to put something off until the last possible minute.

Speaking of which - did you see that Ken Chamberlain decided, just a few days before the incumbents' deadline, to run for a second term as our mayor? I had a pretty good feeling he was going to run for re-election. I thought he did a pretty good job as our mayor these last four years. He had some interesting situations to deal with during his first term as mayor, from the controversy surrounding the police department to dealing with the aftermath of last fall's tornado. I thought he handled a lot of the big situations quite well - and while that's not an official endorsement of any kind . . .

Oh, hey - forgive me for a minute. I need to go check on the weather outside. I thought I saw something about snow in the forecast, so I want to make sure a blizzard isn't blowing outside that will keep me from attending tonight's basketball game.

OK now - where was I?

Oh, right - procrastination. Listen, I have the putting-stuff-off-until-the-last-minute thing down cold. I mean, you would not BELIEVE how much I can get done when I have that proverbial time bomb ticking in my head. There is something about playing Beat the Clock with whatever it is that's on top of your "must get done today" list that is just exhilarating and, at the same time, maddening.

Speaking of which - did anybody watch the Olympics that got over this past weekend? Unfortunately, I couldn't watch much of the Winter Olympics; and, to be honest, I'm not as big a fan of much of anything in winter sports beyond hockey.

Now when it comes to the Summer Olympics, there's a lot to keep my interest, from wrestling and soccer to basketball and a bunch of other sports. Halfpipe snowboarding? Eh, it's just not my thing.

Speaking of that - have I gotten around to telling you what a legendary procrastinator I am? I mean, it really drives people crazy with how I am able to be such a good writer, and yet be so horribly comfortable with waiting until the last minute to get things done.

I'd love to tell you more but, unfortunately, I have run out of space . . .

Capitol View

Another education choice?

By J.L. SCHMIDT
Statehouse Correspondent
The Nebraska Press Association

As a kid growing up in small town Nebraska I went to the elementary school closest to my house, the only junior high school and the only high school in town. I had many of the same teachers as my older siblings. I ate the same one-choice meal as my classmates, and I liked it. Because there wasn't any choice.

My hometown now has four public elementary schools and several parochial schools. School lunch menus have evolved and students now have the choice of several entrees, some of them even healthy. Curriculum has changed and students are categorized as gifted, ordinary or in need of help. Home schools, parochial schools, magnet schools with emphasis ranging from arts to zoos, are all available now. In some places, students are sent to schools focused on discipline or special needs.

But nowhere in Nebraska can one find charter schools, a 22-year-old concept started in Minnesota and touted by proponents as innovative public schools designed to deliver programs tailored to the needs of the communities they serve. They are called the fastest and most successful growing reforms in the country.

Nebraska is one of eight states that don't allow charter schools, but Sen. Scott Lautenbaugh of Omaha has introduced a bill (LB972) to allow for the creation of up to five charter schools in the Omaha Public School District through a pilot program. It's nearly the same as his bill (LB593) that was heard a year ago by the Legislature's Education Committee and killed 8-0. Lautenbaugh says he tweaked this new bill to reflect the latest best practices.

Lautenbaugh and other proponents say charter schools are becoming popular - there are now 5,453 charter schools serving 1.7 million students in 39 states and the District of Columbia - as public schools are being criticized because of declining quality. Charter schools are funded with public money but operate independently of a school board. He said charter schools could adapt more quickly to new practices and to the needs of their students. It's all about giving students and their parents more choices.

Among the eight opponents at the hearing on last year's bill was then-Department of Education Director Roger Breed, who cited a 2013 study by the Center for Research on Education Outcomes at Stan-

www.paufellcartoons.com



ford University that found charter schools generally do no better at raising student achievement than other schools. Breed said the bill (LB593) was a flawed bill delivering a flawed solution.

Proponents cite the same study and say it's positive because results indicate that 25 percent of charter schools outperform comparative traditional public schools, while 19 percent produced worse results. In math, 29 percent of charter schools outperformed the traditional public schools and 31 percent were weaker, according to the report.

Laughtenbaugh and four others testified in support of last year's bill. Breed and seven others - representing the state's teachers, school boards, school administrators and parent teacher associations - spoke against the measure. The same lineup can be anticipated this year as well.

Opponents say they worry about accountability to the public and to parents and to the students. Some say they worry about the perception that officials are just throwing up their hands and giving up on the public school system.

Proponents say that Nebraska's status quo of open enrollment and school choice just isn't enough and that it wouldn't hurt Nebraska to

at least try another innovative approach. Charter schools, they say, are smaller and embrace the parents and community in which they are located to help support the school and its goals. Charter schools are public schools and are funded according to enrollment. Nationwide, on average, they are funded at less than 70 percent of the district per student amount.

That cost factor alone, if proven to be true and applicable in Nebraska, could be a compelling argument in a year when the Executive Branch is working ever harder to convince the Legislative Branch that it's all about tax cuts.

Lautenbaugh is to be commended

for pushing ahead with the issue despite the unanimous death of it a year ago. But new ideas take time and study in Nebraska. Charter schools would be a good candidate for an interim study with proponents tasked to find successful charter schools in other states that would be comparable to specific Nebraska communities, not just Omaha.

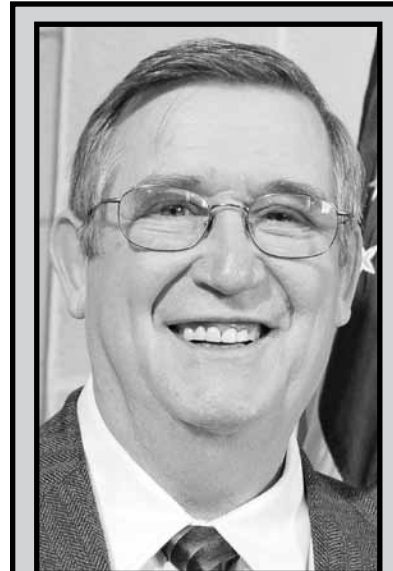
If the kids at Lincoln Heights Elementary in Scottsbluff have a choice to eat something other than fish sticks on Friday these days, maybe their parents should be allowed to send them to a charter school if the choice is ever approved in Nebraska.

Legislative Update LB682 has number of issues to address

On Feb. 11, the Education Committee advanced LB682 out of committee with a committee amendment. LB682, introduced and prioritized by Sen. Jim Scheer, of Norfolk, would provide for the formation of allied school systems. While the committee amendment improves the bill, it is a bill with many issues, in my opinion.

LB682 requires schools with an average daily membership of less than 650 K-12 students during the last two consecutive years to align with three other school districts by July 1, 2015. To be "aligned," schools must have a common calendar and schedule. The argument being made for this bill is that, by schools aligning, you would have a greater pool of students and teachers and can then offer more courses that may not be available to the individual schools. We have been told repeatedly that this bill is not about consolidation and that the individuals opposed to the bill are only opposed because they just do not understand it.

I understand that our rural schools want to offer their students as many opportunities as possible, but I do not feel that LB682 necessarily aids in doing this. Under LB682, schools are required to align but they are not required to offer more courses. It is my experience that school districts concerned with challenging students find ways to offer them courses and opportunities without having to align with other schools. I think the premise behind this bill is that distance education will become more commonplace in our schools - I have nothing against distance education, but there are concerns that come along with it. How many classrooms will have to be outfitted with distance education capabilities? What happens if your school decides not to hire a math teacher because they can have a teacher at a school that they are aligned with teach the course via distance education? If a child is taking geometry and struggling, how do they get additional help? We need to leave these decisions up to the local school districts. They know better than those of us



Legislative Update
By Dave Bloomfield
State Senator, District 17

in Lincoln what their students and school districts need.

On another note, LB671 introduced by Sen. Chambers of Omaha, which would eliminate provisions relating to the hunting and killing of mountain lions, has been placed on the agenda for discussion by the full Legislature. You might recall that I mentioned this bill in an earlier "Update." LB671 advanced from the Natural Resources Committee on a 6-2 vote with an amendment. The amendment reinstates sections of the original statute that allow an individual to kill a mountain lion that is a threat to their livestock on his or her property and allows individuals to defend themselves against a mountain lion. The proposed bill and amendment does repeal the section of statute that allows Game and Parks Commission to issue mountain lion hunting permits. Since the foolishness of not being able to defend yourself or your property has been removed, I will look at LB671 with a little more respect.

As always, if we can be of any assistance, contact our office at (402) 471-2716 or e-mail dbloomfield@leg.ne.gov.



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