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The Wayne Herald

Thursday, February 5, 2015 139th Year - No. 19

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(Photo by Clara Osten)

Construction workers take down the awning of the former Jacob's Room building on the corner of Second and Main streets in Wayne, part of some new construction that is taking place for new businesses here.

Under construction

New businesses give downtown Wayne a new look

By CALYN DUNKLAU
Of The Herald

Wayne's Main Street has been the source of saws buzzing, hammers pounding and drills squealing. The construction zones of what were formerly known as Jacob's Room and Peper's Purses are being stripped down and built back up by up-and-coming business owners.

Tim Fertig, longtime personal trainer, decided to move forward on the property of his dreams last year, and so far it's paying off.

"I've always wanted a bigger facility to do this sort of thing. This building has always been the building I wanted, but it just hadn't been for sale," said Fertig.

Fertig, one of the strength and conditioning trainers Wayne

State College utilizes for its football and volleyball programs, had looked into other locations, but none had the appeal that the former Jacob's Room building did. When it came up for sale last year, he jumped at it.

"It all just happened at the right time. The initial thought was to open at the beginning of the school year, but the process of buying it took longer than anticipated. But there haven't been any real issues with the building, so we're just trying to get it finished now."

Fertig's dream of opening a crossfit-style gym is coming to life as demolition of the property is finished and the process of renovation is in full swing. The facility will be branded as Body by Design, a name some Wayne residents are already familiar with, as Fertig led a series of boot camp classes in the past under that name.

See CONSTRUCTION, Page 3A

Council sending mayor to talk with club reps

By MICHAEL CARNES
Of The Herald

Wayne Mayor Ken Chamberlain will be stepping up to the tee box as the city and representatives of the Wayne Country Club continue discussion about applying for a grant for a possible clubhouse renovation.

At Tuesday's meeting, the Wayne City Council authorized the mayor to talk with officers of the country club to see if there still is interest in applying for a Civic and Community Center Financing Fund grant that would be used for a proposed renovation of the old clubhouse on the Wayne Country Club property on the north edge of town.

At their last meeting, the Council received a seven-step list of demands the mayor felt the city would need to have satisfied if they were to take ownership of the back nine and related buildings, which would be required for the city to apply for the grant so that the clubhouse could be built.

Chamberlain said he would present the seven concerns to the board, understanding that there would be some compromise between the two sides that would need to take place.

"This gives me something to take them to show what we'd need to be comfortable with to move forward on this, and they may have some things they want before the feel comfortable with it," Chamberlain said.

Some Council members were concerned about the city taking over an entity without knowing that entity's financial status.

"We should know what money is coming in," Councilman Jon Haase said. "When you buy something, you should know what you're getting into."

As of now, an actual estimate on renovation of the clubhouse has not been made known, which concerned other board members.

"They have come up with a figure, but right now it's just a rough estimate," Coun-

cilman Matt Eischeid said.

"If the city owns the course and a grant is provided and they have to raise the other half, and if they don't come up with it, then what?" Councilman Jason Karsky asked, adding that he agreed with Haase in that the city should be able to see the club's financial statements.

The Council took action Tuesday on the city's health insurance carrier, terminating their contract with CoOpportunity Health and switching to Blue Cross Blue Shield, effective at the end of the month.

The move was required after CoOpportunity Health was shut down by the state of Iowa. First National Agency spokesman Gary Boehle went over the changes that were taking place with Council members, which included changes in co-pays for doctor visits and prescriptions.

The Council also approved its one- and six-year street plans for 2015 after looking at a map of the projects. Among the one-year projects on the docket for 2015 are the Windom Street project, the Hillside Drive project and the Tomar and East Fourth Street project. Nine other projects are scheduled on the six-year plan.

In other action, the Council:

- heard information from city electric distribution foreman Tim Sutton on a request by Wayne State College to ask for a specific LED-based lighting on 10th Street that matches new lighting that is being installed at the college.

- tabled action on a \$250 stipend that would be given to the mayor and Council members for the purchase of a laptop or tablet computer that would be used for city business, including the digital receipt of information packets each member receives prior to Council meetings.

- approved an ordinance on final reading that would create 15-minute parking in front of City Hall on Pearl Street.

- amended the contract with JEO Con-

See COUNCIL, Page 3A



(Contributed photo)

Country music star Neal McCoy will be the featured entertainer at the Wayne County Fair this summer.

McCoy to play at County Fair this summer

The Wayne Herald has received word through the fan page of country music star Neal McCoy that he will be the headliner for the Wayne County Fair on Saturday, Aug. 1.

McCoy has been on the country music scene for more than 30 years, getting his start as an opening act for legend Charley Pride in the 1980's and early 1990's.

McCoy's exciting live shows earned him a reputation as an entertaining performer, and his first country hit came in 1992 with "Where Forever Begins." Two years later, he hit the top of the country charts with the release of the "No Doubt About It" album in 1994, which included his only No. 1 country hits with the title track and "Wink."

McCoy has gone on to have a number of hits since then, including "If I Was A Drinkin' Man" and "If You Can't Be Good, Be Good At It," and he has also released an album in tribute to Pride, which included guest appearances from such artists as Darius Rucker and The Mavericks.



(Courtesy photo)

Pictured with the Airport of the Year Award are Tom Schmitz, Airport Authority members Nancy Braden, City Finance Director; and Ronnie Mitchell, director of the Nebraska Department of Aeronautics.

Stan Morris Field receives Airport of the Year award

Stan Morris Field went from being leveled by an EF-4 tornado to being named the state's Airport of the Year.

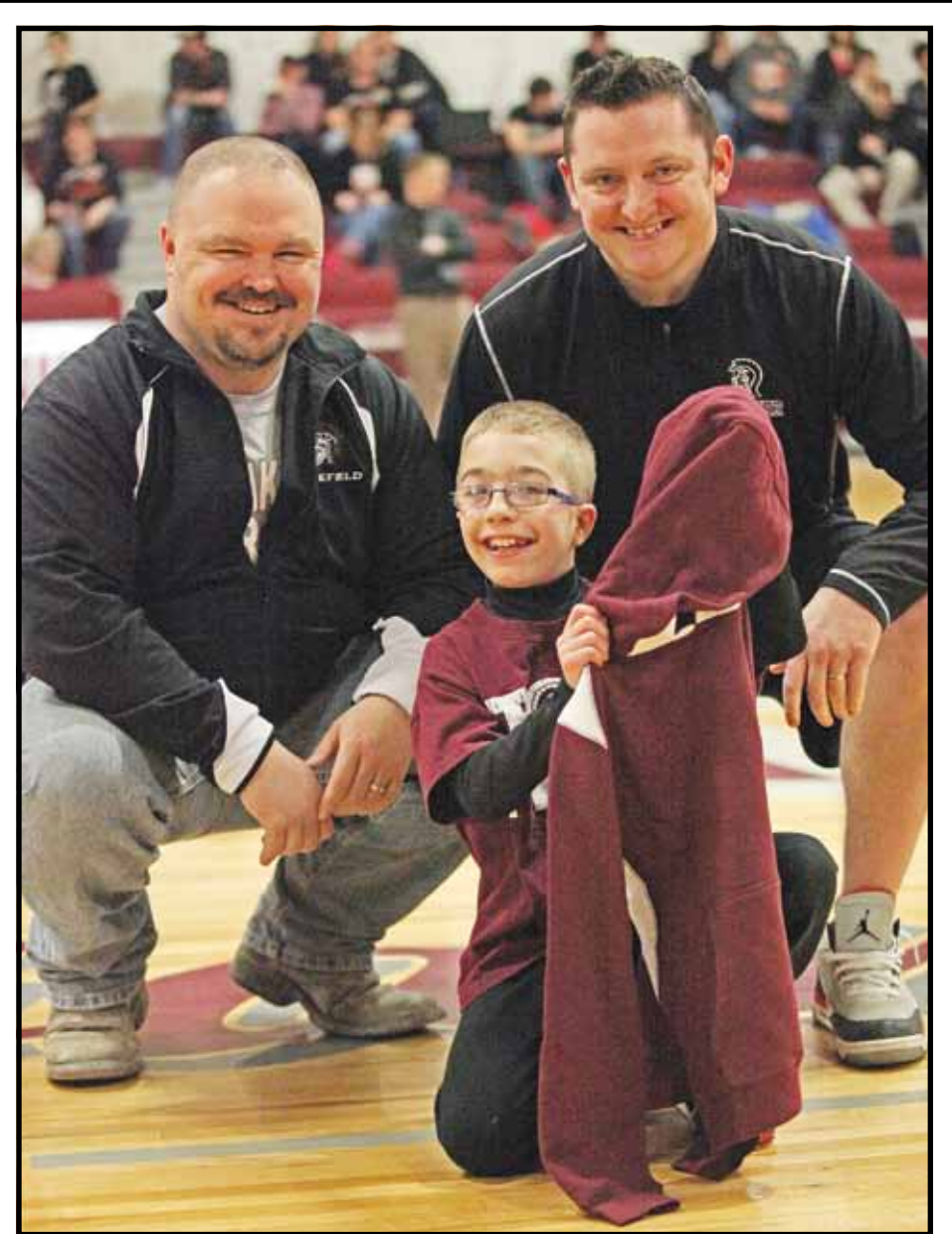
Representatives of the Wayne airport were in Kearney last week for the Nebraska Aviation Council's Aviation Symposium, and the Wayne Municipal Airport was awarded with the Nebraska Airport of the Year.

The airport has made quite the comeback after the Oct. 4, 2013 tornado that destroyed the facility, including a new hangar and terminal building that was nearing

completion.

The airport was completely restored and was back in operation by the summer of 2014, and the facility was rededicated on Oct. 3, 2014, with Gov. Dave Heineman among those in attendance for the ceremony.

Accepting the award on behalf of the city was City Finance Director Nancy Braden and Airport Authority member Tom Schmitz. Presenting the award was Ronnie Mitchell, a director from the Nebraska Department of Aeronautics.



(Photo by Michael Carnes)

Wakefield's biggest fan

During halftime of Thursday's basketball game, Wakefield sixth-grader Zach Johnson received a special gift from Mike Anderson (left) and Jim Rusk. Johnson was honored because he's a huge fan of Wakefield High School's sports teams and can be seen cheering them on every time they play.

County OK's construction plans

By MICHAEL CARNES
Of The Herald

The Wayne County Commissioners have a long laundry list to take care of after approving their 2015 one- and six-year road plans Tuesday.

A total of 37 projects are listed on the one-year plan that the three-member board unanimously approved. A number of bridges, decks and road improvements are slated for construction this upcoming season. This includes 17 projects that were held over from last year, as well as five that were moved from the six-year plan.

The board found out recently that the paperwork for their self-funding of deductibles for the 52 county employees on the county's health care plan was not being taken care of by United Healthcare, so they decided to handle the paperwork in-house until the policy can be renewed.

According to County Clerk Deb Finn, the county self-funds the deductible on the insurance to get better premium rates for county employees. The county had been told by United Healthcare that they would take care of the paperwork, but it was discovered that the paperwork was not being taken care of.

Steve Muir of First National Agency presented a couple of possibilities for companies that could administer the accounts, but the board opted to do it themselves and revisit the issue when the county's health insurance policy comes up for renewal this September.

The board also agreed to a lease with B.J. Woehler for two spaces in the Dearborn Mall that will be the new home of Health and Human Services in Wayne County. The county will pay \$700 per month rent over a five-year lease, as well as electric and gas costs. The move is subject to approval by state Department of Health and Human Services.

WEB Valentine Son Dance is Friday

Elementary aged boys and their "dates" are encouraged to attend the "Night at the Museum" Valentine Son Dance on Friday, Feb. 6 from 6:30-8 p.m.

Sponsored by the Wayne Elementary Boosters (WEB), all moms, stepmoms, grandmas and aunts are invited to "take the boys of Wayne Elementary School to this special event filled with dancing, dinosaurs, desserts and even a chocolate fountain!" said WEB President Sandy Brown.

Tickets are \$5 each in advance or \$8 each at the door. They may be purchased at the school office.

"DJs Thom and Julie Osnes with PinMonkey Entertainment will provide music. WEB Mom Angie Rethwisch will have some great props at the photobooth, where you can purchase a digital image and one 5-by-7 print for \$5 together (extra prints are \$2 each). WEB Dad Matt Wachter will be taking candid pictures to document the night on Facebook and our website," Brown said.

A silent auction will also be held during the dance to help raise funds for WEB. Attendees can bid on special experiences with teachers, such as Get Artsy with Mrs. Tompkins,

or Fun in the Gym with the Fifth Grade Teachers. There will also be items donated by local businesses. Raffle tickets will be sold at the dance for a chance to win two first row, 50-yard line tickets to the Nebraska vs. Wisconsin football game on Oct 10. The tickets were donated by WEB grandparents Dave and Kaki Ley.

Anyone wishing to volunteer in any way with the dance through hosting, donating food, or providing an item for the silent auction is asked to e-mail Sandy at sandybro@live.com or call (402)369-4685.

Construction

From Page 1A

The gym won't have much for traditional gym equipment, so don't come looking for treadmills here. The focus will be more on athletic types of workouts; short and intense workouts, Olympic lifting and rings, sled pushing and rope climbing are all things to look for in the new gym.

Fertig plans to host an evening class once the gym is completed. This class won't be a boot camp class, but a training class, teaching the fundamentals of Olympic and athletic lifting techniques and form.

The facility will house two different areas of equipment with the heavy lifting taking place in the north portion of the building. There are also locker areas and a sauna in the new gym.

With Fertig doing a portion of the renovation himself, steady progress is being made.

"I've lived here a long time and I just wanted to give people another option," said Fertig.

JUST DOWN THE STREET TO THE north sits the former Peper's Purses store front, currently gutted and being renovated by Tanya Gamble.

Gamble, a cosmetologist at Impressions Salon

in Wayne, made the decision to start her own business after it was announced that Impressions would be closing some time this year.

Melanie Hartung, owner of Impressions, made the tough decision to step away from the business owning aspect of Impressions, leaving options open to Gamble. The cosmetologists currently at Impressions will be joining Gamble at her new business, Hair Envy Salon, including Melanie.

"I've worked for Melanie my entire stylist career and she's mentored me along the way, but it'll be nice to have her here if I have questions," said Gamble.

Gamble's decision to strike out on her own led her to location shopping.

"I've walked past this building while on my way to Rustic Treasures and always loved it. The location is great. We don't get to see people just walking Main Street where we are located now."

Renovations of the building began in January with ripping out the false ceiling to reveal the detail of the original ceiling and crown molding.

"We're keeping the original ceiling and putting wood flooring in. It will be a mix of vintage and rustic décor. I'm finding pieces to put in and pull-

ing it all together."

The new salon will have five stylist stations, a shampoo oasis shampooing room, a nail room as well as a lounge for clients in the back.

"We carry a ton of product now at Impressions, so I'm making sure I have that here too," said Gamble.

The salon plans to carry product lines by Lanza and Biolage, along with some Redken. There will be a men's line, yet to be decided upon, and some of the Mirabella makeup line.

The salon will also be keeping with Impressions' tradition of hosting educational events for clients.

"We have an educator come in at least once a month for us. We also like to host events. The events we do with clients and educators are usually offered around the holidays."

Gamble's tentative plan is to move downtown in March with her own clients and then in June, when Impressions closes its doors, the rest of the cosmetologists will join her at the new location.

"This is a new beginning for all of us," said Gamble.



(Photo by Clara Osten)

Chamber Coffee

Pre-K and kindergarten students at St. Mary's Elementary School, directed by Gail Hochstein, presented several songs during last week's Chamber Coffee at the School.

Council

From Page 1A

sulting Group for the water main and East Park bathroom and storm shelter projects and authorized the city clerk to begin advertising for bids.

– amended ordinances relating to the R-5 residential district in the city planning code.

– approved an agreement with Advanced Consulting Engineering Services for the Thorman Street Sanitary Sewer Extension project.

– discussed the extension of city sewer services south along Chief's Way.

– on a 5-2 vote, approved Chamberlain's appointment of the following to the Pool Construction Design Committee: Heather Claussen, Jodi Pulfer, Todd Hoeman, Joel Hansen,

Chad Maas, B.J. Woehler, Lowell Johnson, Chanelle Belt, Jill Walling and Andee Schulz. Voting against the appointment were council members Eischeid and Rod Greve.

The Wayne City Council's next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 5:30 p.m.

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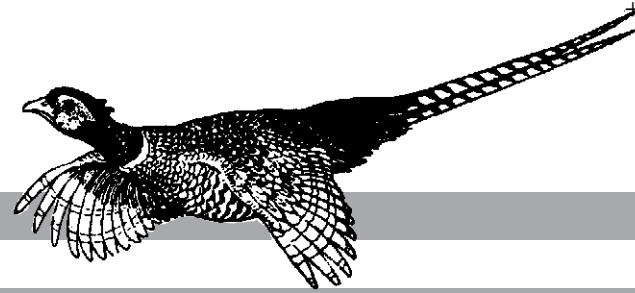
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Sports

From The Bleachers

Michael Carnes



Wild finish scares the family dog

Thoughts and observations made while recovering from the hangover experienced after a gut-wrenching loss by my Seattle Seahawks in Super Bowl XLIX:

- I found a great way to scare my laid-back, uber-relaxed dog, Harley. Saturday, I watched the Wayne State basketball games on the web as they took on the University of Mary and got to see the thrilling finish of the men's game, where Wayne State erased a five-point deficit in the final 30 seconds and beat the Marauders on a buzzer-beating shot by Trae VandeBerg.

When VandeBerg tossed up his running one-hander to beat the buzzer and I saw it go in, I leaped to my feet and shouted in celebration. The dog nearly did a back flip off the couch, interrupting what was his 12th nap of the day.

Kudos to the Wildcats on the amazing come-from-behind win - and for giving my dog the unexpected wake-up call.

- The nasty weather this weekend threw some wrenches into conference tournaments in the area, which also creates some issues here at the paper as we try to get results from these games in the paper in a timely manner.

Hopefully, the weather cooperates from here on out. At this rate, the conference tournament championships may not be decided until St. Patrick's Day.

- When last we saw Wayne High graduate Carly Fehringer, she was cranking up All-American efforts as a thrower for Wayne State.

She was back in town Saturday, this time as an unattached competitor who is training for a potential shot at the 2016 Olympics, and let's just say she is definitely competing at a whole new level now.

Her throws were one-hopping the small wooden wall set up at the end of the throwing area in the indoor track at the WSC Rec Center, causing fans standing on the other side to scramble in an effort to avoid being hit by the 35-pound flying weight.

Fehringer threw more than 71 feet to win the event, throwing more than 10 feet ahead of her former teammates. Hopefully, it's a sign of things to come for Fehringer and her Olympic hopes.

- To say this weekend is a huge one for the Wayne State women's basketball team would be like describing coach Chris Kielsmeier's sideline demeanor as "somewhat energetic."

Last year, Wayne State was able to all but wrap up the regular-season NSIC title with a win over Northern State, but saw their slim chances of hosting regionals fall by the boards with a loss the following day to MSU Moorhead.

This weekend, a regional host bid isn't in the cards, but another NSIC conference title is definitely on the line, and the Wildcats will do things in reverse order. Moorhead - who, at three games back, is still mathematically in the hunt for the title - comes to town Friday, and on Saturday we will see conference co-leader Northern State visit Rice Auditorium.

If the Wildcats win two this weekend, they put themselves in great shape to win back-to-back regular-season NSIC titles. Their final two weeks include home games next weekend with Sioux Falls, who is tied with Moorhead, and Southwest Minnesota, who is a game ahead of last-place Bemidji State, followed by one last road trip to Winona State - who is two games back - and Upper Iowa.

- There might be a silver lining in the cloud that's hovering over the Winslow boys basketball team right now.

On Friday, the Wildcats lost their 66th consecutive game in a 37-27 loss at Allen in the play-in bracket for the Lewis & Clark Conference tournament, losing two key players to injuries in the process.

While this might be viewed as a



(Herald file photo)

Wayne State senior guard Ashton Yossi is no stranger to success when it comes to conference championships. She has already been part of two regular-season Northern Sun Conference championship teams, and the Wildcats are tied for first with Northern State, who comes to town for a key matchup this Saturday.

Who's Next?

Biggest game on the Wildcats' schedule is always the 'next' one, coach believes

By MICHAEL CARNES
Of The Herald

Good teams hope they can be in a position to win a championship.

For the Wayne State women's basketball team, it's become more of an expectation than a wish.

The Wildcats head into a huge weekend in Northern Sun Conference play as the co-leaders with Northern State. If the 22nd ranked Wayne State women can win their final six games, they'll win their fourth regular-season NSIC title in the last five years and set themselves up well for what could be a long postseason run this March.

Coming into this weekend's play, the Wildcats and Wolves are both 13-3, with Minnesota State 1 1/2 games back at 11-4. The Wildcats and 16th-ranked Wolves meet this Saturday at 4 p.m. at Rice Auditorium, but coach Chris Kielsmeier's team isn't the least bit concerned with the conference co-leader right now.

Prior to Saturday's matchup of the top two teams in the NSIC, Wayne State will play host to a salty MSU Moorhead team that, mathematically, is still in the hunt for the top spot in the conference. At

"... Every single game is the most important game of the year, and if you think Saturday is the game of the year, you're going to lose on Friday."

- Chris Kielsmeier
Wildcat women's basketball coach

10-6, the Dragons are three games behind the Wildcats and Wolves, and Kielsmeier said it is them, and not the Wolves, that he's most concerned with today.

"It's really important to understand that the reason we're in this situation is because every single game is the most important game of the year, and if you think Saturday is the game of the year, you're going to lose on Friday," he said. "Our players understand that, and we'll put a great game plan together for both (Moorhead and Northern) and be ready to go on Friday night."

Kielsmeier knows all too well



(Herald file photo)

Coach Kris Kielsmeier has built a dominant program at Wayne State during his seven-year tenure as head coach of the women's basketball team. They are 114-30 in conference play and 163-43 overall since he took over the program in the 2008-2009 season.

what happens when a team looks ahead, and he can point to this weekend's opponents as a perfect example.

Last year, Wayne State beat Northern 67-63 in a Friday night game that helped the Wildcats all but secure the regular-season conference title, only to turn around the next day and stumble their way to a 61-50 loss to the Dragons.

While much of the focus will be on that Saturday matchup, Kielsmeier said his team won't worry about Northern State until after the final buzzer against Moorhead on Friday.

"There's so much basketball left to play, and we've positioned ourselves to know that if we win the last six, we're outright champions for the fourth time in five years, but none of that matters this weekend," he said. "What matters is playing Moorhead on Friday and winning the next game on your schedule, and that's how you have to approach it and make sure your players are thinking that."

Kielsmeier said his team has prepared well for this weekend's games, and these are the kinds of games his team wants to play, especially at this time of the year when so much is riding on each night the last three weeks of the season.

"There's no pressure here right now," he said. "Our players come here to play for these moments, and that is what is so much fun about it. That's who we want to be as a program. If it doesn't mean a lot, there wouldn't be any pressure. They want to win and win big, and when these moments come they're not going to run for them."

Buzzer-beater gives Wildcats 77-75 triumph

The Wayne State men's basketball team were seconds away from an 0-for-2 weekend before freshman Trae VandeBerg played his version of the classic game show "Beat The Clock."

VandeBerg hit a running 20-footer as time expired, helping Wayne State come up with an improbable last-second comeback to beat University of Mary 77-75 on Saturday in Bismarck, N.D., salvaging a split of their weekend road trip to North Dakota.

The Wildcats were all but finished in the closing seconds, trailing by seven with less than a minute to go before mounting their improbable comeback.

Trailing 74-67 with :50 left, the Wildcats got a layup from Tyler Nagy, and after a missed front end of a 1-and-1, Jordan Cornelius hit a trey from the left side to make it 74-72 with :23 left.

Mary was fouled and hit one of two free throws, and Wayne State came down and got the ball to VandeBerg, who had an open look up top and tied the game at 75-75 with :10 left, setting up the last-second heroics.

Mary drove the length of the court, but missed a potential game-winning layup, the rebound was thrown to VandeBerg, who got behind the defense and had just enough time to loft a running one-hander that hit nothing but net as the clock ran out, giving Wayne State the win.

Wayne State had trailed for much of the game, as Mary led by as many as nine points early on and were up 52-43 with 13:03 to go before Wayne State closed to within a point on a Joel Heesch layup with 9:20 to go. Mary got the lead back to seven in the final minute, setting up Wayne State's late-game charge.

Cornelius had a career-high 21 points to lead the 5-17 (2-14 NSIC) Wildcats, while VandeBerg, Nagy and Patrick Kurth each had 13 points. Kurth also had 11 rebounds, Cornelius had five assists and

VandeBerg had five steals.

On Friday, the Wildcats were outsized by Minot State, who had a 30-12 advantage in free throws that proved to be the difference in a 76-60 finish in Minot, N.D.

The game was close for much of the first half before the Beavers used a late run to take a 33-24 halftime lead. A 13-1 run early in the second half built that lead up to 20 points, and Wayne State was unable to recover.

Cornelius, VandeBerg and Austin Esters each had 11 points in the game and Kurth added 10.

Wayne State will be at home this weekend, entertaining seventh-ranked MSU Moorhead Friday at 8 p.m. and Northern State Saturday at 6 p.m.

Minot State 76, Wayne State 60

Wayne State 24 36 - 60
Minot State 33 43 - 76

WAYNE STATE - Cornelius 4-8 0-11, Kurth 4-8 2-5 10, Jacks 2-4 3-6 8, Nagy 3-13 0-0 9, VandeBerg 3-6 4-4 11, Burneika 0-0 0-0 0, Ross 0-2 0-0 0, Esters 4-8 3-3 11, Holdsworth 0-1 0-0 0, Heesch 0-3 0-1 0, Zumbrennen 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 20-54 12-19 60.

MINOT STATE - Korf 2-8 4-4 9, Prosser 5-12 2-4 12, McDonald 5-12 8-10 18, Mertens 1-1 2-3 4, Robinson 4-6 9-10 17, Savannah 0-0 0-0 0, Ward-Hibbert 0-1 0-0 0, Green 0-0 1-3 1, Jovanovic 0-0 0-0 0, Pelo 2-4 0-0 5, Williams 1-1 0-0 2, Rudolph 2-5 4-4 8. Totals 22-50 30-38 76.

Three-point goals: WSC 8-28 (Cornelius 3-6, Jacks 1-3, Nagy 3-11, VandeBerg 1-2, Ross 0-2, Esters 0-2, Holdsworth 0-1, Zumbrennen 0-1), Minot 2-12 (Korf 1-5, McDonald 0-2, Robinson 0-2, Pelo 1-3). Rebounds: WSC 37 (Cornelius 7), Minot 36 (Prosser 13). Assists: WSC 9 (VandeBerg 3), Minot 9 (Prosser, Robinson 3). Team fouls: WSC 26, Minot 20.

Wayne State 77, U. of Mary 75

Wayne State 32 45 - 77
U. of Mary 37 38 - 75

WAYNE STATE - Jacks 1-10 0-0 2, Nagy 6-12 0-0 13, VandeBerg 4-9 3-5 13, Cornelius 7-13 4-4 21, Kurth 5-12 3-5 13, Ross 0-0 0-0 0, Esters 2-3 2-2 7, Holdsworth 1-2 0-4 2, Heesch 3-4 0-0 6. Totals 29-65 12-20 77.

U. OF MARY - Edwards 5-8 2-3 13, Jefferson 2-4 4-4 8, Decoste 6-10 2-2 14, Anderson 2-3 1-2 6, Mason 1-2 2-2 4, Henry 1-7 1-2 4, Scott 1-3 2-2 4, Gorder 0-1 0-0 0, Lindquist 0-4 1-2 1, Velasco 10-13 0-1 22. Totals 28-55 15-20 75.

Three-point goals: WSC 7-22 (Jacks 0-4, Nagy 1-3, VandeBerg 2-4, Cornelius 3-8, Kurth 0-1, Esters 1-1, Holdsworth 0-1), Mary 4-8 (Edwards 1-1, Anderson 1-2, Henry 0-2, Velasco 2-3). Rebounds: WSC 37 (Kurth 11), Mary 35 (Three with 5). Assists: WSC 17 (Cornelius 5), Mary 12 (Edwards, Henry 4). Team fouls: WSC 19, Mary 20.



(Photo by Michael Carnes)

Brook Bowers drives to the basket for two points during Wayne's 47-42 win over West Point-Beemer.

Another half-court miracle for Devils

For the second time this season, Wayne High won with a half-court buzzer beater, this time in a 61-60 win over Boone Central/Newman Grove Tuesday in the opening round of the Mid State Conference Tournament at Northeast Community College.

The Blue Devils built a 16-point halftime lead, only to see the Cardinals come back and force overtime. Boone Central was at the line with 2.8 seconds left and hit one of two free throws, leaving just enough time for Peyton Gamble to launch a half-court bomb that banked off the glass and in as time expired.

The win was the second buzzer-beater this season, coming a little more than two weeks after Ben Hoskins' half-court shot beat Dakota Valley.

Hoskins had a monster night, scoring a game-high 34 points, while Gamble added 14. Zach Keating and Jack Belt each scored five and Grayson McBride had three.

On Thursday, the Blue Devils won a tough back-and-forth battle with West Point-Beemer at Wayne High School, with the hosts coming out on top in a 47-42 matchup that went down to the wire.

See HALF-COURT, Page 2B

NSIC WOMEN'S TEAM STANDINGS		
Team	Conf.	Overall
Wayne State	13-3	19-3
Northern State	13-3	19-3
Minnesota State	11-4	14-6
Winona State	11-5	15-5
Sioux Falls	10-6	14-6
MSU Moorhead	10-6	11-9
Augustana	9-7	15-8
St. Cloud State	8-8	12-8
Minnesota Duluth	8-8	10-10
Minnesota Crookston	8-8	9-11
Concordia-St. Paul	7-8	11-10
U. of Mary	6-10	8-14
Minot State	4-12	9-13
Upper Iowa	4-12	6-14
SW Minnesota St.	3-13	3-17
Bemidji State	2-14	5-16

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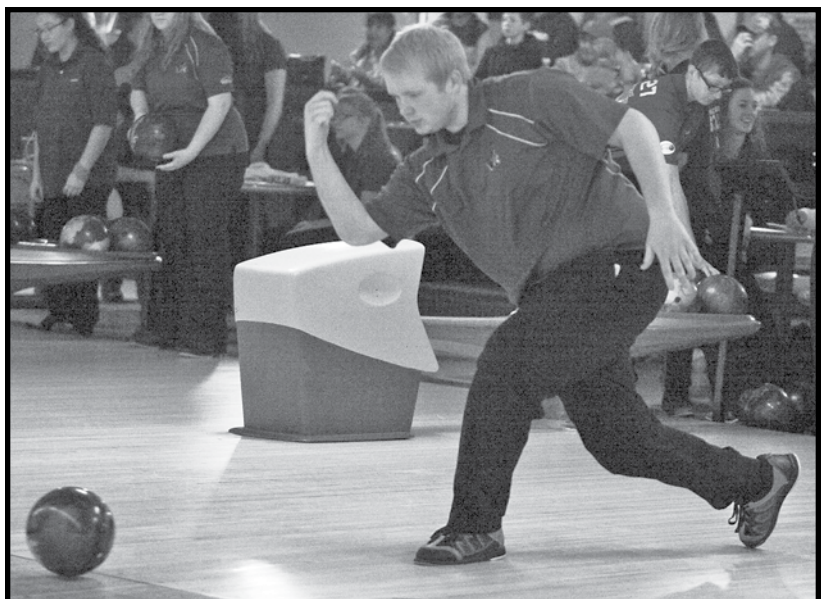
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(Photos by Michael Carnes)

Brady Ping (left) and Tabitha Belt were both individual winners and helped the Wayne High bowling teams qualify for next week's state tournament in Lincoln.

Bowling teams qualify for state tourney

Both the Wayne High girls and boys bowling teams won their districts Saturday at Wildcat Lanes to qualify for the Nebraska High School Bowling Federation state tournament later this month in Lincoln.

Bowling three individual games and five Baker games as a team, the Blue Devil girls shot a 2,499 to easily win the C-2 district title over runner-up St. Paul (2,012) and Kearney Catholic (1,875).

Tabitha Belt of Wayne was the top individual scorer in girls action, bowling a three-game series of 477 to edge out Moriah Rawlings of St. Paul by seven pins. Lexi Sokol was third and Bailey Kudrna was fourth. Also bowling for Wayne were Kaitlyn McAllister and Sabrina Hochstein.

The Wayne High boys shot a 2,754 to beat out Hartington/Hartington CC (2,382) for the boys team title. St. Paul was third with a 1,930.

In individual action, Brady Ping beat out teammate Tyler Echtenkamp 536-472 for top honors. Chris Bird, Preston Paulson and Micah

Sprouls also competed for the Blue Devils.

The state tournament is set for Feb. 14-15 at Sun Valley Lanes, Parkway Lanes and Hollywood Bowl in Lincoln. The finals will be held Sunday, Feb. 15 at Sun Valley Lanes and will be televised.

Wayne girls let Cadets get away

Fishermen like to talk about "the one that got away."

Wayne High coach Dave Hix had the same feeling after watching his team let a win slip off the hook Thursday at Wayne High School, as West Point-Beemer came from behind in the final minute to steal a 47-46 win over the Blue Devils.

The Blue Devils led by seven points after a Rachel Rauner basket with just over a minute to go, and were still up by five when Amanda Hanson fueled the Cadet comeback. She scored 22 points in the game, including the game-winner to help West Point-Beemer to the win.

"It was a disappointing loss, to say the least," Hix said after the game. "We had a good game plan and executed it right up until the last minute and a half. It was a physical game, and we expected

"We just went through the buzzsaw portion of our schedule, and it won't get any easier with conference coming up."

— Dave Hix
WHS girls basketball coach

Despite the loss, which was the fourth in a row and fifth in the last seven for the 10-8 Blue Devils, Hix feels his team is showing signs of improvement.

"As a team, we are improving," he said. "We just went through the buzzsaw portion of our schedule, and it won't get any easier with conference coming up. The players understand that playing the best will produce rewards during the post-season. This is one of those games that will be hard to forget, but we will take something from this game that will help us later."

West Point-Beemer 47, Wayne 46

Wayne	5	12	13	16	-	46
West Pt.-Beem.	9	12	9	17	-	47

WAYNE — Hix 2, Rauner 12, Boyer 1, Keating 4, Echtenkamp 2, Stegemann 9, Schaefer 2, Hammer 14.

WEST PT.-BEEM. — Scoring not available.


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City League	Week #22 1/27/15	Ghost	4.0	8.0
Ghost Team	18.0 6.0	Pizza 3:16	3.0	9.0
Wayne Country Club	14.5 9.5	High Team Game and Series: Wildcat Lanes, 607 and 1610. High Game and Series: Brent Jones, 243 and 598.		
Big Red Country	13.0 11.0	High Games: Kyle Kempf 224, Josh Monter 218, Brad Jones 212/200, Tina Clevenger 202.		
Mikey's Place	12.5 11.5	High Series: Tina Clevenger 503.		
Half-Ton Club	11.5 12.5	Splits: Tina Clevenger 4-5, Brad Jones 3-10.		
Tom's Body Shop	11.0 13.0	Hits N Misses		
Vet's Club	10.5 13.5	Week #19 1/28/15		
Ghost	5.0 19.0	Gary's Foodtown	12.0	4.0
High Team Game: Tom's Body Shop, 784.				
High Series: Vet's Club, 2210. High Game and Series: Brad Jones, 269 and 664.				
High Games: Darin Jensen 258/233, Mike Grosz 235/214, Kyle Kempf 233, John Sinniger 217, Doug Rose 209, Kelly Hansen 209, Jeremy Loberg 206, Brad Jones 201.				
High Series: Darin Jensen 662, Mike Grosz 612, Kyle Kempf 602, Jessi Jensen 502.				
Splits: Kyle Kempf 4-5-7-9, Brad Wieland 3-10, 3-6-7-10, Mick Kemp 3-10.				
Thirsty Thursday League				
Week #14 1/29/15				
Windom Street Wildcats	8.0 4.0	State Nebraska Bank	11.0	5.0
Alley Cats	8.0 4.0	Deerfield Ghost	10.0	6.0
Wildcat Lanes	8.0 4.0	Kelly's cHair	7.0	9.0
Can't Spell Bowling...	7.0 5.0	Kathol and Associates	7.0	9.0
The Hot Three	5.0 7.0	White Dog Pub	7.0	9.0
All Balls No Glory	5.0 7.0	Wildcat Lanes	6.0	10.0
		Burns Welding	4.0	12.0
		High Game: Nicolle McLagan, 229.		
		High Series: Kathy Bird, 544.		
		High Games: Marilyn Abts 204, Kathy Bird 197/212, Lori Burns 184, Tina Clevenger 192/203, Elizabeth Haschke 184, Deb Moore 202.		
		High Series: Marilyn Abts 495, Lori Burns 494, Tina Clevenger 511, Julie Hartung 499, Nicolle McLagan 539, Kristy Otte 487.		

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From Page 1B

detrimment to some, the loss actually might serve to help out the team, as they will now have a full week off before closing out the regular season. Getting those "ouchies" healed up will help them for their next matchup, which — coincidentally — is a rematch with Allen at Winside High School on Tuesday.

Looking ahead to subdistricts, Winside will be in the play-in bracket and would face either Lyons-Decatur or Wausa, both of whom they were fairly competitive against earlier this season. That gives the Wildcats two legitimate chances to

end their losing streak and enjoy the euphoria of victory at least one time this winter.

In case you are wondering, if Winside doesn't get a win this season, they will start next year with a 70-game losing streak, which passes Wynot's 69-game run from 1969-73 as the second-longest streak in state history. They still have a ways to go to hit the all-time mark of 86 set by Guide Rock from 1988-95 — and with almost everybody coming back next year, I'd be willing to bet Winside will fall well short of that mark, even if they aren't able to get that elusive first win yet this sea-

son.

— Everybody on the planet, including me, thought Seattle was going to run on second-and-goal from the Patriots' 1-yard line, which is why I don't have a problem with the pass that wound up being intercepted to seal New England's 28-24 win.

If the pass is completed, Seattle wins a second straight Super Bowl. If it's incomplete, you have two shots at the end zone with the best running back in the game. Sometimes, you win with plays that are least expected — and sometimes you lose.

That's football.

Half-court miracle

From Page 1B

West Point-Beemer got as close as three points and had a chance to tie the game, but missed their opportunity and Wayne was able to close out the victory over the Cadets.

Gamble led the Blue Devils' balanced attack with 14 points while Hoskins added 10 points. McBride scored nine, Belt had three points and a team-high 10 rebounds, Brook

Bowers and Colby Kesier both had three points and Drew Davie put in a basket.

Wayne High will face Norfolk Catholic, who upset top-seeded Battle Creek earlier in the evening, in the semifinals on Friday at 6:15 p.m. at Northeast Community College.

Wayne 47, West Point-Beemer 42

Wayne	13	9	11	14	-	47
West Pt.-Beem.	9	13	10	10	-	42

WAYNE — Belt 3, Hoskins 10, Bowers 3, McBride 9, Gamble 14, Keating 3, Keiser 3, Davie 2.

WEST PT.-BEEM. — Scoring not available.

Mid State Conference

Wayne 61, Boone Cent./N. Grove 60

Wayne	15	16	8	15	7	-	61
BC/NG	3	12	20	19	6	-	60

WAYNE — Belt 5, Hoskins 34, McBride 3, Gamble 14, Keating 5.

BC/NG — Glidden 6, Henry 8, Kramer 5, Backus 5, Temme 6, Gentrup 14, Kettler 13, Mangus 3.

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vs. Northern State

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Baseball eighth, softball fourth in NSIC

Browning is preseason Pitcher of the Year pick by NSIC coaches

Wayne State was picked to finish eighth in the Northern Sun Conference in baseball this spring in preseason polling of the conference coaches.

Minnesota State is the preseason favorite to win the conference for the sixth year in a row, receiving 12 of 14 first-place votes. St. Cloud State, Augustana and Winona State round out the top four, with St. Cloud State and Winona State each receiving a first-place vote.

Wayne State righthander Eric Browning was named as the conference's preseason Pitcher of the Year by the conference coaches. He earned first-team All-NSIC and All-Central Region honors last year, going 8-3 with a 1.93 earned run average. He was second in the conference in strikeouts per game (10.33) and third in ERA and opponent batting average (.205) last season. He threw a no-hitter against Minnesota Crookston and was named to the NSIC All-Tournament Team after throwing eight innings in an opening-round upset of Minnesota State.

Browning and outfielder Curtis Bussard were named the Wildcats' players to watch for this season.

Wayne State, 27-24 last season and riding a 17-year streak of winning seasons, opens the 2015 season Saturday, Feb. 21 at Newman (Kan.) University under first-year head coach Alex Koch.

First-year coach has all position players back from last year's team

The Wayne State women's softball team was picked to finish fourth in the Northern Sun Conference in polling of conference coaches that was announced Wednesday.

The Wildcats are a distant second to the top three teams. Winona State edged out Augustana and Minnesota State as the team to beat, with the Vikings and Mavericks finishing tied for second. Winona and Minnesota State each received five first-place votes, while Augustana received six.

Wayne State finished ahead of Minnesota Duluth, Sioux Falls, Minnot State and University of Mary in the top half of the poll. The bottom half starts with Concordia-St. Paul, followed by Upper Iowa, Southwest Minnesota State, St. Cloud State, Northern state, MSU Moorhead, Minnesota Crookston and Bemidji State.

The 2015 softball season begins Feb. 12, with conference play starting March 24. The conference tournament is April 30-May 2 at Sherman Park in Sioux Falls, S.D.

Wayne State's players to watch are senior pitcher Sara Scheffert, an All-NSIC selection last year; and senior outfielder Kaiti Williams, who earned first-team All-NSIC and second-team All-Region honors.

The Wildcats open the season on Friday, Feb. 20 against Central Missouri at the St. Cloud Dome Invitational in St. Cloud, Minn.



(Contributed photo)

Corbit picks Morningside

LCC senior Audra Corbit signed a letter of intent last week to play basketball at Morningside College. With her are her mother, Dawn Addison-Corbit, Morningside coach Jamie Sale and LCC girls basketball coach Nate Sims.

Wildcat women run winning streak to 10

Wayne State rode the scoring of two of its all-time bests to a win over Minot State that highlighted a weekend road sweep for the first-place Wildcat women's basketball team.

Seniors Ashton Yossi and Jordan Spencer combined for 42 points and Wayne State College sank 13 3-pointers, helping them pull away late for an 81-71 win over the Beavers in NSIC action in Minot, N.D.

The game was back-and-forth for much of the first half. Wayne State broke a 12-12 tie with a nine-point run, highlighted by a 3-pointer from Kacie O'Connor, two Jordan Spencer baskets and a layup by Alex Nelson to make it 21-12 midway through the half.

Minot State closed to within four and actually took the lead late in

the half before Ashton Yossi hit a 3-pointer in the closing seconds to give Wayne State a 37-34 advantage at the half.

Wayne State started heating up from the outside, thanks to Yossi, who hit two threes as part of a 15-3 scoring run that helped turn a two-point game into a 65-51 advantage for the Wildcats, and they were able to pull away from there to get the win.

Yossi scored 22 points and Spencer added 20, moving both seniors into the top 10 in the school's all-time scoring list. Both passed Mary Schnitzler and Amy Bordersen Riggs to move into ninth and 10th, respectively, on the all-time list.

Sadie Murren also hit double digits for Wayne State in the win, finishing with four 3-pointers and 13

points. Spencer and Paige Ballinger each had seven rebounds and Yossi had six assists.

On Saturday, Wayne State rallied from its worst half of the season, coming back from a 12-point deficit to post a 68-60 win over University of Mary for its 10th straight win since the holiday break.

Wayne State led 5-0 early in the contest, but struggled to get rolling after that. Mary took advantage and led 31-19 before Wayne State was able to get momentum going late in the half.

Murren got Wayne State's comeback started in the final minute of the first half. She hit a basket to cut the lead to 10, then tossed in a half-court shot as time expired to make it 31-24, and that seemed to kick-start the Wildcats offensively.

Mary led 35-30 early in the half when Wayne State took over. Millie Niggeling's 3-pointer with 13:32 to go gave Wayne State the lead for good at 36-35, and they went on a 20-5 run to take control and defeat the Marauders.

Wayne State led 53-42 on a 3-pointer by Nelson with 7:35 to go before Mary rallied to get within six at 53-47. Wayne State responded with a basket by Jordan and free throws by Murren to help put the game out of reach.

Spencer led Wayne State with 19 points while Murren and Niggeling had 13 and 10 points, respectively. Maggie Schulte led the defense with nine rebounds, Murren had five assists, Spencer had five steals and Niggeling rejected four shots.

The 19-3 (13-3 NSIC) Wildcats will be at home next weekend, hosting MSU Moorhead Friday at 6 p.m. and #17 Northern State Saturday in a 4 p.m. contest.

Area wrestlers medal at Plainview

The Wayne High wrestling team finished the day with four medals and Laurel-Concord-Coleridge grabbed a pair of consolation titles during the Plainview Invitational, held Saturday.

Jordan Cliff was the lone consolation champion for Wayne High, taking third-place honors at 170 pounds with his second-period pin of Sean Uhl of Ponca. His win helped Wayne come away with a seventh-place finish in the 17-team

tournament.

Wayne had a trio of fourth-place medalists, two of whom lost matches to LCC wrestlers in the battle for third place.

Both Billy Barelman and Nolan Casey won matchups for LCC against Wayne in the consolation finals. Barelman pinned Cole Koenig late in the second period to take third at 182 pounds, while Nolan Casey caught Schuyler Schweers for an early second-period pin to

take third at 195 pounds. The duo helped LCC finish 12th in the team standings.

Wayne's fourth medalist was Mikey Reyes, as the freshman was pinned by rated wrestler Aaron Hoff of Norfolk Catholic in the consolation finals at 220 pounds.

Wayne High will compete in the Mid State Conference meet this Saturday at Norfolk Catholic, their final tune-up before districts next week. LCC will wrestle at the Wakefield Invitational.

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Track teams host Open

Sara Wells and Michaela Dendinger both punched their tickets to the Div. II Indoor Nationals with automatic qualifying marks Saturday at the 13th annual Wildcat Alumni Open at Wayne State College.

Wells improved her school record in the shot put and earned an NCAA automatic-qualifying bid with her effort of 52 feet, 4 3/4 inches to easily win the event. The effort bettered her previous top mark of 51-9 1/4 set last month in Minnesota, and is the second longest mark in the event in NCAA Div. II this season.

Dendinger also earned a trip to nationals by finishing as runner-up in the event with a personal best throw of 52-2 3/4. She also had an NCAA provisional mark in the weight throw with a mark of 59-2 1/4, good for third overall and first among college throwers. Shandan Platt was fourth at 56-3 and Kyn-dra Strum as fifth at 55-3 1/2 for NCAA provisional marks.

Other high finishes for the Wayne State women included Megan Sv-tak taking third in the 60-meter hurdles and eighth in the long jump, Mary Alderson finishing

fourth in the 200 and sixth in the 60, Ellen Wulf was sixth in the 60 hurdles and the long jump, Danielle Hart was fifth in the 60, Rebecca Davneport was fifth in the 400, Andrea DeeSimone was second in the 3,000-meter run, Shelby Conn-ett was third in the 3,000, Makael Lanum was fourth in the 3,000 and Kelsey Dietrich was fifth in the 200.

The Wayne State men had six first-place finishers on the day, led by redshirt freshman Braxton Adams, who won the 60-meter dash in a time of 6.99 seconds and was also third in the 200.

Other winners on the day were William Ernst in the 200, Zach Thomsen in the 600, Derek Lahm in the triple jump and Nick Schmit in the 1,000-meter run. The 1,600-meter relay team of Thomsen, Lahm, Kole Heller and Schmit was first in a time of 3:33.99.

Other top finishers included Nate Lechtenberg taking second in the 60-meter hurdles, Bryan Dunn was third in the weight throw and Cody Kralicek was fifth in the 400.

Wayne State will compete in the Husker Invite and the Beile Classic at Doane College in Crete.

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LCC teams get upset wins, advance in L&C

The Laurel-Concord-Coleridge boys are starting to get the hang of this down-to-the-wire thing.

The Bears came from behind to win a pair of games this past week, including a thrilling 71-68 upset over fourth-seeded Walthill in the first round of the Lewis & Clark Conference tournament Tuesday night.

It was a back-and-forth affair between the Blujays and the 13th-seeded Bears, but LCC was able to erase a three-point deficit in the final period, riding the hot hand of junior guard Dillan Wolfgram, who finished with a game-high 33 points in the win.

Three Bears were in double figures against Walthill. Joining Wolfgram were Brant Eddie with 11

points and Jordan Jansen with 10.

On Thursday, the Bears were down 12 at the half at Wakefield, but stormed back in the second half and came away with a 61-59 win over the Trojans.

Wakefield dominated inside and built a 14-point lead late in the half, but Wolfgram drove to the basket and scored his 1,000th career point just before the half, cutting the LCC deficit to 12 at 36-24.

That seemed to spark the Bears coming out of the locker room. They got the lead down to two points going to the final period, then got the game-winner from Wolfgram to come away with the hard-fought road win.

Wolfgram finished with 24 points and Eddie added 10.

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge will face Hartington-Newcastle in the quarterfinals of the conference tournament Thursday at 7:45 p.m. at Winside High School.

Lady Bears knock off 10th seeded Wausa

The Laurel-Concord-Coleridge girls basketball team pulled off the only upset of a higher-seeded team in the Lewis & Clark Conference tournament on Monday night.

The 10th-seeded Lady Bears pulled away in the second half to upset No. 7 Wausa 54-39, giving LCC the only win by a lower-seeded team in the first round of the 16-team bracket, which was moved back one day due to winter weather.

The day off served LCC well, as the tandem of Ellie Arduser and Audra Corbit combined for 38 of LCC's 54 points. Arduser led the way with a double-double, scoring

22 points and pulling down 12 rebounds, while Corbit had 17 points, seven boards and five blocked shots.

Bryn Schutte had seven points in the win, Katie Leapley added five and Ashley Wolfgram and Sydney Cunningham each had two.

The Lady Bears struggled in action Thursday at Wakefield, but woke up in the second half and dominated their hosts, outscoring them 29-9 in the second half to take a 44-28 win.

LCC trailed 19-15 at intermission, but jumped on the back of Corbit, who scored 13 of her game-high 25 points in the third quarter as the Lady Bears turned a four-point halftime deficit into a 10-point lead they wouldn't relinquish.

Corbit had a double-double with 10 rebounds in the game. Arduser had nine points, Leapley scored six and Wolfgram and Cunningham each had two. Schutte led the team with 12 rebounds in the game.



(Photo by Michael Carnes)

Wildcats honored

Wayne State seniors Jordan Spencer (left) and Ashton Yossi were honored recently for achieving career milestones in the Wildcats basketball program. Spencer was honored for scoring her 1,000th point and grabbing her 500th rebound, while Yossi joined Spencer in the 1,000-point club. They were presented game balls by coach Chris Kielsmeier.

Allen hoops teams fall in conference play

The Allen boys basketball team fell to Emerson-Hubbard and went 1-1 in Lewis & Clark Conference tournament play.

On Thursday, the Eagles dropped a 55-37 decision at home to Emerson-Hubbard. The Pirates pulled away in the second half after Allen was able to keep things close early in the game.

Coleman Kneiff paced the Eagles in the losing effort with 14 points, while Tayler Kumm added 12. Also scoring were Brian Boese with seven and Austin Klug with four.

On Friday, Allen found themselves in the play-in round of the

Lewis & Clark Conference tournament, but won on their home floor with a 37-27 win over Winside.

Allen jumped out to an 11-0 lead after one quarter and never led by less than nine after that, getting a game-high 16 points from Kneiff and 15 from Boese. Kumm added four points and Austin Crom scored two.

On Tuesday, the Eagles faced top-seeded Winnebago in the first round of the conference tournament, and the host Indians dominated in a 77-17 win over the Eagles. Individual scores and highlights were not available at press time.

Lady Eagles open L&C with loss to Homer

The Allen Lady Eagles fell at home to Emerson Hubbard and also lost their first game in the Lewis & Clark Conference tournament.

On Thursday, the Lady Eagles were done in by Emerson-Hubbard's defense in the second half, as the visiting Lady Pirates pulled away late for a 60-43 win.

Allen hung with the highly-ranked guests for much of the first half and were still in contention, down 32-26. The visitors limited Allen to two baskets in the third quar-

ter and took control of the game.

Gabby Sullivan led Allen with 14 points while Lindsay Sullivan added nine. Lexi Oswald and Bri Hingst each had six, Alexis Johnson scored five, Sherry Stallbaum had two and Brooke Hingst added a free throw.

On Monday, the ninth-seeded Lady Eagles got down early to No. 8 Homer in conference action, and the Knights knocked out Allen, 56-39.

Gabby Sullivan had 13 points to lead Allen, Bri Hingst put in 11, Lindsey Sullivan had seven and Oswald, Brooke Kneiff, Johnson and Stallbaum with two apiece.

Wakefield teams defeated in L&C tourney

The Wakefield boys basketball team dropped a heartbreaker at home on Thursday and fell in the first round of action in the Lewis & Clark Conference tournament.

On Thursday, the Trojans held a 12-point lead at intermission, but Laurel-Concord-Coleridge stormed back to claim a 61-59 win at Wakefield High School.

The Trojans used solid play on the inside to build the early lead, but the Bears were able to come from behind and claim the win on the road. Jose Sanchez and Dylan Hurlbert each had 14 points for

Wakefield in the losing effort, Riley Zamzow added 10, Isaac Camarena had nine, Alex Conley scored seven and Brodie Mackling had five.

On Tuesday, the Trojans came up on the short end of a 46-26 loss to Hartington-Newcastle in first-round action in Walthill. The 12th seeded Trojans couldn't slow down the Wildcats in the second period, as Hartington-Newcastle built an 11-point halftime lead and carried that momentum to the opening-round win.

Sanchez and Alex Conley each had 11 points for Wakefield, while

Zamzow and Mackling both had two.

Girls fall short in conference play

It was a tale of two halves for the Wakefield girls in a home conference matchup against Laurel-Concord-Coleridge.

The Trojans held a 19-15 lead at the half and looked to be in control of things on the inside, but had no answer for the Lady Bears in the second half as the visitors stormed back for a 44-28 win.

Wakefield used a swarming defense to frustrate the Lady Bears on the inside, helping them take a four-point lead into the locker room before LCC came from behind to get the win.

Caleigh Mackling led Wakefield

with 13 points in the losing effort and had five steals. Emily Puls scored seven points and had seven rebounds, Savannah Nelson put in five and Shelby Oetken scored three.

In the first round of Lewis & Clark Conference play Monday, Wakefield kept it close with second-seeded Wynot on their home floor for a half, but Wynot took control of the game in the second half and finished with a 46-28 victory.

Wakefield was up by one at the half, but Wynot outscored Wakefield 20-8 to take over the game and eliminate the Trojans.

Mackling led Wakefield with eight points, McKenzie Rusk had five, Taryn Hingst had four, Puls and Danika Dorcey each had three, Oetken and Nelson had two apiece and Megan Borg put in a free throw.

Winside fifth at Ainsworth

Winside went with a smaller lineup and faced some tough competition Saturday at the Ainsworth Invitational.

Winside had a pair of champions among its seven medalists and finished a solid fifth in the eight-team race.

Sean Mann (113) and Marcus Escalera (132) both came away with first-place medals. Escalera, the defending Class D champion, got a big win over a Class C-ranked wrestler from Central City, while Mann

made quick work of his opponent to get a first-period pin in the finals.

Colby Erickson (126) and Kevin Ross (138) both reached the finals for Winside before settling for second place. Winside got fourth-place finishes from Zach Morris (145), Sam Wolfe (160) and Jon Escalante (195).

The Wildcats close out the regular season Friday at the Clearwater-Orchard Invitational before going to Creighton Feb. 13-14 for the D-2 district meet.

Trojan wrestlers go 0-4 at Elkhorn South Duals

The Wakefield wrestlers went 0-4 in the Elkhorn South Duals wrestling tournament on Saturday.

The Trojans went up against a lot of quality Class A and Class B competition and got some good experience to prepare themselves for their season-finale home tournament. They lost to the host Storm 66-18, and also lost to Platteview (48-24), Millard West (53-21) and Bellevue East (54-27).

On Thursday, the Trojans trav-

eled south to face a talented West Point-Beemer team, and the host Cadets were able to come away with a 56-24 win.

Getting wins for the Trojans in the dual were Caleb Thomas (160), Efen Godinez (170), Cody Thomas (182) and Moises Barboza (220), all of which came by pin.

The Trojans will host the Wakefield Invitational on Saturday, their final tune-up before district action next week in O'Neill.

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Both Winside teams fall in conference play

The Winside girls basketball team have had troubles scoring in recent games.

On Thursday, the Wildcats fell to Hartington-Newcastle, 41-9.

Callie Finn had three points to lead five scoring players for Winside. Alex Bargstadt and Halle Brogren each had two, while Kelly Tweedy and Ellie Jaeger both hit a free throw.

In Lewis & Clark Conference tournament play Monday, the Wildcats couldn't get on track against third-seeded Emerson-Hubbard, who raced to a 32-2 halftime lead on their way to a 46-8 win.

Finn had half of Winside's points in the loss, while Tweedy and Bargstadt both scored two points.

ball court continued, as they fell to a pair of conference foes this past week.

On Thursday, the Wildcats fell to Hartington-Newcastle, 59-27.

Brandon Watters scored nine points to lead Winside. Bryce Meis and Dylan Brogren each had four points, Colton Jensen and JaShaun Vyborny both had three, and Keith Mundil and Caleb Kampa each had a bucket.

Winside played Allen in the play-in game for the Lewis & Clark Conference tournament on Friday in Allen. The Eagles shut down the Wildcats in the first period on their way to a 37-27 decision.

Jensen had eight points and Vyborny added seven for Winside. Kampa scored five, Watters had three and Brogren and Meis each had two.

Boys drop to Allen

Winside's woes on the basket-

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Sports Shorts

Wildcats up to 22nd in D-II coaches poll

The Wayne State women's basketball team moved up one spot to No. 22 in the latest USA Today Sports Div. II Top 25 coaches poll.

The Wildcats are 19-3 on the season and are joined in this week's poll by fellow NSIC school Northern State, which also moved up one spot to No. 16. The two teams play each other on Saturday at 4 p.m. at Rice Auditorium.

Other Central Region schools in the top 25 include No. 3 Fort Hays State, No. 6 Emporia State, No. 10 Pittsburg State, No. 20 Harding and No. 25 Arkansas Tech.

Wells is NSIC Field Athlete of the Week

Wayne State senior thrower Sara Wells was named as the NSIC women's indoor field Athlete of the Week following her performance in Saturday's Wildcat Alumni Open Indoor Meet held in the WSC Recreation Center.

Wells set a new school record in the shot put Saturday with a throw of 52 feet, 4 3/4 inches, which is an NCAA automatic qualifying mark. It topped her old school record of 51-9 1/4 set in December at Mankato, Minn., and also ranks as the second-best throw in the shot put in NCAA Div. II this season.

It's the second time this season Wells has received the weekly award.



Wells

Parents night set for Wayne boys

Wayne High School will honor boys basketball team members and their parents on Parents Night dur-

ing the game with Guardian Angels Central Catholic on Saturday, Feb. 14.

Parents should be at the boys game by 6:30 p.m. They will be introduced between the JV and varsity basketball games.

WSC women ranked 15th in track poll

The Wayne State women's indoor track and field team is ranked 15th in the latest U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association NCAA Div. II national team computer rankings.

Wayne State received 51.44 points in the national rankings that awards points based on performers who have achieved NCAA provisional or automatic qualifying marks during the season.

Individually, senior thrower Sara Wells ranks second in the nation in the shot put (52-4 3/4) followed by sophomore Michaela Dendinger

in third at 52-2 3/4 and freshman Shandan Platt 10th at 46-8 1/4. Dendinger also ranks 10th nationally in the weight throw with a top mark of 59-2 1/4.

Wayne State is one of four teams from the Northern Sun Conference ranked in the top 25, along with 10th-ranked Sioux Falls, 18th-ranked University of Mary and No. 22 Minnesota Duluth.

Three WSC wrestlers ranked, team sixth

Three Wayne State wrestlers are listed among the top 10 in their weight classes and the team is ranked sixth in the latest National Collegiate Wrestling Association rankings.

Leading the Wildcats is top-ranked Matthew DeGarmo, who is No. 1 at 197 pounds with a 20-7 record. Also ranked is Jon Williams, who is 28-7 and ranked third at 174 pounds; and Tanner Clark, ranked

seventh at 184 pounds with a 7-0 record.

Area wrestlers noted in NSWCA ratings

Wrestlers from Winside and Laurel-Concord-Coleridge were listed in the latest NSWCA rankings for Class D wrestlers.

Individually, Winside has Sean Mann listed at No. 6 at 113 pounds, and defending champion Marcus Escalera is still No. 1 at 132 pounds. Nolan Casey represents LCC in the ratings, coming in fifth at 195 pounds.

As a team, Winside is ranked ninth among the top 10 teams and is fourth among the top 10 in duals.

Freshman boys see recent action

The Wayne freshmen boys basketball team lost in overtime at Ponca, 45-43. Jack Evetovich led

all scorers with 14 points. Beau Bowers and Ryan Jaixen added 10 points each while Brennan O'Reilly scored five and Mason Lee finished with four.

On Saturday, Wayne finished third in the Guardian Angels tournament in West Point. Wayne lost the first game in overtime to the eventual champion GACC, 48-45. Jaixen scored a game-high 21 points, followed by Tyler Pecena with 11 and Evetovich with 9.

Wayne defeated Pierce 36-13 to take third place. Evetovich scored 11 points followed by Lee with seven, Jaixen and Edgar Ficke-Anderson with five each, Pecena with three, and Bowers and O'Reilly with two each.

Eighth-grade boys off to 5-1 start

The Wayne eighth-grade boys basketball team is off to a 5-1 start this season.

Wayne beat Battle Creek 39-22. Tyler Gilliland led the way with 10 points, Marcus Fertig had eight and Carlos Magana scored five to lead the way.

In a 41-23 win over Pierce, Gilliland and Fertig each had nine points and Drew Buck added eight.

In a 46-19 win over Columbus Lakeview, Buck led with 12 points, Gilliland had 11 and Magana and Kaleb Anderson both had eight.

Gilliland scored a game-high 16 points for Wayne in a 45-33 win over Hartington CC. Aaron Reynolds and Fertig both had seven points.

In the W-Club tournament, Wayne took second with a 40-30 win over Battle Creek and a 36-33 loss to Norfolk Catholic. Gilliland had 13 points and Fertig added 10 in the win over Battle Creek. Gilliland scored 10 and Reynolds and Magana each had seven in the finals loss to Norfolk Catholic.

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Women in Agriculture Conference to celebrate 30 years

Nebraska women will learn how to plan and make better business decisions for their farms and ranches, their communities, their families and themselves at the 30th Women in Agriculture Conference, the longest-running women's conference of its kind in the country.

The conference will be held Thursday and Friday, Feb 26-27 at the Kearney Holiday Inn.

The theme of this year's conference is "Our Heritage, Our Present and Our Future," and it features a variety of workshops, "funshops" and speakers, including Rebecca Long-Chaney of Elwood, Neb. and Celeste Settrini from Salinas, Calif.

Long-Chaney will be the keynote speaker Thursday morning with her talk, "Dare to Risk Life Change," about her life-changing adventure working in the Australian Outback.

Settrini will be the capstone lunchtime speaker on Friday as she presents "Channeling Your Inner Rock-Star!" a fun and humorous look at how to unleash that inner voice for agriculture.

The Nebraska WIA Conference is celebrating its 30th anniversary of women's agriculture programming in the state.

Also on Thursday will be Madeline Schultz from Iowa State University, the National Annie's Program Leader, who will fill participants in on happenings in this exciting program and how they can work to bring this program to their county. The day will conclude with a celebration in the evening of the Women in Agriculture's history and exciting future.

On Friday, the morning speaker will be Carla McCullough from the Department of Environmental Quality, who will present a department water division update. She will look at a few of the many programs DEQ monitors and some of the changes that will impact producers in 2015.

In between speakers, conference-goers can choose from 32 concurrent workshops spread over five sessions during the event. Topics include crop and livestock marketing, financial planning, estate planning, farm bill updates, crop and forage insurance, agronomy, beef nutrition, social media and apps, hydrology in Nebraska, GMO's, community entrepreneurship, disaster preparation and Alzheimer's Disease.

Thursday evening includes funshops for Twitter, Zumba and a demonstration from the Nebraska Beef Council.

Those interested can register online to wia.unl.edu where there is a link to the conference registration site, call (402) 472-9053, or mail a completed registration form to UNL Marketplace, P.O. Box 830705, Lincoln Neb., 68583-0705. For more detailed information about Women in Agriculture and for a conference registration book, visit wia.unl.edu.

Early-bird registration fee is \$110 for those registering by Friday, Feb. 13. Beginning Saturday, Feb. 14, the fee is \$130. Fee includes workshop materials, registration and all meals and breaks.

The conference is sponsored by the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Nebraska Extension and the Department of Agricultural Economics as well as Farm Credit Services of America, Reinke Irrigation, USDA Risk Management Agency and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality.

Lodging is available at the Kearney Holiday Inn, 110 2nd Ave., by calling (308) 237-5971.

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Center pivot short course set for Feb. 6 at NECC

A Center Pivot Irrigation Management Short Course has been scheduled to help producers enhance the value of water through advanced irrigation management practices.

The Short Course will be held in Norfolk on Feb. 6, at the Lifelong Learning Center on the campus of Northeast Community College. Registration begins at 9 a.m., with the program beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The Planned Program Topics will include performance of center pivots; soil water management; matching sprinklers to soils; sprinkler package selection; minimizing pumping costs; estimating crop water use; water balance, consumptive use/limited irrigation; center pivot technology and variable rate irrigation; and center pivot management.

According to Curt Becker, water resources specialist with the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District, "This short course will fulfill education requirements for the management sub-areas in our district." If you have any further questions about the course or educational requirements, contact Becker at the LENRD office in Norfolk.

The short course is sponsored by the University of Nebraska Lincoln Extension, Reinke, Valley, T-L Irrigation, Lindsay, and the Nebraska Environmental Trust Fund.

There is no cost to attend, however participants are asked to register so that adequate materials and meals will be available.

To RSVP for the workshop, call the Madison County Extension office at (402) 370-4040 or e-mail madison-county@unl.edu.

Additional information can be found at water.unl.edu/web/crop-swater/home.

Landlord/Tenant Cash Lease workshops in 12 locations

Submitted by Ruth Vonderohe, UNL Extension Educator

Nebraska Extension will be hosting Landlord/Tenant Cash Lease Workshops this February-March to help landlords and tenants put together a lease that is right for both parties and helps maintain positive farm leasing relations.

Landlord/Tenant Cash Lease Schedule

Feb. 4, 9:30 a.m. - Grand Island, Hall County Extension Office, (308) 385-5088

Feb. 6, 9:30 a.m. - Blue Hill, Community Center, (402) 746-3417

Feb. 9, 1 p.m. - Pierce, location TBD, (402) 329-4821

Feb. 11, 1 p.m. - Hartington, Courthouse Annex Basement, (402) 254-6821

Feb. 12, 1 p.m. - Center, Extension Office Classroom, (402) 288-5611

Feb. 13, 9:30 a.m. - Lincoln, Lancaster County Extension Office, (402) 441-7180

Feb. 17, 1 p.m. - Norfolk, Northeast Community College, Life Long Learning Center, (402) 370-4040

Feb. 17, 6:30 p.m. - Omaha, Douglas County Extension Office, (402) 444-7804

Feb. 19, 9:30 a.m. - Clay Center, Fairgrounds, (402) 762-3644

Feb. 25, 1 p.m. - Neligh, Fairgrounds, (402) 887-5414

March 5, 9:30 a.m. - Auburn, 4-H Building, Fairgrounds, (402) 274-4755

March 10, 9:30 a.m. - Albion, Casey's Building, Fairgrounds, (402) 395-2158

Topics will include:

Latest information about land values and cash rental rates for the area and state;

Expectations from the lease, including goal setting for the rental property;

Lease termination, including terminating handshake or verbal leases;

Lease communication, determining appropriate information sharing for both the tenant and landlord;

Alternative cash lease arrangements, flexible provision considerations for your situation.

Other topics, like irrigation systems, hay rent, pasture rental agreements, and grain bin rental will be covered as time allows.

Extension Educators Allan Vyhalek, Jim Jensen, Monte Vanderveer, or Tim Lemmons will present on these topics and provide common sense tips during the presentation. It is helpful if the tenant and landlord, as well as their spouses, attend together.

This free workshop is sponsored by the Nebraska Soybean Board. Refreshments and handouts are provided. Registration is requested; please contact the host county.

This workshop has been held extensively across Nebraska for the past two years with over 2,600 attending. Both landlords and tenants have said they found the workshop to be helpful in improving communications, setting rental terms, and learning about the use of flex lease provisions. As crop budgets tighten, it is even more important to attend and listen to the latest discussion about leasing issues.

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9:00 a.m. - Check-in (The program is free but we ask that you pre-register.)

To register, please contact by phone: 402-370-4040 or email: Madison-County@unl.edu

Getting the most value from your irrigation water will be the focus of this University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension program. Topics to be discussed include sprinkler package selection, soil water management, and pumping plant performance. Also, irrigation industry representatives will be available to discuss the latest in center pivot irrigation technology.

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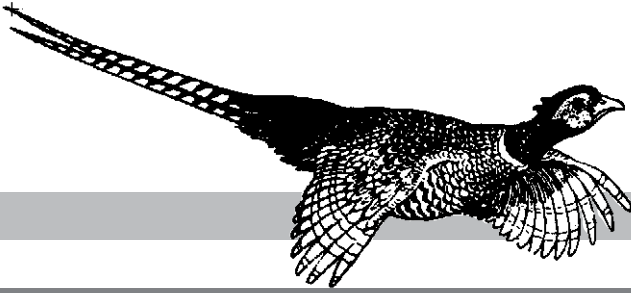
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Discussing the changes in sportsmanship

You may find this hard to believe, but my nursing classmates and I gathered for lunch on Thursday, and they agreed that it had been this way in their schools back in the Fifties, also.

There was a lot of sportsmanship displayed. There was a pep club for each school, and we dressed alike and sat together, ready to give a cheer with the leadership of the cheer leaders. When someone on the opposing team fouled, no one clapped. If they were attempting a free throw, no one hollered at them. I also don't recall any loud complaining of the officiating. This was just the "code of conduct" and we all were expected to live up to it.

Then, I did not attend a high school game from 1956 until about 1976. I did get to a few University basketball games; I remember a player named Jimmie Kubacki, for instance. And I don't remember much about the behavior of the fans, but I'm betting since most of us came from Nebraska towns, we were all about the same there.

Boy, was I in for a surprise the first time I went to a high school game at Winside! Not only was it noisy, but they had to escort the refs out of the gym, folks were so upset! And it hasn't gotten any better in the next 40 years.



The Farmer's Wife
By: Pat Meierhenry

Last night, Dani played for Norris in a conference semi-championship game; the opposing team was Waverly. They had played two times before, each team winning once. The Viking boys came dressed alike in nice looking prep shirts, and were they ever loud! At one point, they were even making the sound that the Florida State fans hum at their football games! As my friend said, "They were irritating," and that was their plan!

It was neck and neck, back and

forth, until the last few minutes, when the Titans pulled away. Waverly's post player kind of fell apart then, and of course, they fouled. Since we usually had our best free throw shooter holding the ball, she made a lot of those! So, Norris won by five.

Meanwhile, the Husker women were attempting to beat Illinois and Chatrice White! We heard the end of that game on the car radio on the way home. One of the announcers loves to shout "YOU -U BET-CHA" when we hit, and there was a three pointer there in the last minute. White fouled out, and Nebraska took over, and won the game!!

Finally, we had a 10 o'clock phone call informing us that Lutheran High girls had won their second game, and Jacey had 10 points, four of them free throws, in the last minute. When you are struggling to win games, (and they came within three on Tuesday eve, when we were watching,) each victory is very special. And when your grand daughters help the winning teams, it's very exciting! Plus, of course, we are always thrilled when Nebraska women pull it out. It was a great night for women's basketball at our house! And, I admit, we made some noise! But it was all positive!

Landlord Tenant meetings scheduled in coming weeks

A quick reminder; private pesticide applicator training at the Haskell Ag Lab on Thursday, Feb. 5 at 9 a.m. or 1 p.m.; Emerson First Nebraska Bank on Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 9 a.m. or 1 p.m., and Martinsburg Fire Hall on Thursday, Feb. 19 at 1:30 or 6 p.m. A correction on last week's article; Commercial/non-Commercial Applicator recertification will be in Dakota City on Tuesday, Feb. 24 at 9 a.m.

Often we get questions about renting out farmland, and of course the most common question by both landowners and renters is "what's a fair price for land crop (pasture) land around here?"

The answer that is most correct and also not the most popular is "whatever the parties can agree on". We can give you averages for regions and counties based on surveys, but I'm sure most of you are aware that extremes on either the high or low ends can skew the results. I would also recommend not taking too much stock in "coffee shop" rates. Family considerations and long-time partnerships can put strain on negotiating rental rates, especially lately with highly fluctuating commodity prices the last few years.

Every year Nebraska Extension hosts free Landlord/Tenant Lease Workshops in the area. I would advise everyone (including spouses) involved in owning or renting crop or pasture ground to attend one as a refresher and a potential way to come up with a good starting point for negotiations. It is worth the drive.

These meetings are moved to different locations every year, and the nearest ones in the Dixon, Dakota, Thurston and Wayne county areas are: Monday, Feb. 9 at 1 p.m. in Pierce (check with extension office for location); Wednesday, Feb. 11 at 1 p.m. at the Hartington Courthouse annex basement; Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 1 p.m. at the Lifelong Learning Center in Norfolk; also Tuesday, Feb. 17 at 6:30 p.m. at the Omaha Douglas County Extension



Ag Happenings
Keith Jarvi
Extension
Educator

Office. For more locations see the article in cropwatch.unl.edu. This free workshop is sponsored by the Nebraska Soybean Board. Refreshments and handouts are provided. Registration is requested (but not required) by calling the host county. Please register by three days prior to the workshop to ensure that there are enough handouts and refreshments.

Clearly dealing with relatives (or long-time friends) can be one of the hardest issues to address as it relates to farm leases. However, with good communications and a written lease agreement, you can set up relationships that are not hard on the family.

First, have all leases in writing. This cannot be stressed enough. There are situations where the handshake lease was made by

grandparents and great uncles and aunts. When that generation passes on, no one knows exactly what the agreement was, and suspicion arises needlessly.

Next, understand that there are ownership costs for that land that the tenant is often providing without compensation. Items like: mowing road ditches, spraying weeds, controlling volunteer trees, maintaining terraces, maintaining buildings, grading and rock-ing driveways, and keeping fences up are just a few of the landowner costs that in many cases are just taken care of by the tenant. When we discuss the land ownership costs and how they are taken care of, the landlord quickly realizes that the tenant is often providing the labor and cash investment in those items.

In the rental rate agreement, the landowner is simply recognizing that the tenant is receiving a discounted rent as compensation for their efforts to keep the land and property in good order.

While the rent to a relative (friend) doesn't have to be at the "top" of the range, it needs to be fair. We are not qualified to know your exact circumstance to know what "fair" is, that is a private discussion. What one owner/tenant partnership does may be very different from what another does. Tenants need to communicate clearly by sharing information about the farm. Information like actual yields and prices received will go a long way to building good trust for the family to continue the leasing arrangement for another generation.

And: Get it in Writing!

UNL Extension Board - Wayne County meeting planned

The UNL Extension Board - Wayne County will meet on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at the Wayne County courthouse in Wayne. The 7:00 pm meeting is open to the public. An agenda is available at the Extension Office, 510 Pearl Street, Suite C, Wayne, Nebraska.

Livestock Market Report

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

Prices were generally \$1 to \$2 higher on fat cattle and \$5 to \$7 higher on cows. There were 300 fat cattle sold.

Strictly choice fed steers, \$161 to \$166. Good and choice steers, \$158 to \$161. Medium and good steers, \$155 to \$158. Standard steers, \$140 to \$150. Strictly choice fed heifers, \$160 to \$164.85. Good and choice heifers, \$155 to \$160.

Medium and good heifers, \$150 to \$155. Standard heifers, \$120 to \$130.

Beef cows, \$95 to \$104. Utility cows, \$97 to \$113. Canners and cutters, \$90 to \$97. Bologna bulls, \$130 to \$151.50.

Workshop on no-till, grazing is Feb. 12

The No-Till, Cover Crops, and Planned Grazing Educational Workshop will be held Thursday, Feb. 12, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Lifelong Learning Center located on the campus of Northeast Community College in Norfolk.

This workshop will provide the opportunity for producers to hear and ask questions about various aspects of their farming and livestock operations.

The featured speaker will be Jim Hoorman, assistant professor with Ohio State University Extension, specializing in cover crops and water quality in Putnam County, Ohio. Hoorman owns a 40-acre farm with his wife, Marlene, and son, Jonathan. He conducts cover crop research trials on his farm.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) no-till specialist, Dan Gillespie, said, "Jim will be a great addition to our agenda this year. We are looking forward to the workshop and we hope that many of our area producers can attend and learn about some of our ideas for the future."

Workshop topics will include: ecofarming and nutrient recycling, soil health, structure, and compaction; homegrown nitrogen; keen eyes on the ground; and learned cover crops and soil health.

The educational workshop is free to the public. Please bring other interested producers with you. Please RSVP for the meal by Friday, Feb. 6. Lunch will be provided by the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resource District (LENRD).

To RSVP, or if you have any questions, please call your local NRCS office or call the LENRD at (402) 371-7313. This workshop is sponsored by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District.

Now is the time to stop in and map out your 2015 cropping plan so we are both on the same page when it is time to go to the field!

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Wednesday: February 11, 2015

Awards Banquet
6:30 p.m. President's Reception
7:15 p.m. Dinner
8:00 p.m. Awards Program

Cornhusker Hotel
333 South 13th Street
Lincoln, Nebraska

Thursday: February 12, 2015

8:30 AM: Board of Directors Meeting
9:30 AM: Update on International Trade
Brian Zimmerman, Chair of NPB's International Trade Committee
10:15 AM: Coming to America - PEDv & Other Foreign Diseases
Dr. Paul Sundberg, VP of Science & Technology, NPB
11:15 AM: Update on NPPC Policy Issues
Audrey Adamson, VP Domestic Policy Issues, NPPC
12:20 PM: Expanding Pork Production in Nebraska
Willow Holoubek, Executive Director, AFAN
12:30 PM: Lunch
Guest Speaker, Bill Winkelman, VP Producer Services, NPB
5 Year Strategic Plan for the Pork Industry and how Association/Producers can Play a Part
2:00 PM: Playing our Part in Shaping the Future of Nebraska's Pork Industry
A Conversation About Priorities, Directions, Influence & Goals

All Events Will Take Place in the Yankee Hill Room

Register at www.nepork.org



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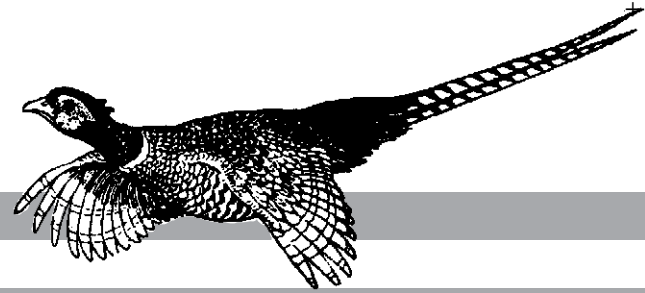
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Opinion

Don't get me started

By: Michael Carnes
Managing Editor

Chambers can find racism – in mirror

I'm experiencing a little deja vu this week, thanks to the smartest man in the Nebraska Legislature.

Back in the early 1990's, I was editor of the Fairbury Journal-News when a story in the Lincoln Journal Star caught my attention. According to the story, Sen. Ernie Chambers had declared that ALL newspaper editors were racist, making this broad-brushed statement after receiving a copy of a column written by the publisher of the nearby Deshler Rustler.

In his column, the publisher was sharing memories of family Christmas gatherings and some of his family's traditions, one of which included the consumption of roasted macadamia nuts. In the less-enlightened days of the early 20th century, this snack was known by a racially-tinged name, which I will not repeat here.

How a state senator in North Omaha got a copy of a small-town newspaper in central Nebraska in the days before the Internet is a mystery, but suffice to say, this column charged Chambers up enough to publicly assume that EVERY newspaper editor in the state is a racist, and he was quoted saying as much in the Lincoln newspaper.

This fired ME up, because I know I'm not a racist, and I called him out for it in my column, stating that he doesn't need to go any farther than his own mirror if he really wants to FIND racism.

And now, it appears, history repeats itself.

Last week, while filibustering a bill that would increase fees for marriage licenses, Chambers went off on a racially-charged tirade about how his ancestors were enslaved and were also sexually abused, somehow tainting the DNA of his people in the process.

"Oh yes, I have a great store of bitterness in me," he was quoted on the Nebraska Watchdog website at watchdog.org. "Why do you think I'm not black? Because some white person or persons jumped a fence and polluted the blood that is in my veins to this day."

Wait, what???

Chambers was also referring to a recent blog by State Board of Education member Pat McPherson that referred to President Obama as a "half-breed" (referring to Obama's ancestry with a Caucasian mother and an African-American father) and when he was called out by our own Sen. Dave Bloomfield, he didn't back down from his blanket accusations.

"I make hats, and if one fits and you put it on your head, that's on you," he told Bloomfield.

I'm not going to sit here and act as if racism isn't a problem in our world, even today in the 21st century. Can you imagine, though, if Chambers' statement about all that bitterness he's carrying around were uttered by someone of a different race?

What if I stood up in a public meeting and said the following: "Oh yes, I have a great store of bitterness in me. Why do you think I'm not white? Because some black person or persons jumped a fence and polluted the blood that is in my veins to this day." What's the over-under on the number of minutes it would take before the politically-correct nutjobs would start calling for my job? How long would it be before advertisers would be pressured into pulling their ads out of this newspaper? How long would it be before I'd be forced into unemployment, forever shamed by those who like to control the thoughts of others without regard for their well-being? An hour? Ten minutes? Five?

That's not to say there AREN'T racists within our borders. But here's the thing – that knife cuts both ways. A white man using derogatory language while referring to a man of another race is no less degrading or offensive than somebody of another color using derogatory language in reference to someone who doesn't share their heritage (or, as some African-Americans are wont to do, using the SAME derogatory language they accuse non-blacks of using on their own people).

As a child, I was taught to treat everybody with the same kind of respect you expect to be treated with. With few exceptions, I feel that I have done that, regardless of the race, gender or orientation of that individual. A person's color doesn't make a difference as far as I'm concerned – it is that person's character which goes the longest way in determining how I interact with that individual. (Wasn't it the noted civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who hoped we could one day judge people on the content of their character, rather than the color of our skin?)

I understand that not everybody was raised the way that I was. There ARE people, regardless of racial heritage, who don't treat other races equally. I wonder what Chambers would have to say if Sen. Bloomfield – or any other "white" representative in the Legislature – would rant and rave in a filibuster about "black" privilege and how they have tainted the blood of the "whites" over the years. I'd be willing to bet that he wouldn't hold anything back and would be as offended by the statements that were made as intelligent-thinking people in this state are by his pathetic blanket accusations.

For being the smartest guy in the Legislature, poor ol' bitter Ernie Chambers still hasn't figured it out, so here's a 25-year reminder from me to him – the racism he cries about wanting to end can begin with him taking a good, long look in his own mirror.

Capitol View

A tale of two budgets for 2015

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

"It was," as Dickens wrote, "the best of times." Revenue and spending in Nebraska are in "a better place" now than they have been in years, says the Legislature's Appropriations Committee Chairman Sen. Heath Mello of Omaha. This could make drafting the biennial state budget a smoother process.

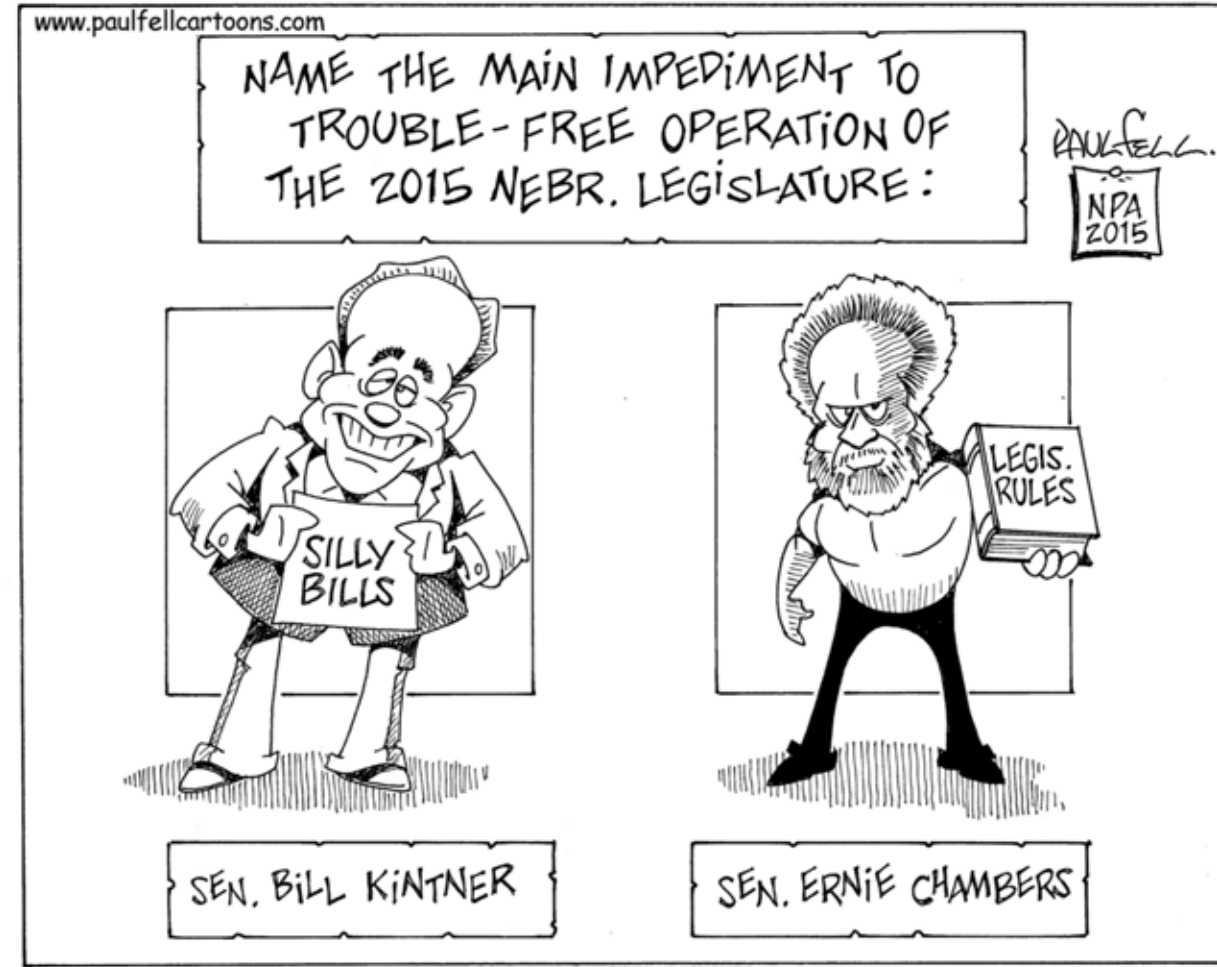
"Our main job as a state is paying for incarceration, medication and education," Mello told the Lincoln Journal Star. "And the reality is we've got to do those things fairly well before we are able to tackle other challenges."

One of those "other" challenges will be finding the property tax relief that the new governor is already promoting. The good news is, Governor Pete Ricketts isn't the first one to ever promote the idea.

"There is one consistent message I have heard in every corner of the state: property taxes are too high," Ricketts said in his State of the State address to lawmakers. "My budget adds \$60 million each year to the property tax credit relief fund—an increase of nearly 43 percent—for a grand total of \$400 million in property tax relief this biennium. This property tax relief will help all Nebraskans: homeowners, small business owners, and our farmers and ranchers," he said.

That's a laudable goal that speaks well to fulfilling a campaign promise. Coupled with the mention of reducing agricultural land valuations and growing the economy by providing more jobs, it's the stuff that pleases voters. To his credit, the governor did acknowledge spending for prisons and the state's largest agency, the Department of Health and Human Services.

I like Mello's take: incarceration,



medication and education. It costs millions to build a new prison – which most people seem to want to avoid. Likewise, Mello notes, prison reform could be costly as the state examines a plethora of ideas for alternatives to incarceration and changes in sentencing.

Medication -- who is paying how much for the health and welfare of the state's neediest citizens – is another huge expense. To say nothing of the costs of reforming the broken health system in Nebraska. Education – the annual battle of school funding – is a perennial issue in search of a fair and equitable solu-

tion, which remains elusive.

On paper, the process appears to be simple. The governor proposes his budget, the Appropriations Committee proposes theirs. State agencies are called before the committee to justify their budget requests. Senators who propose bills that would require money from the state budget are also called to testify. The committee blends it all together and presents it to the full Legislature for approval.

The proposal goes through three rounds of debate, as with any bill, and the final product heads to the governor. Depending on how much

of the measure reflects his proposal and how much compromise has been made by both sides along the way; the budget is either approved and signed by the governor or sent back with vetoes. Lawmakers then have a chance to override the vetoes or accept them.

But it's not THAT easy. There will be debate, there will be headlines. There will be name-calling, there will be compromise. It's a frustrating time; it's an educational time. It will be the best of times. It will be the worst of times. Come along for the ride. It's your money.

Legislative Update

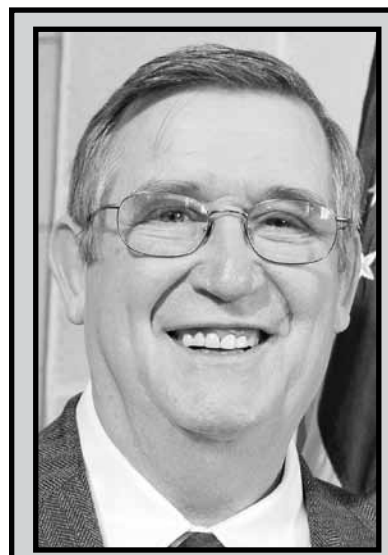
Debate on LB88 consumes Legislature

The session is now in full swing – complete with spending eight hours on a bill that really does not warrant it. The morning debate this week was pretty much consumed by LB88.

LB88 was introduced by Sen. Kathy Campbell of Lincoln and it would increase the fee for obtaining marriage license from \$15, as it now is, to \$50. Additionally, LB88 also increases the fee for obtaining certified copies of a marriage license. Both of these called for increases are in excess of 300 percent. Sen. Chambers and I were the only senators in vocal opposition of this bill when it was introduced. While it may be time to revisit the fee, I do

not feel that a \$35 increase is necessary. Sen. Chambers has said that he will take debate on this bill eight hours and Sen. Campbell shows no sign of pulling her bill, so it looks like we will start next week off once again with LB88.

I understand that in the last 10 years, the state has cut funding across the board and now counties and agencies are trying to find ways to compensate for that. I know that this bill will not be the last bill we will hear this session that attempts to increase a "user fee" of some kind. LB85 that was just heard by the Agriculture Committee would allow the Nebraska Brand Committee to increase the brand inspection



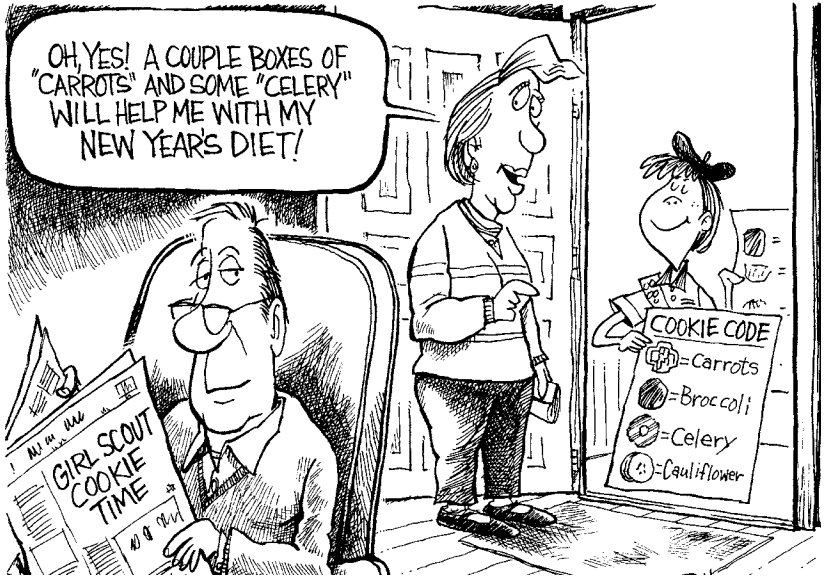
Legislative Update
By Dave Bloomfield
State Senator, District 17

fee to \$1.25, up from 75 cents. There may be some compromise that will be reached, but I ask that all of you please understand that when I see

requested increases that are excessive, I will be in opposition.

In other legislative happenings, the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee has indefinitely postponed LB112. LB112 was known as the National Popular Vote bill and it was introduced by Sen. Tyson Larson of O'Neill. LB112 would have effectively destroyed the Electoral College system we use to elect the president of the United States. My bill, LB190 was advanced from the Judiciary Committee and is currently on General File. I have also added my name to LB118 which has become known as the cigar shops bill, which is now on General File.

As always, if we can be of any assistance, contact our office at (402) 471-2716 or e-mail dloomfield@leg.ne.gov. You can find my current, as well as my previous Newsletters, on my Legislative Blog at news.legislature.ne.gov/distr17.



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Mayor
Ken Chamberlain
375-1699

The Wayne City Council meets the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Meeting times are at 5:30 p.m. at the City Council chambers, located in the Wayne City Offices at 306 N. Pearl St.