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# The Wayne Herald

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## Council needs more info for loan request

*Paulsons want to assume Fertig loan on Main Street building, plans requested*

By MICHAEL CARNES  
Of The Herald

Wayne City Council members who felt they had been burned on an LB840 loan gone bad made sure during Tuesday's meeting that the city won't get fooled a second time.

The City Council tabled an LB840 loan application by Dale and Debbie Paulson that would assume a \$50,000 loan that has not been repaid for property on the corner of Second and Main streets by Tim Fertig, who had purchased the former Jacob's Room building and intended to turn it into a fitness center, but has since stopped work on the project and has not repaid most of the loan.

The Paulsons, who were contracted by Fertig to do some of the renovations and have a lien on the Fertig property due to non-payment, filed an application to assume the existing loan in the hope of buying the building and reconstructing the front to its original de-

*"Saying that there will be office space is kind of a blanket statement. This is the second time we've gotten burned, and I don't want it to happen again."*

— Matt Eischeid  
Wayne City Councilman

sign. The building is currently listed for sale with a local realtor, and the Paulsons plan to buy the building and renovate it.

Teresa Stabler of Paulson Construction, who represented the Paulsons at Tuesday's meeting, said the Paulsons' intent was to keep the rental units upstairs and split the downstairs area into two business entities that could be utilized for office or retail.

"For the building front, we're trying to get it back to the way it was," she said, adding that the original frames of the windows were still in place and an eave or awning would be constructed at the front of the building.

The loan request was questioned by Councilmen Matt Eischeid and Cale Giese.

"Saying that there will be office space is kind of a

blanket statement," he said. "This is the second time we've gotten burned, and I don't want it to happen again."

"We can't just blindly give, in good faith, \$50,000 without any type of plan," Giese added. "I can't give public funds free reign."

Stabler said that the Paulsons weren't asking for money to handle any of the reconstruction work that is needed, noting that they would be paying for that themselves. The intent with the loan application, in essence, was to assume the payments that were being made by Fertig before those payments ceased earlier this year.

"We're not getting a dime from the city (with the loan request)," Stabler said.

Giese felt that the city could foreclose on the property and make their money back by selling it at an auction, but was told it might be a couple of years before a buyer would have that building open for business.

"Dale and Debbie don't want that building to sit empty for a year, then wait another 6-12 months to get something," Stabler said.

Councilman Jennifer Sievers agreed, adding, "When Jacob's Room moved out, that building sat empty for several months before Tim bought it. That building could sit like that for another two years."

Giese and Eischeid both asked Stabler to have the Paulsons provide some type of plans for the building that could be looked at by the council's building committee, which includes council members Jill Brodersen and Jon Haase.

The Council voted to table the loan request until their next meeting, scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 15 at 5:30 p.m.

In other action, the Council:

- viewed a presentation by Wayne Community Schools Superintendent Mark Lenihan, who updated the council on building status, student enrollment and other school-related issues.

- set Friday and Saturday, Jan. 29-30, as the date for their annual retreat, which will be held at the Wayne Senior Center.

- approved a payment of \$67,257.60 to Eriksen Construction for payment on the wastewater treatment facility improvement project.

- approved a change order to extend the completion date on the Airport Sewer Project from December of this year to July 2016, due to delays with Northern Natural Gas abandoning the gas line.

- approved an annual maintenance agreement with the Nebraska Department of Roads.



(Contributed photo)

Involved in the Adoption Day ceremony were (left) Tia Jech, Felicity Jech, Judge Ross Stoffer, newly adopted Mason being held by his dad, Adam, Ellie and Brook Jech.

## Christmas program has a special meaning for local director, family

On Saturday, Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. youth from the Wayne area will present a one-hour Christmas musical about "God's Heart for Adoption" at Journey Christian Church in Wayne.

This is something that is done every other year at the church, and those involved have been working for several weeks to memorize lines, learn songs and learn about God.

The program's director, Brook Jech, said this year's program has special meaning to her and her family.

She relayed the following story of her life, acceptance of Jesus and the journey her family has recently taken to add the newest member to the family.

"We are all adopted. I first accepted this undeniable truth in January of 1998, when I accepted Christ into my heart. I was blessed to have a family, but it wasn't until I came face to face with Jesus, that I knew my real place in this world. I spent so many years searching for the love and belonging that can only be fulfilled by our

Creator. A lot of bad choices were a part of my journey. I faced many issues along the way that posed challenges and roadblocks to finding my true place in Christ . . . teen pregnancy, drugs and alcohol, unhealthy relationships, and more. It got so bad that I didn't want to be a part of this world anymore. I couldn't see through the mess that I had created. It is a dark place that no one wants to be in.

But God had plans for me and he uses methods/ways that are beyond our understanding and that we least expect. Of all things, He used my sister's recovery from drug and alcohol addiction to bring me to Him. In search of her "higher power", she invited my mom and me to a church with her. Little did I know that the family behind those doors would introduce and teach me about the love of Christ that would forever change my life.

For the first time, I saw a love that didn't see my past . . . my bad choices, my mistakes. Instead of judgment, I felt acceptance and it was motivating. It made

me want to be a better person. I'm not saying it was easy. I had to face a lot of ugly truths about myself and own up the choices that I had made. But I experienced a freedom in the process that I had never known. I finished college and graduated with a degree in Social Work with a goal to help other teenagers/youth in their journey through life.

After moving to Wayne, I got involved in helping with the Children's Ministry at Journey Christian Church. I wasn't fortunate enough to know God till I was older, so it is a true blessing to be able to share Him with the kids in our community. It is comforting to know that they will have Him to lean on to comfort them when times are tough and challenges are faced.

A few years ago, God called me to go a step further. With a little persuasion, I convinced my husband to go through Foster Parent training with me. We completed the training and right away, we started

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(Photo by Michael Carnes)

County Emergency Manager Nic Kennitz points to a statewide interoperability network map to the Wayne County Commissioners during Tuesday's meeting.

## County reluctantly signs interlocal network agreement

By MICHAEL CARNES  
Of The Herald

The Wayne County Commissioners reluctantly signed up to be part of an interlocal agreement for the development of a regional network that, to this point, nobody seems to know a lot of specific details about.

At Tuesday's meeting, the board heard from Wayne County Emergency Manager Nic Kennitz and Brian Kesting, technology support specialist for the City of Wayne, about the statewide network that is meant to tie all the dispatch centers in the state together for the purpose of emergency communication and information sharing.

The purpose of the Nebraska Regional Interoperability Network was put together to help establish a public safety communications network across the state that would allow government agencies to share information. Kennitz used a map to indicate how the network is used and how information can be routed – or re-routed – from one dispatch center to another.

The network was created through a series of federal grants about a decade ago, but the building of the network has been slow and a 12-county region of Northeast Nebraska – including Wayne, Cedar and Dixon counties – are the last of the seven regions that are being equipped.

Satellite dishes are to be installed on radio towers throughout the area, and there has been some delays in Wayne County, Kennitz said.

"They planned to put equipment on the (Nebraska Education Television) tower by Carroll, then shoot the signal to Bowen Hall at Wayne State and from there to our dispatch center," Kesting said. "My understanding is that the college has said no, and I don't get why two state agencies can't work together on this."

*"It's hard for me to adopt something that is so up in the air. There are a lot of unknowns here."*

— Randy Larson  
Wayne County commissioner

Kesting added that an alternative plan that was discussed was to use the KTCH radio station's tower as an alternative, but even then, Kesting said, he wasn't sure the city's tower could handle more equipment.

"Marlen (Chief of Police Marlen Chinn) told me that he wasn't sure our tower could support a dish because of the load of equipment that is on there already," Kesting said. "If that's the case, then the state would have to come through and acquire a tower or erect a tower, which will cost more money."

Just who would maintain and service that equipment, though, was among a number of questions that both Kennitz and Kesting said nobody seemed to have an answer for.

"They're talking about forming a governing board to figure out how it would be maintained," Kennitz said. "There are several counties, though, where the network is not going through but they're going to benefit from it, so they're trying to figure that out."

County board chairman Randy Larson expressed apprehension in signing an agreement when so many questions remain unanswered.

"It's hard for me to adopt something that is so up in the air," he said. "There are a lot of unknowns here."

The problem, Kesting said, is that if the county doesn't sign the agreement, they would have to purchase their own equipment.

See COUNTY, Page 4A







(Contributed photo)

Preparation for the production of "God's Heart for Adoption" at Journey Christian Church continues. Here, the group poses for a photo during a recent rehearsal.

# Program

**From Page 1A**  
receiving calls. Our training was amazing and it opened our eyes to the need for good foster homes and even more, good foster parents who are willing to connect with not only the kids, but the parents of the kids you take into your homes.

There are a lot of challenges and things that need to be addressed in the foster care system, but it shouldn't stop us from doing it.

We didn't go into foster care to adopt. In fact it was kind of the last thing we wanted to do. We wanted to be a temporary home, a place where we could make an impact on kids' hearts in the time that we are given with them, knowing their rightful place was with their parents if at all possible.

A lot of people ask us how we can do it . . . how we can take these kids in and let them go when it comes time? But isn't that God's plan? He adopts us into His family, while entrusting us to our family in our temporary home.

God made it clear to me that His plans are not our plans. We got a call to take a five month old baby in September of 2013. My first inkling was to say "no". A baby? My youngest child was nine years old at the time. Did we really want to start over? But our three daughters begged us to say "yes," so we did.

Little did we know how much he would change our lives. The case

ended up being a kind of rare case where there was no parental involvement and in the mean time, Mason, became part of the family.

The foster and adoption process is never a short one. Surprisingly, I was never really anxious about it. When I went into being a foster parent, I committed to trusting Him in the whole process. Knowing that He would bring to us the children He wanted and we would have them for the time in which He wanted us to. My job was not to control and fret, but sit back and let Him do the work.

Nineteen months later, Mason officially became part of the Jech family, just a week after his second birthday, on Easter Monday.

We do a children's Christmas program every other year at our church. I normally begin searching for what I am going to do in early summer. I skim through several different options and listen to the music. I belong to a club where I get free samples of new musicals that come out every quarter. I happened to receive one called "Felix Finds Christmas" in the mail and began to look it over. When I read the description of what it was about, I felt like God had delivered the package himself! At that point, I just hoped and prayed the music was good. To my delight the music was amazing!

What I want people to know is that you don't have to be perfect to make

a difference. I have made plenty of bad choices and still do sometimes. I struggle trusting God sometimes, but who doesn't? There are so many children out there in need of forever homes. Adoption touches so many people's lives in one way or another. There are several adoptions just within our church and community alone. If you have adopted or have thought about adopting, you won't want to miss this performance."

The musical is a story of a boy who longs for a forever home and more importantly a family to call his own. The musical is sure to be a treat and is fun for all ages! Bring the family out for a fun, free evening and you are guaranteed to be touched by what these kids have to share! The set is a foster home so it only seemed appropriate to collect Christmas gifts for children in foster homes this Christmas. It is completely optional, but if you would like to be a part of the gift giving, feel free to bring a gift to be given to a foster child to the performance as well. The kids will be putting together gift bags for foster children the morning after the program.

Brook added that if anyone has questions about foster care and adoption, "my husband and I are always willing to talk. We hope your Christmas is one in which you truly embrace your gift in Jesus."



(Photo by Clara Osten)

# Fort Wayne under construction

Monday and Tuesday's snow made for perfect fort building, and Wayne State students Taylor Helton of Omaha and Ben Cochran of Lincoln used totes to construct their snow bricks for the fort.

# County

**From Page 1A**  
ment and build their part of the network on their own, as everything is tied together by a series of federal grants.

"It would be OK to sign it and get some more answers, and when it finally comes down to a yes-or-no on the costs, then you can (make a final decision)," Kesting said.

County Attorney Mike Pieper, who was at Tuesday's meeting, said the agreement states that the county can opt out of the interlocal agreement by written notice of termination at any time between now and Dec. 31, 2025.

"It's like a cloud you're trying to reach out to," Larson said. "You don't want to miss out on an opportunity, but I can't see jumping at something that's going to cost us and isn't going to benefit us. I'm not opposed to (signing the agreement) if it's noncommittal, but it's difficult to get on board with anything right now."

Another concern is the equipment that was purchased to put the network together. That equipment was purchased about a decade ago, and Kesting said this area's equipment has been sitting in storage for a significant amount of time.

"The state bought all the equipment for this project with a federal grant six or seven years ago, and it's been sitting in storage all this time and now they're going to use it," he said. "I don't think it's very future-proof because there is bandwidth limitation in microwave technology and the state is talking about using this on everything from 911 communications to video arraignments or sharing car or body camera video. I see it being super-saturated really fast."

And once that equipment is up and running, it will be up to the counties that host the equipment to keep it in service.

"It's going to be up to the local jurisdictions to pay for repairs and

maintenance, and we really don't know what those costs are going to be," Kesting said.

Kemnitz said that there is talk of a governing board that would include two representatives from the 12-county Northeast Nebraska region - including the counties of Knox, Cedar, Dixon, Dakota, Antelope, Madison, Stanton, Pierce, Cuming, Thurston, Burt and Wayne - who would oversee the network and determine how it would be maintained, but details have not been finalized.

The county board decided to go ahead and sign the interlocal agreement, with Larson stating that they will not proceed any further until more specific information is made available.

The Wayne County Commissioners' next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 15 at 9 a.m. in the Wayne County Courthouse.





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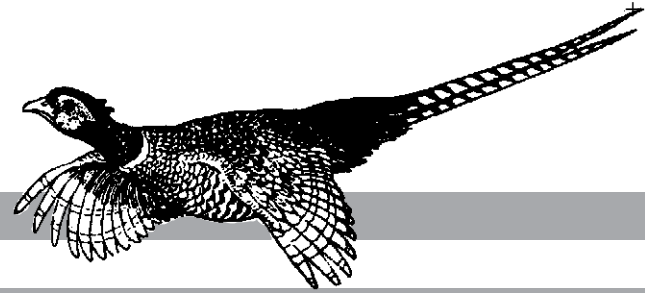
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# Sports

## From The Bleachers

Michael Carnes



### Looking at entertaining winter season

Well now – if there's snow on the ground, it must be winter sports season.

Time for a few thoughts, wild predictions and other semi-lucid observations from the "Bits and Pieces" file:

– Basketball at Wayne High School should be entertaining this year.

On the girls' side, you have some quality experience with seniors Tarah Stegemann and Danica Schaefer, along with the team's leading scorer from last year, sophomore Kylie Hammer (yes, boys and girls, she led the team as a freshman). The girls should be a fast-paced team that will need that speed to overcome a lack of height on the inside.

While the girls have a wealth of experience back, the same can't be said for the Blue Devil boys. Juniors Payten Gamble and Grayson McBride are the only players with a ton of varsity experience and Gamble is the lone returning starter. The good news is that there is some quality young talent in the sophomore class, and if those young guns can step up, Wayne ought to be in the mix at the end of the season.

– There is good news for the Wayne matmen this season, but they won't see it until districts weekend. And that good news is – no Omaha Skutt in the district.

The NSAA shuffled Class B districts around some, thanks to the addition of Winnebago-Walthill to the wrestling community, and as a result, the perennial-champion Skyhawks are now in the B-1 district, which opens up all 14 weight brackets for the teams battling in B-2.

Wayne had four at state last year and were very close to having a couple more. All four state qualifiers are back, and it wouldn't surprise me to see 2-3 more punch a ticket to the "C-Link" this February.

– As far as the rest of the area goes, two of the interesting stories to watch come from the halls of Winside High School.

As always, the Wildcat grapplers will be a player in the Class D race, and this year's team might be able to challenge some of the top teams in what will likely be another futile attempt at knocking off six-time defending champion Amherst.

The Wildcats have five state qualifiers back from last year, led by senior Marcos Escalera. He won a state title as a sophomore, and joined a pretty exclusive club last year by winning 50 matches on his way to a third-place finish. If the returning qualifiers make it back and some other kids step up, Winside might be in the hunt for a double-dose of runner-up trophies in tournament and dual events at state.

The second story is on the brand new parquet floor in the gymnasium, where the boys basketball team are actually looking to avoid a record-setting performance this year.

It's been pretty slim pickings in the Wildcat cage the last few years, and Winside is riding a 70-game losing streak going into Thursday's season opener at Plainview. They are just 16 away from tying the all-time mark of 86 set by Guide Rock (1988-95), and my money is riding on that streak ending sometime before Christmas. They have a couple of games before the holiday break that, on paper, they should be competitive with. Their team was freshman-dominated last year, so everybody's a year older, faster, bigger and better.

I do know this – there will be quite the celebration in Winside when that streak comes to an end.

– There has been much discussion lately about Nebraska "qualifying" for a bowl game despite finishing the football season with a sub-.500 record.

It's funny, because there once was a time when only the best of the best were invited to a bowl game. I remember, way back in the

See ENTERTAINING, Page 2B



(Photo by Michael Carnes)

Time is running out for Wayne State volleyball's four seniors as they compete in the Central Regional this week in Minnesota. Elizabeth Gebhardt, Katie Hughes, Leisa McClintock and Courtney VanGronigen are hoping to end their careers with a trip to the Elite Eight in Tampa, Fla.

## Time flies for Wildcat seniors

### Foursome embracing final trip to regionals

By MICHAEL CARNES  
Of The Herald

Tick . . . tock . . . tick . . . tock . . .

It doesn't seem like it's been four years – or even five – since Wayne State senior volleyball standouts Leisa McClintock, Elizabeth Gebhardt, Katie Hughes and Courtney VanGronigen walked into their first practices in Rice Auditorium.

Time flies when you're having fun, and as the Wildcat volleyball team prepares for this week's NCAA Div. II Central Regional tournament in St. Paul, Minn., the senior foursome is hoping that time doesn't run out on them for at least six more games.

The Wildcat volleyball team is making its 10th postseason trip in 11 seasons under coach Scott Kneif, and this year's senior class is trying to soak in everything they can before it's all over – hopefully, on the final day of the Elite Eight next weekend in Tampa, Fla.

"When it gets closer to the end, you appreciate it more," said VanGronigen, the Northern Sun Conference Libero of the Year. "When you're younger, some days you don't want to practice every day. But now, this could be the last practice of my career and I don't want it to end."

It's been five years for both VanGronigen and McClintock, who both redshirted after graduating from high school, and four years for Hughes and Gebhardt, who have also been four-year standouts for the Wildcats and were all named to the Northern Sun Conference All-Conference honors list this season.

All four pointed to the past success of the program and the quality of coaching by Kneif and his staff as reasons they chose Wayne State, but each of them had to adjust to competing at the next level after standout high school

careers.

"I graduated high school early and came in that second semester, and it was definitely a changing experience for me," McClintock said. "Redshirting was a huge challenge, knowing you're not going to play but you still have to go to practice every day and work your hardest to make the 'A' side better."

It helped McClintock to have VanGronigen redshirt that first year as well. VanGronigen set all-class records for kills in a match at Sterling High School, and to not only make the adjustment from the small town of Sterling to a bigger town like Wayne, but to go from being an offensive juggernaut to a defensive specialist was not easy.

"It wasn't something I liked at first, so it took some time to adjust," VanGronigen said. "I was a hitter in high school, but if I would be better here as a defensive player and that helped the team out, that's what I wanted to do."

The redshirt year obviously worked out well for both players. McClintock has set the all-time school record for career set assists, and VanGronigen is among the all-time best defensive stars at Wayne State in terms of career digs heading into this week's tournament. But the thing that both girls got out of that first year was a chance to bond and to help out Hughes and Gebhardt when they arrived on campus a year later.

"We've all gotten really close, and it feels like a big family," VanGronigen said.

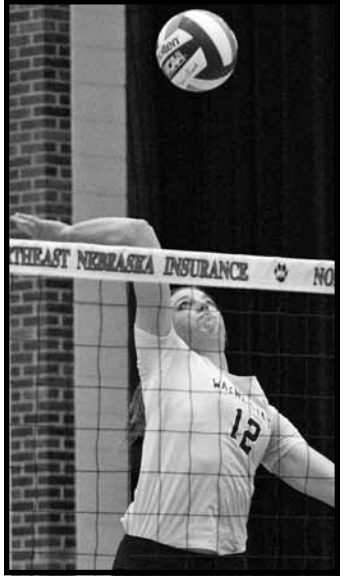
"I got really close with Courtney and Leisa when I first got here, and there's just a close group of friends that we've all become that you can always talk to about school or other stuff," Hughes added.

That helped out both Hughes and Gebhardt as they made their adjustments from the high school game to the college level.

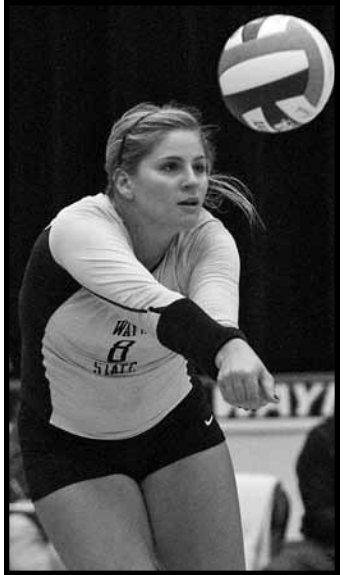
"I was really passionate about hitting the ball, but that first year I went from being a six-rotation outside hitter to a three-rotation defensive specialist," Hughes said. "It was tough at first because I loved hitting, but now I think defense is my favorite thing to do."

"It's a different experience after being in high school and walking in here and being at the bottom again," Gebhardt added. "You have to work your way back up to the top, but that's what is expected."

See TIME FLIES, Page 2B



Gebhardt



Hughes



Kneif



McClintock



VanGronigen

## AREA WINTER SPORTS PREVIEWS

### One starter back for Wayne boys

Experience is short but the potential is long for the Wayne High boys basketball team as they prepare for Thursday's season opener at South Sioux City.

Only one starter is back from last year's 15-10 season, and third-year coach Rob Sweetland said that some young players will need to step up this season.

"With only one varsity starter returning, there will be a lot of minutes to fill with inexperienced players," he said. "Grayson (McBride) and Payten (Gamble) are both capable scorers, and we need others to fill roles and come along quickly."

Gamble is the only returning starter back from last year, averaging 8.5 points and four rebounds per game for the Blue Devils. McBride has been a long-range threat for Wayne, and the 6-foot-2 junior will once again be called upon to help out on the perimeter this season.

Two seniors are back this season in forwards Drew Davie and Colby Keiser, and Sweetland expects both to be leaders

See BOYS, Page 3B

### Blue Devil girls set to play faster

The Wayne High girls basketball team will bring an up-tempo style to the court this season as they look to improve on last year's 14-10 record.

Second-year coach Dave Hix said this year's team has some players who like to get up and down the floor, which they will need to offset a lack of size on the inside.

"We'll be quick and aggressive and will run the floor a lot," he said. "We aren't blessed with a great deal of height, but these girls have a great attitude and a great work ethic, and they'll fight to the end this season."

Three starters are back from last year, led by seniors Tarah Stegemann and Danica Schaefer. Stegemann is a tough player who can shoot well from the outside and plays a smart game, while Schaefer is a physical inside player who has an explosive first step and can get to the basket and draw contact.

Also back is sophomore guard Kylie Hammer, who led the Blue Devils in scoring last year as a freshman. She is

See GIRLS, Page 3B

### Wrestling outlook optimistic for WHS

Wayne's wrestling team has four returning state qualifiers back in the room this year, giving coach Dave Wragge an optimistic outlook heading into the 2015-16 campaign.

"We return everyone that we had last year, including all four state qualifiers," he said. "I am hoping to get everyone spread out this season and fill all of the weight classes for the first time since I've been here."

The fourth-year head coach has four qualifiers back in Gage Schultz (113), Jordan Cliff (170), Cole Koenig (182) and Schuyler Schweers (195). They lead a group of eight returning starters that also includes Jorge Vergara (145), Steven Keiser (152), Mikey Reyes (220) and Hunter Jorgensen (285).

Wragge is also excited about a pair of lighter wrestlers who could make some noise in the Wayne lineup, including Cameron Muhs at 106 pounds and Juan Vergara at 120 pounds. Both have looked solid in preseason drills and could be wrestlers to watch for the Blue Devils this season.

See WRESTLING, Page 3B

More Previews on pages 3B-4B



## Wildcat wrestlers return loaded lineup, look for high team finish

The Winside wrestling team had a pretty solid season last year, posting a 10th place finish in the Class D state tournament and bringing home the runner-up trophy from the state duals tournament.

Coach Paul Sok is entering his 39th year as the Wildcat mat mentor, and he has a pretty solid lineup back with 10 returning starters.

"We should be able to fill 12 weights this year," he said. "We're hoping to get a top-five finish at state this year and qualify for the state duals for the third year in a row."

Five wrestlers with state tournament experience are among the 10 returning starters for Winside, led by two-time medalist and 2014 state champion Marcos Escalera, who will once again wrestle at 132 pounds for the Wildcats.

Also back with state tournament experience are juniors Zach Morris (145) and Cory Shoff (220), both of whom came one match short of earning a medal. Senior Colby Erickson (126) was a state qualifier last year and finished third, and junior Sean Mann (120)

is looking to get back to state after missing out last year to improve on his fourth-place finish as a freshman.

Also back in the Winside lineup this year are sophomore Mason King (113) and Jonathan Escalante (195), as well as juniors Isiah Muhs (160), Joey Haase (170) and Hayden King (18).

Freshman Michael Jensen looks to be the 170-pounder for Winside this year, and two new additions to the lineup could make things interesting. Chase Magwire (152) wrestled the last three years in Oklahoma before transferring here - his father, Shawn, is a former Wildcat wrestler - and freshman Koby Ellis transferred from Norfolk and will wrestle at 106 pounds.

The Wildcats are preseason-ranked No. 2 in Class D as a tournament team and No. 3 in duals by the Nebraska Scholastic Wrestling Coaches Association. They open the 2015-16 season Saturday at the Creighton Invitational, and will host their own meet on Saturday, Jan. 9 at Winside High School.

## LCC boys look to play up-tempo style with good returning group

The Laurel-Concord-Coleridge boys basketball team saw some late-season improvement last year, and with several key players back from last year's 9-16 campaign, the Bears should be a competitive bunch in 2015-16.

Second-year coach Todd Erwin has five starters and 10 letterwinners back from last season, and he's

## Girls

From Page 1B

a solid ball handler who can shoot well from outside and find the open teammate, and she will be called on to help direct the offense this season.

Also back from last year are three returning junior letterwinners. Morgan Keating, Lindy Sandoz and Kelsey Boyer will all see time this year and should give the Blue Devils some additional offensive weapons this season.

The Blue Devils play in a tough Mid State Conference that will include some quality competition, including four-time Class C-2 state champion Crofton, an always-tough Guardian Angels Central Catholic, and tough teams from Pierce and Norfolk Catholic. They will open the season at South Sioux City on Friday, then play their home opener Friday against Battle Creek.

## Wrestling

From Page 1B

The Blue Devils will once again wrestle in the B-2 district this year, which will have something of a different look after reshuffling in Class B moved perennial powerhouse Omaha Skutt to the B-1 district. The addition of Winnebago-Walthill created the change in the district, which should open up some more opportunities for state qualifiers for a number of teams in the B-2 district, including Wayne.

The Blue Devils open the season with a home triangular Thursday, with Wisner-Pilger and Clearwater-Orchard coming to town. Their only other scheduled home matchup comes on Thursday, Dec. 17, when they host Creighton. Their first tournament of the season comes Friday at the Columbus Lakeview Invitational.



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hoping the Bears can play a more up-tempo style of basketball this season.

"We're looking to improve on our fast-paced play, and we should be more competitive on both sides of the court," he said of this year's team.

Four seniors are among the five returning starters, led by 6-foot-1 point guard Dillan Wolfgram. Wolfgram has explosive scoring potential and is a dynamic ball handler who can penetrate and either shoot or pass with equal effectiveness.

Fellow seniors Malik Knox and Brant Eddie also return as starters. Both are players who can hit the open shot on the perimeter and

## Eagles low on numbers, but good talent returns

Allen's boys basketball team won't have a lot of depth this year, but second-year coach Nick Curnyn said the team has a good deal of potential.

One starter and seven letterwinners form last year's 3-21 team make up the bulk of the 10-man roster, one that Curnyn feels will be more competitive this season.

"Even though we only have a 10-man roster, there is still a lot of promise for us," he said. "We have a couple of talented seniors and three juniors who will look to contribute in a big way. We have some height and varsity experience, so it's a matter of playing solid defense, making the unselfish play and creating some chemistry."

Junior guard Tayler Kumm is

show good quickness that will help LCC's up-tempo style.

Also returning is 6-foot-4 junior post player Jayden Reifenrath, who has grown into a solid inside player as a three-year starter for the Bears.

Also back as returning letterwinners are seniors Aaron Haahr, Ethan Gubbels and Isaac Hanson, along with juniors D.J. Spahr and Mason Forsberg. The returning letterwinners should help complement the play of the returning starters and make LCC a fun team to watch this coming season.

The Bears open the season at home Friday against Crofton.

the lone returning starter from last year, where he averaged about four points per game. His leadership will be shared by returning seniors Austin Crom and S.T. O'Keefe, who will help anchor the inside game for the Eagles this season.

Junior guards Chase Johnson and Garrett Brentlinger will give the Eagles some help on the perimeter, and sophomores Jake Williams and Bud Kneifl will bring some size into the middle for Allen this season.

Newcomers who could make an impact for Allen include seniors Nate Bausch and Logan Nelson, and sophomore center Hunter Riffey.

The Eagles open the 2015-16 season on the road Friday at Wakefield, and host Cedar Bluffs in their home debut on Saturday.

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## Winside boys look to put an end to long losing skid this season

The Winside boys basketball team are hoping to accomplish something they haven't been able to do in almost four years - win a game.

The Wildcats bring a 70-game losing streak - the second-longest in state history - into the 2015-16 season, but with an older lineup that saw a lot of playing time last season, second-year coach Tom Meyer is optimistic that this year's team will put some marks in the win column this season.

"If we have some success early, then it could carry throughout the season," Meyer said. "We'll need to have our young players develop."

Winside, which hasn't won since

a 43-34 win over Hartington on Jan. 26, 2012, returns seven players with starting experience from last year, with six of them sophomores joining lone junior starting forward Jadon Wagner.

Joining Wagner as returning starters for the Wildcats are guards Brandon Watters, Colten Jensen and JaShaun Vyborny; forwards Keith Mundil and Caleb Kampa, and 6-foot-3 center Dylan Brogren. All seven starters saw a significant amount of playing time last season, and after an 0-21 campaign a year ago, look to continue that improvement and have it translate to wins this season.

Also back from last year as returning letterwinners are senior Marlowe Kampa and junior Cody Frederick, both of whom saw a good deal of playing time and will give the Wildcats some much-needed depth this season.

Other players who look to make an impact this season include senior Roy Bullard, sophomores William Bullard and Billy Chappel, and freshman Hunter VanHouten.

Winside opens the season on the road Thursday, facing Plainview. Their first home game will be Thursday, Dec. 10 against Clarkson/Leigh.

## Experienced wrestlers lead Trojans

Wakefield's wrestling team has a lot of returning experience in the heavier weights, but will have some youth in the lighter ranks this season.

"We have a lot of wrestlers with experience returning to our upper weights, and we will have very little experience at the lower weights," coach Eric Burenheide said. "We have five freshmen, and most of them will fill the lower weights. I'm always expecting big things from my wrestlers, and if we can stay

away from the injury bug this year, we should be set to have a good year."

Burenheide has seven returning starters back from last year's team, led by seniors Efen Godinez (170) and Carlos Chavez (195). Returning juniors include Alex Nunez (132), Luke Walsh (138), Cody Thomas (182), Moises Barboza (220) and Manuel Grimaldo (285).

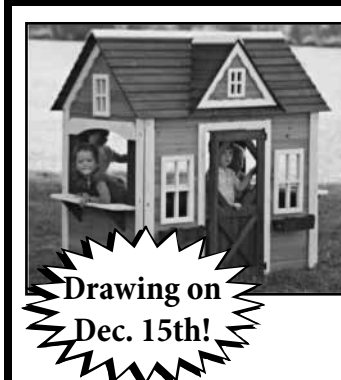
Thomas is a student at Allen and wrestles as part of a co-operative agreement between Wakefield and

Allen. His older brother, Caleb, was a two-time finalist for Wakefield and finished last season as a state runner-up. The younger Thomas is hoping to match his older brother's trips to state and battle for a title in his own right this season.

Wakefield will open the 2015-16 campaign at home with a Thursday dual against Pender. They also have a Jan. 28 home dual with West Point-Beemer and will host their own invitational the final Saturday of the regular season on Feb. 6.

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## Sports Shorts

### WSC women sign four for '16-'17 team

The Wayne State women's basketball team has signed four prep standouts during the recent NCAA early signing period, according to coach Chris Kielsmeier.

Signing national letters of intent to attend Wayne State College and join the Wildcat program for the 2016-17 season are Amanda Brainerd of DeWitt, Iowa, Evelyn Knox from Plymouth, Minn., Alexis McAfee of Sabetha, Kan., and Taylor Wangerin from Apple Valley, Minn.

Brainerd is a 6-foot forward from Central DeWitt High School. She is a four-year starter in basketball and three-year starter in volleyball. Last season, Brainerd produced 12.6 points and 6.6 rebounds per game while shooting 47.8 percent from the field and 76.3 percent at the free throw stripe to earn first-team All-WaMac East Conference and All-District honors. As a sophomore, Brainerd was named to the Iowa Newspaper Association Class 4A All-State Third Team while also named first-team All-Conference and All-District. Brainerd also excelled in volleyball, earning first-team All-WaMac East Conference

honors this year as a senior. Knox is a 5-foot-8 point guard from Hopkins High School. She is a four-year letterwinner and has played on two Class 4A state championship teams in Minnesota. Last season as a junior, Knox averaged 5.8 points a game, leading the team in 3-pointers (50) and 3-point field goal percentage (52 percent) to help Hopkins win the Class 4A State Title in Minnesota with a 30-1 record. She earned All-Lake Conference honorable mention honors last season.

McAfee is a 5-foot-8 guard from Sabetha High School, where she is a multi-sport standout in volleyball, basketball and track and field. Last season, McAfee averaged 13.3 points, 5.9 rebounds and set a new single season record with 140 assists while helping Sabetha High School to a 21-5 record and fourth-place finish in the Kansas Class 3A State Tournament. She was named to the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association Class 3A All-State Second Team and was All-Class 3A Second Team. As a sophomore, she accounted for 14.7 points, 5.6 rebounds and 3.2 assists per game to earn KBCA All-State Second Team and All-Class 3A first- and second-team honors. McAfee is an All-Big

7 League First Team honoree all three years in high school. Wangerin is a 6-foot-3 center from Apple Valley High School, where she is a five-year starter in basketball and track and field. She has earned All-District honors and twice was an All-South Suburban Conference honorable mention selection. Wangerin played summer ball with the North Tartan Nike Elite team.

### Beair on staff for Northeast All-Star game

Wayne High football coach Terry Beair was named one of the assistant coaches for the Red Team for the 2016 Northeast Nebraska All-Star Football Classic.

Beair will be on the staff led by Hartington-Newcastle's Blair Kalin and will be joined by Tony Allen of O'Neill St. Mary's, Mike Johnson of Hartington-Cedar Catholic, Jason Konicek of Norfolk Catholic and Gene Suhr of Creighton.

The White team will be led by Tom Olson of Norfolk High. His assistants will be Brent Bauer of Wisner-Pilger, Nate Blankenship of West Point-Beemer, Matt Skiff of Norfolk High, Mike Sunderman of Madison and Dave Stoddard of Stanton.

The 2016 all-star football game is scheduled for Saturday, June 11 at Memorial Field in Norfolk.

### Winside preseason ranked by NSWCA

The Winside wrestling team starts the season ranked No. 2 in tournaments and No. 3 as a dual team in Class D by the Nebraska Scholastic Wrestling Coaches Association.

The NSWCA preseason rankings are as follows:

- Class A Tournaments**  
1. Millard South, 2. Columbus, 3. Omaha Burke, 4. Lincoln Southwest, 5. Creighton Prep, 6. Kearney, 7. Grand Island, 8. Norfolk, 9. Omaha North, 10. Omaha Central.

- Class A Duals**  
1. Millard South, 2. Columbus, 3. Grand Island, 4. Kearney, 5. Lincoln Southwest, 6. Norfolk, 7. Millard West, 8. Omaha North, 9. Elkhorn South, 10. Omaha Burke.

- Class B Tournaments**  
1. Omaha Skutt, 2. Plattsmouth, 3. Gretna, 4. Scottsbluff, 5. Columbus Scotus, 6. Ashland-Greenwood, 7. Nebraska City, 8. Adams Central, 9. Bennington, 10. York.

- Class B Duals**  
1. Omaha Skutt, 2. Plattsmouth, 3. Gretna, 4. Columbus Scotus, 5. Adams Central, 6. Bennington, 7. Nebraska City, 8. York, 9. Scottsbluff, 10. Ashland-Greenwood.

- Class C Tournaments**  
1. Valentine, 2. David City, 3. Wilber-Clatonia, 4. Syracuse, 5. Madison, 6. Central City, 7. Battle Creek, 8. O'Neill, 9. St. Paul, 10. Aquinas.

- Class C Duals**  
1. Valentine, 2. David City, 3. Wilber-Clatonia, 4. Gibbon, 5. Central City, 6. Battle Creek, 7. Aquinas, 8. North Bend, 9. Madison, 10. Fort Calhoun.

- Class D Tournaments**  
1. Amherst, 2. Winside, 3. Plainview, 4. Creighton, 5. Elkhorn Valley, 6. East Butler, 7. North Platte St. Pat's, 8. Friend, 9. Palmer, 10. Sandhills/Theftord.

- Class D Duals**  
1. Amherst, 2. Creighton, 3. Winside, 4. Sutton, 5. Elkhorn Valley, 6. Plainview, 7. Sutherland, 8. Hemingford, 9. Scribner-Snyder, 10. Sandhills/Theftord.

## Lady Bears return two starters, coach optimistic about chances

The Laurel-Concord-Coleridge girls basketball team will be a young squad this year that hopes to improve on last year's 9-14 campaign.

Coach Nate Sims has two starters and three letterwinners back from last year's team, and he's optimistic that they will improve as the season goes on.

"We'll be a very young and inexperienced team, with half of our roster being freshmen," he said. "We expect to really develop and gain experience through the year, and we hope to surprise some people."

Sophomore guard Bryn Schutte and 6-foot-2 junior center Katie Leapley return from last year's team for the Lady Bears. Schutte averaged 4.5 points and 3.7 rebounds a game last year, while Leapley averaged 4.3

points, 5.7 rebounds and almost three blocked shots a game. They will be counted on to lead this year's team with their returning experience.

Other letterwinners who return to the lineup this year include seniors Bayley Holloway and Emily Klooz, and sophomore Ashley Wolfram. Also back this year are two players who were lost to injury last year, juniors Katelyn Cook and Emily Hangman. Sims expects both Cook and Hangman to contribute immediately to the Lady Bears' cause.

The Lady Bears open the season with their first two games at home. They debut on Friday against Crofton and host Homer on Tuesday, Dec. 8.

## Three starters back for Trojans

The Wakefield boys basketball team has three starters back from last year's 8-15 campaign, and second-year coach Joe Wendte is hoping for better results this season.

"After finishing last year on a sour note, I look for our team to bounce back this year," he said. "We have some key experience returning and are looking for those guys to step up and be leaders, both on

and off the court. I'm confident that we can put a competitive team together and win a bunch of games if we stick together."

Back from last year is senior guard-forward Dylan Hurlbert, junior guard Jose Sanchez and junior guard-forward Isaac Camarena. Both Hurlbert and Sanchez averaged 10 points a game last year for the Trojans, and Camarena aver-

aged six points and five rebounds on the inside.

Other letterwinners who are back this year include 6-foot-4 sophomore Parker Lehmkuhl and sophomore guard Julio Sanchez. Wendte also is looking for some good things from 6-foot-5 freshman forward Solomon Peitz.

The Trojans will kick off the season at home on Friday, facing Allen.

## State qualifiers lead LCC grapplers

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge wrestling coach Don Maxwell said the Bears will have a good mix of experience and youth on this year's team.

"We are going to be a young group, but with the two great leaders we have and the maturing that takes place through the season, we could be very good by the end of the season," he said.

Back from last year are two re-

turning state qualifiers. Senior Nolan Casey was a fifth-place medalist last year at 195 pounds, while fellow senior Billy Barelman is back after making it to state at 182 pounds. They will lead a young Bear lineup that looks to be an improved team this season.

Maxwell said two sophomores will be worth keeping an eye on this season, including Charlie Stanley, who will wrestle at either 138 or

145; and Zach Dietrich, who is looking solid at 220 pounds.

The Bears will see some tough competition early on, and have a pair of home events scheduled this year, starting with Thursday's dual with Lutheran High Northeast. They will also battle Ponca and Randolph in a triangular on Jan. 26. The Bears' first tournament of the season is Saturday at the Creighton Invitational.

## Wildcat girls have five starters back

The Winside girls basketball team returns five starters and eight letterwinners from a team that finished 2-15 last season.

Coach Kent Lawson said the team's goals are simple: "We want to improve day by day, quarter by quarter and game by game."

Back in the lineup for the Wildcats this season are three senior starters — forwards Ellie Jaeger

and Halle Brogren and guard Kelly Tweedy. Also back as returning starters are junior forwards Callie Finn and Alex Bargstadt.

Returning letterwinners who should also help with Winside's depth this year are sophomore guards Alyssa Brogren and Sarah Wolfe, and sophomore forward Victoria Buresh.

Senior Jady Prince is one of four

newcomers who could find a spot in the lineup this season. She is joined by freshmen Haylee Cummins, Erin Clocker and Kellie Kampa.

The Wildcats play their first three games on the road before a Dec. 10 home matchup against Clarkson/Leigh. They open the season with games at Plainview and Wynot on Thursday and Friday, followed by a trip to Lyons-Decatur on Tuesday.

## Trio of starters to lead Lady Eagles

The Allen Lady Eagles have a good nucleus of talent and hope to improve on last year's 12-12 campaign this season.

Fifth-year coach Zach Wemhoff has three starters and six letterwinners back from last year, and he's hoping the mix of youth and experience will be a good one for the Lady Eagles this season.

"I think if we can have some of our younger girls step up and give us positive minutes, we will be very competitive in a very difficult conference," he said.

Back as returning starters from last year are seniors Gabby Sullivan, Lexi Oswald and Kaylen Smith. Sullivan was the team's offensive leader, averaging 13.5 points and 7.3 rebounds a game last year, and he quick-

ness will be a key to the Lady Eagles' success this season. Oswald is a good ball-handler on the perimeter and averaged 6.2 points a game last year, while Smith's presence will be felt more on the inside as one of the taller post players for the Lady Eagles.

Also back from last year are seniors Brooke Kneiff and Mariah Keiser, along with sophomore Bri Hingst. All three saw significant time last year and will give Allen some depth in the lineup, along with key incoming freshmen Madisen Schneiders and Haley Stapleton.

The Lady Eagles start the season on the road, facing Wakefield on Friday. Their home opener is on Saturday, as they battle Cedar Bluffs.

## Trojan girls look for improvement

The Wakefield girls basketball team are looking to improve after last season's 4-19 effort.

Only one starter is back from last year's team, but coach Chad Metzler is optimistic that the team will show improvement this season.

"We are looking forward to im-

proving in all phases of the game," he said. "Making a consistent, competitive effort will be the key to our season."

Savannah Nelson is the lone returning starter back for the Trojans this season. The 5-foot-6 junior guard was a 25-percent shooter

from 3-point range last year, and she will be looked to for her leadership and scoring ability.

Also back from last year are returning letterwinners are seniors Josephine Peitz and Megan Muller, along with juniors Megan Borg and Shelby Oetken. All four saw quality time last season for the Trojans, and they will be in the mix to make the Wakefield girls more competitive this season.

Other players to watch for the Trojans include juniors Briana Andrade and Liz Delgado, along with a pair of freshmen, Jess Borg and Devaney Brown.

The Trojans will kick off the season with a pair of home matchups, hosting Pender on Thursday and Allen on Friday.

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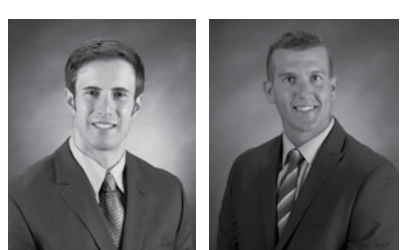
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# WSC student-athletes earn Academic All-Conference

A total of 33 Wayne State student-athletes were named to the 2015 Northern Sun Conference Fall All-Academic Team announced Wednesday afternoon by the league office in Burnsville, Minn.

To be eligible, a student-athlete must be a member of the varsity traveling team and have a cumulative grade-point-average of 3.20 or higher. The student-athlete must also have reached sophomore academic and athletic standing at the institution represented with one full year completed at that particular institution.

The Wildcat football team had the most selections with 11 followed, by volleyball with 10. Women's soccer had seven selections followed by men's cross country (3) and women's cross country (2).

Wayne State student-athletes named to the 2015 NSIC Fall All-Academic Team were as follows:

**Men's Cross Country**  
Nicholas Fly, Sr., Omaha; Corbin Lehn, Jr., Shelton; Nick Schmit, Jr., Randolph.

**Women's Cross Country**  
Molly Kingsley, Sr., Bellevue; Andrea DeSimone, Jr., Plattsmouth.

**Football**  
Jon Davis, Sr., Webster City, Iowa; Payton Doramus, Sr., Haysville, Kan.; Taylor Jensen, Sr., Emerson; Ryan Ludlow, Sr., Plattsmouth; Wyatt Schuettler, Sr., Osmond; Jarrod Bazata, Jr., Howells; Eric Lammers, Jr., Bettendorf, Iowa; Tyler Lindsay, Jr., Pierce; Bryce Quinn, Jr., Aurora; Alexander Kline, So., Artesia, Calif.; Nathan Weatherby, So., Murray.

## Women's Soccer

Josie Brown, Sr., Elk River, Minn.; Natalie Poppe, Sr., North Platte; Hannah Thayer, Sr., Aurora, Ill.; Kelsey Engstrom, Jr., Lincoln; Valerie Hernandez, Jr., Waverly; Amy Oates, Jr., Fairbanks, Alaska; Suenly Galvez, So., Hesperia, Calif.

## Volleyball

Elizabeth Gebhardt, Sr., Norfolk; Katie Hughes, Sr., Seward; Leisa McClintock, Sr., Sioux City, Iowa; Courtney VanGroningen, Sr., Sterling; Alyssa Frauendorfer, Jr., Humphrey; Michaela Mestl, Jr., Kearney; Alex Opperman, Jr., Omaha; Sydney Rose, Jr., Wakefield; Bree Ackermann, So., Lincoln; Erin Gross, So., Tekamah.

(Photo by Clara Osten)

# The Headless Snowman

The early-week snowstorm that hit the area didn't appear to be anything to lose your head over, but this snowman built in Wayne seems to have lost his.



# Wildcat baseball signs nine recruits for 2016-17

Wayne State College baseball coach Alex Koch announced the signing of nine student-athletes to play baseball at Wayne State in the 2016-17 season.

Signing with Wayne State College during the NCAA early signing period were Peyton Barnes of Omaha, Aidan Breedlove from Omaha, Colin Chick of Papillion, Brody

Gugat of Sioux City, Iowa; Tracten Halley from Scottsbluff, Jordan Mehl of Concordia, Kan.; Isaac Rubendall from Sioux Falls, S.D.; Hunter Wienhoff of Quincy, Ill.; and Lawson Zenner from Savage, Minn.

"The nine young men we are signing in all have the ability to contribute to our program right away," Koch said. "Eight of the nine

come from high schools all over the Midwest and Jordan Mehl is our lone junior college transfer of the class. We brought in a group of impact type pitchers in this class as Coach Clark (Kirk) and I felt like we needed to build a solid base of young arms for the future of our program. We highlighted that need with loads of talent and experience."

Barnes is 5-9, 155-pound infielder from Millard West. He was an All-Metro Conference and Class A All-State honorable mention selection last season while helping his team to a 23-12 record and a third-place finish in the Class A State Baseball Tournament.

Breedlove is a 5-foot-10, 160-pound pitcher from Omaha Westside. As a junior in 2015, he posted a 9-0 record with a 1.56 ERA to earn Class A first-team All-State and All-Nebraska second-team honors from the Omaha World-Herald. Breedlove helped the Warriors to a 33-6 record and the Class A State title last spring and played on the 2014 Westside American Legion team that won the Central Plains Regional and placed third at nationals.

Chick is a 6-foot, 185-pound outfielder from Papillion-LaVista where he is a three-year starter and letterwinner in baseball. As a junior, he was a Class A honorable mention All-State selection hitting .355 while helping Papillion-LaVista to a 22-9 record and a berth in the Class A State Tournament.

Gugat is a 6-4, 215-pound pitcher from Sioux City North where he is a two-year starter and letterwinner in baseball. Last summer, he recorded a stingy 0.95 ERA with a no-hitter while pitching 44 innings in seven starts for the Sioux Falls Cyclones summer travel team. Gugat is ranked as the No. 6 right-handed pitcher in Iowa by Perfect Game.

Halley is a 5-foot-10, 180-pound pitcher from Scottsbluff where he is a multi-sport standout in football, basketball and track and field. He is a three-year starter in American Legion ball during the summer and hit .377 last summer with 47 hits in just 34 games with 32 RBI and 34 runs scored while also making 12 appearances as a pitcher with a 2.73 earned run average.

Mehl is a 6-foot-2, 190-pound pitcher from Concordia who played

last season at Tabor College in Kansas before transferring to Cloud County Community College. In high school, he was a three-time North Central Kansas League first-team selection and was a Kansas Class 4A second-team All-State selection after hitting .577 with 43 RBI and going 6-4 on the mound at Concordia High School.

Rubendall is a 6-foot-3, 180-pound pitcher from Sioux Falls Lincoln. He is a three-year starter and was 5-1 last season with a 2.80 ERA while earning All-Region honors.

Wienhoff, a 6-foot, 185-pound third baseman from Quincy High School, is a two-year starter and three-year letterwinner in baseball. Last season he posted a .285 average with one homer, nine doubles and 32 RBI's while helping his team to its best record (18-13) in over 20 years.

Zenner is a 5-foot-10, 160-pound pitcher from Prior Lake High School. He is a two-year starter in baseball and helped the Prior Lake Wizards American Legion team reach the state tournament last summer for the first time in program history.

# Wayne State alum, instructors take part in NECC Pops Concert

Northeast Community College recently held a fall Pops Concert in the Cox Activities Center Theater.

The first two groups to perform on the concert were the college student groups "Northeast Singers Express" and the "Northeast Jazz Machine". The final group to perform was made up of area musicians, the "Northeast Area Jazz Ensemble."

This group was started in 1980 and has been together for 35 years now. Members of the Northeast Area Jazz Ensemble who are associated with Wayne State College in some way included Brad Weber, Instructor of Percussion in the Music Department at WSC and

a WSC Alumni; Bob Johnson, Retired director of bands at Howells Public Schools, currently substitute teacher for area schools and a WSC Alumni; Dr. Karl Kolbeck, Instructor of Woodwinds in the Music Department at WSC; Kathleen Angeroth, Instructor of Strings in the Music Department at WSC; Stephanie Westerhaus, Student Music Major in the Music Department at WSC; Samantha Hahn, Band Director & Instrumental Music Instructor at Norfolk Catholic School and a WSC Alumni and Dr. Josh Calkin, Assistant Director of Bands & Low Brass Instructor in the Music Department at WSC.



P helps

# Phelps to attend Vegas conference

George Phelps, CFP, has been invited to attend the 2015 Extravaganza of Excellence "Causation of Sales" conference at The Venetian, Las Vegas Dec. 15-16.

The conference is sponsored by Partners Advantage, a nationwide firm representing over 200 life insurance companies. This invitation-only event covers topics such as, premium financing of life insurance, living benefits of Indexed Universal Life insurance, solving the retirement puzzle and others.

George Phelps, Certified Financial Planner, is an independent broker, wealth manager and retirement planner with an office in the Mineshaft Mall in Wayne, who specializes in solving convoluted financial issues both personal and business, involving insurance and investments.

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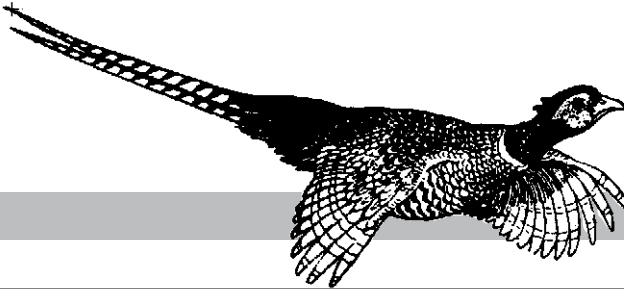
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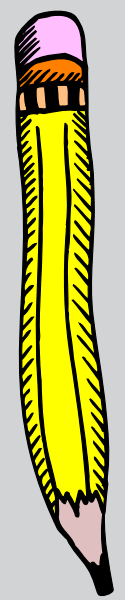


## Letters Welcome

Letters from readers are welcome. They should be timely, brief (no longer than one type-written page, double spaced) and must contain no libelous statements. We reserve the right to edit or reject any letter.

Letters published must have the author's name, address and telephone number. The author's name will be printed with the letter; the address and the telephone number will be necessary to confirm the author's signature.

Submit letters to the editor to Michael Carnes, managing editor, at P.O. Box 70, Wayne, Neb., 68787. Letters can be faxed to (402) 375-1888, or e-mailed to sports@wayneherald.com.



## Capitol View

# Give credit where it is due

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

Beyond the contention, controversy and headlines, the real work of government gets done. As the calendar year draws to a close, let's take a look at the positives of Governor Pete Ricketts' first year.

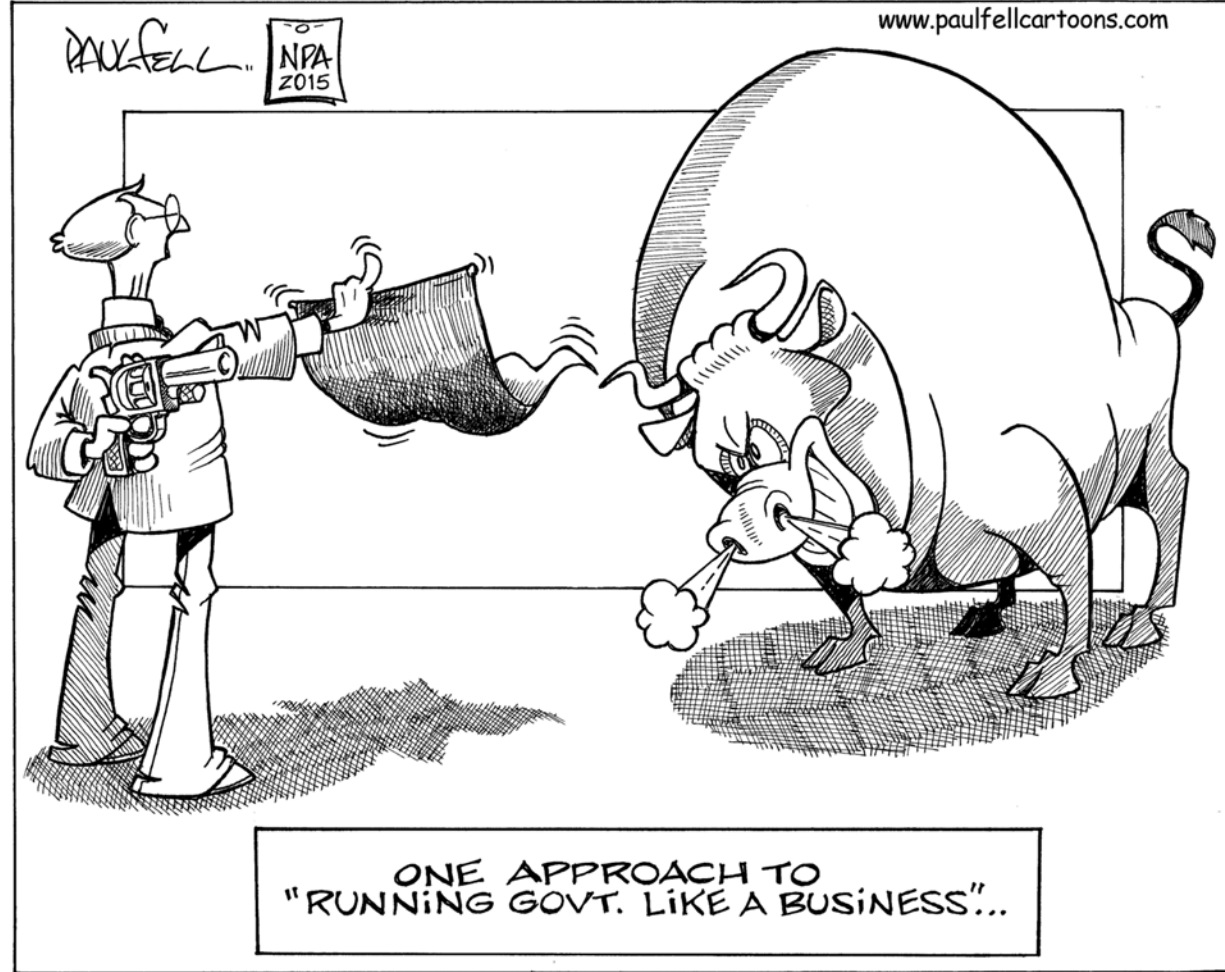
In case we missed it while focusing on the high profile issues ranging from the death penalty to gas tax increases for road projects, I asked a Ricketts' spokesman to list a dozen accomplishments. Here is the list and what, in my opinion, the accomplishments mean.

- Worked with the Legislature to pass \$408 million of property tax relief for the biennium and cut the rate of growth in spending to about 3.5 percent. That's keeping his promise of running government like a business. It came through a bi-partisan effort working with the Appropriations Committee to craft a budget that passed without a single veto. That's a first in some time.

- Improved call wait times at ACCESSNebraska call centers, bringing them below a new target of five minutes for the first time in years. This is a major accomplishment in a government department that has been hampered by a multitude of problems. People deserve a quick response when they are troubled enough to resort to calling.

- Led two international trade missions to introduce the new administration to Nebraska's trade partners and visit with them about growing our trade relationships. Trade missions have always been a favorite of governors. It's an opportunity to tout the state to a new audience - a global audience. That means more than just a good feeling about Nebraska. It can result in contracts that can bring jobs to both the agricultural and industrial sectors.

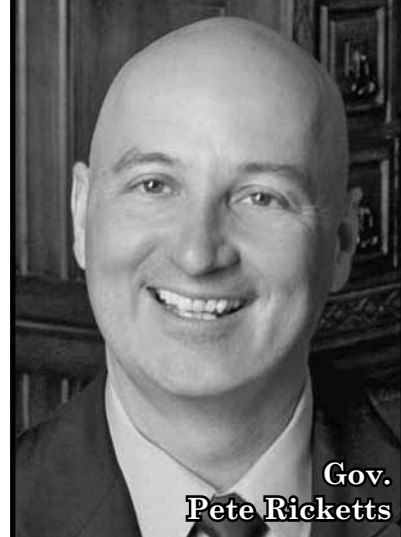
- Launched the Developing Youth Talent Initiative that will expose young Nebraskans to IT and manufacturing careers. This is an essential element for keeping young



## National Guard plays pivotal role in keeping us safe

Since 1854, the Nebraska National Guard has played a pivotal role in helping keep Nebraska safe and secure. Through the years, members of the guard have deployed overseas, supported local law enforcement, and provided disaster relief among many other important duties. For thousands of Nebraskans, the Nebraska National Guard has been a way to serve our state and country either full-time or while building a career in another field.

A couple of weeks ago, I joined Major General Daryl Bohac, Nebraska's adjutant general, to announce the first major realignment of the Nebraska Army National Guard in 20 years. These changes are the beginning of an exciting new era for the Nebraska Army National Guard, and will expand missions led by the guard in Central Nebraska and the Panhandle. The restructuring will create new opportunities for roughly 1,100, or about one in three, Nebraska Army National Guard soldiers located in units in 16 Nebraska communities across the state. This realignment is a part of a much larger national reorganization of the Army National Guard.



Gov. Pete Ricketts

Realigning the National Guard in Nebraska is critical to ensuring that the guard's force meets 21st-century priorities. Over the next three years, the guard will dramatically expand opportunities for Nebraskans seeking to serve in the guard. For example, the guard will add new military police, field maintenance, and distribution units in Central and Western Nebraska. Previously, Nebraskans in these regions only had the option to serve in transportation companies - now, they'll have more choices than ever before. Expanded career opportunities are great not only for recruitment and retention within the guard, but they will also enhance response readiness for state and national emergencies.

This realignment will affect units in Lincoln, Omaha, Beatrice, Columbus, York, Hastings, Kearney, Grand Island, Mead, O'Neill, Broken Bow, North Platte, McCook, Sidney, Scottsbluff, and Chadron. During this realignment, existing armory and readiness centers are expected to remain open. Maj. Gen. Bohac noted at the announcement that the force structure changes give the Nebraska Army National Guard the rare opportunity to reorganize itself to provide greater opportunities for soldiers to receive training, offer improved promotion opportunities closer to home, and better serve the citizens of our state.

As we celebrate the 161st anniversary of the Nebraska National Guard during this holiday season, let's remember the service and continued sacrifice of the many Army and Air Guard members and veterans. During this season, we pray for the safe return of those serving overseas. I also encourage you to take the time to stop and thank the guard's veterans for their service to our state. As always, if you would like to share your thoughts or feedback on this topic or any other, you are welcome to e-mail my office at pete.ricketts@nebraska.gov or call (402) 471-2244.

## Legislative Update

# Dept. of Ed. to look at sex abuse policy

Back in 2012, I had a constituent contact me wanting to me to introduce Erin's Law in Nebraska. Erin's Law is legislation that deals with teaching our students about child sexual abuse in our schools. After researching Erin's Law, I was not convinced that it was the best option for Nebraska and honestly, I was not willing to place another mandate on our schools.

That being said, I did see great value in encouraging our schools

to address this issue. The question was how. In 2013, I introduced LB143, which would have required the Nebraska Department of Education to develop a model policy addressing child sexual abuse. If a school decided to adopt a policy there would be certain things they would have to do in order to comply with the bill. I modeled my bill after a similar bill that had been passed in previous years dealing with dating violence. LB143 never made it



Legislative Update By Dave Bloomfield State Senator, District 17

the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) develop a model policy and make it available to schools wanting or looking for a policy addressing child sexual abuse.

NDE has formed a committee tasked with developing a model policy. I am pleased to announce that this committee started their work this week. My legislative aide is one of several members of this committee and she was very impressed with committee and the work that was done this week. It is our hope that there will be a model policy in place and available for schools to adopt for the 2016 - 2017 school year.

I have taken some heat over this bill for the last three years, but I think that we are making great progress and we will end up having a much better policy available for schools by going this route. It has taken a long time to get to the point that we are at, we are moving forward, and it will not require another law or mandate, we have too many now!

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



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## Wayne City Council Members

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<b>Second Ward</b> Jennifer Sievers — 833-1234 Matt Eischeid — 375-1944	<b>Fourth Ward</b> Jon Haase — 375-3811 Jill Brodersen — 833-5504

**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.*

# Fall 2015 Honor Colloquiums recognized at Wayne State

**Morgan Sullwold** — "A COMPETITIVE LOOK AT GRAPHIC DESIGN Round IP"; **Instructor: Mr. Joshua Piersanti**

Presentation: Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2:30-3:30 pm.; Connell Hall, Room 131

**Autobiography**

Morgan Sullwold is the daughter of Dan and Tammie Preissler of Giltner. She graduated from Giltner High School in 2012. She will graduate in May of 2016 with a bachelor's degree in Graphic Design.

**Sondra Wellington** — "PERFORMING ARTS & THE YOUNG CHILD"; **Instructors: Dr. Pamela Langlie-Willers and Dr. Gwen Jensen.**

Presentation: Tuesday, Dec. 8, 3:30-4 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

**Autobiography**

Sondra Wellington is the daughter of Sandy Popovich of Hull, Iowa. She is an Early Childhood Major and Theater Minor. While at Wayne State College, Sondra has been involved in the following: Alpha Lambda Delta (National Freshman Honor Society), Lambda Pi Eta (Speech/Communication and Theater Honor society), Phi Kappa Phi (National Honor Society), Honors Club, Deans List, Pride Club, Sci Fi Club, Musicals/Plays, Drama

Club, and Cru (Campus Crusade for Christ). Upon graduating in December 2015, she aspires to be a preschool teacher and be an inspiration and role model to her students.

**Brandy Held** — "LIQUID GOLD: WATER IN 21ST CENTURY NEBRASKA"; **Instructor: Dr. Randy Bertolas.**

Presentation: Tuesday, Dec. 8, 4-4:30 pm.; Connell Hall, Room 131

**Autobiography**

Brandy Held is a 1999 graduate of Leigh High School, and a 2001 graduate of The Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis, where she obtained an Associate Degree of Applied Science in Agricultural Production Systems. She is currently majoring in Social Sciences Education at Wayne State College and will graduate in May 2016. Brandy lives on a farm south of Leigh, with her husband, Harlan, and children Kerstyn, Jacob, and Addison. She is the daughter of Gene and Ann Hart of Creston. Brandy's lifelong involvement in agriculture has led her to become increasingly concerned over Nebraska's water supply. This concern has led to her Honors topic, and the goal of educating others about what the future may hold for the state's groundwater supply.

**Jana Punelli** — "THE IMPACT

OF RELIGION ON CULTURAL NORMS INFLUENCING FERTILITY IN GHANA, BURKINA FASO, AND NIGERIA"; **Instructor: Dr. Lesli Rawlings**

Presentation: Tuesday, Dec. 8, 4:30-5 pm.; Connell Hall, Room 131

**Autobiography**

Jana Punelli is the daughter of Robert and Deon Wentzel of Walton, and the wife of Matt Punelli. She is a Geography major with minors in Earth Science and Geospatial Technology. At Wayne State College, Jana serves as the President of the Explorers Club and Gamma Theta Upsilon and the Vice-president of Pi Gamma Mu. She has also worked as a peer tutor and desk worker on campus. Jana will graduate in December and plans to work as a GIS technician.

**Zachary Kunz**—"A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SENSORY INTERPRETATION TECHNOLOGIES IN AUTONOMOUS ROBOTS"; **Instructor: Dr. Lori Nicholson.**

Presentation: Tuesday, Dec. 8, 5-5:30 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

**Autobiography**

Zachary Kunz is the son of Ken and Jan Kunz of Stuart. Zach, a graduate of Stuart High School, is majoring in Computer Science with a minor in Management Informa-

tion System. He will graduate in December of 2015. While attending school at Wayne State College, Zach has been an active member of the ACM Club and the computing honor society, Upsilon Pi Epsilon. He served as Treasurer for ACM, and as Vice President and President for UPE. Zach has been on the Dean's list and currently works for Network and Technology Services on campus. After graduation, Zach would like to find a Software Development or IT Management position.

**Megan Tomasiewicz**—"WAYNE STATE COLLEGE STORIES"; **Instructor: Ms. Maureen Carrigg**

Presentation: Tuesday, Dec. 8, 5:30-6 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

**Autobiography**

Megan Tomasiewicz is the daughter of Michael and Annette Tomasiewicz of Tekamah. Megan, a 2011 graduate of Tekamah-Herman High School, is majoring in Journalism and minoring in Editing and Publishing. She will graduate in December 2015. While at Wayne State College, Megan has been on the Dean's List, worked as both Opinion Editor and Editor-in-Chief of The Wayne Stater, and has received several Golden Leaf Awards from the Nebraska Collegiate Media Association for her work in col-

lege journalism. Upon graduation, Megan plans to pursue a nursing degree from the Nebraska Methodist College in Omaha.

**Lindsey Milburn**—"ARE MEN REALLY FROM MARS AND WOMEN FROM VENUS? GENDER DIFFERENCES IN THE WORKPLACE"; **Instructor: Dr. Randa Garden**

Presentation: Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2:30-3 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

**Autobiography**

Lindsey Milburn is the daughter of Carol Milburn and the late Leonard Milburn of Rushville. Lindsey, a 2012 graduate of Gordon-Rushville High School, is studying Speech Communication, and will graduate in December 2015. While at Wayne State College, Lindsey has served as secretary, then president for My Gamma chapter of Lambda Pi Eta (national communication honor society); a member of the Philomathean President's Honor Society; a Navigator for prospective students; a Know How to Go Ambassador for Education Quest; Certified Peer Educator for the Wayne State Counseling Center; and section leader for the Black and Gold Show Choir. Lindsey traveled to Italy for an aboard tour with the Wayne State music department in the summer

of 2014. She was also a member of the Wildcat public Relations Club; Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society; Honors Club and the Student Activities Board. She also participated in three service-learning projects in her time at Wayne State. Lindsey has presented three research studies for the Central States Communication Association over two years, and was awarded Top Paper Recipient at the University of Nebraska, Omaha Undergraduate Lambda Pi Eta Communication Conference. In the fall of 2016, Lindsey will begin graduate work in the field of Organizational and Political Communication.

**Stephanie Westerhaus**—"EFFECTIVELY UNDERSTANDING AND REACHING STUDENTS WITH AUTISM IN THE MUSIC CLASSROOM"; **Instructor: Dr. Karl Kolbeck.**

Presentation: Wednesday, Dec. 9, 3-3:30 pm.; Connell Hall, Room 131

**Autobiography**

Stephanie Westerhaus is the daughter of Duane and Donna Westerhaus of Plainview. She is a graduate of Plainview High School, majoring in Music Education with a K-12 Vocal and Instrumental endorsement, and will graduate in May of 2016. While at Wayne State College, Stephanie has been involved in the following: Peer Tutor for the Holland Academic Learning Center, Service Committee Chair for Kappa Kappa Psi, National Association for Music Education, Wind Ensemble, Concert Choir, Wildcat Big Band, and Saxophone Quartet. She has been on the Dean's List and inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta. Upon graduation, she will begin her career as a music teacher.

**Brandon Reese** — "DEVELOPMENT OF A PREFERENCE ELICITATION APPLICATION AND ACCOMPANYING USER INTERFACES: A PAIRWISE COMPARISON EXAMPLE."; **Instructor: Dr. Lori Nicholson**

Presentation: Wednesday, Dec. 9, 3:30-4 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

**Autobiography**

Brandon Reese is the son of Mary and Kelly Reese of Fremont. He is a Computer Science major with no minors and is a very outgoing student. Brandon takes part in multiple clubs and organizations, including Student Senate, Student Government, the Philomathean Presidential Honor Society, Upsilon Pi Epsilon (UPE), Honors Club, the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), and Math Club. Mr. Reese has presented research at the Nebraska Economics and Business Association as well as the National Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Chicago, IL. Brandon will graduate after the Fall 2015 semester with his undergraduate in Computer Science and will look for a future career in information technology.

**Brianna Kucera**—"THE EFFECT OF SOCIAL MEDIA ON DEPRESSION IN THE ELDERLY"; **Instructor: Dr. Tammy Evetovich.**

Presentation: Wednesday, Dec. 9, 4-4:30 pm.; Connell Hall, Room 131

**Autobiography**

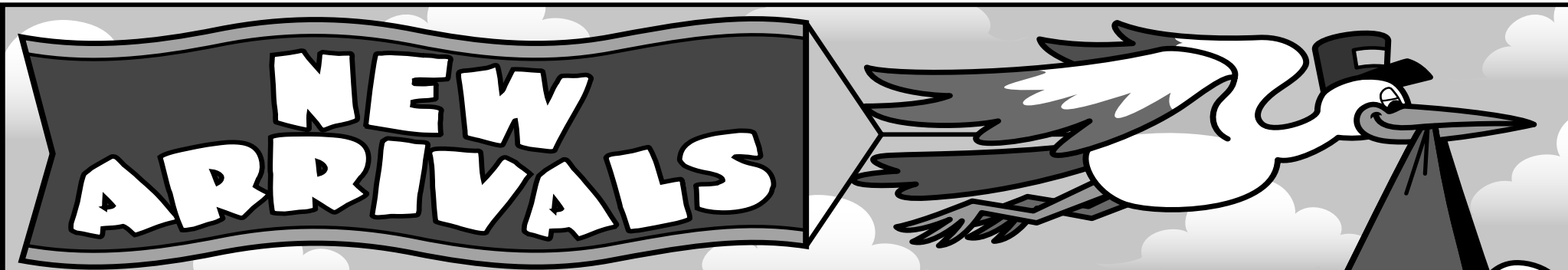
Brianna Kucera is from Cedar Bluffs. She is a double major in Psychology and Counseling. From an early age she discovered that she had a passion for helping people which led me to pursue a career in Human Services. Brianna chose the elderly as the main focus for her research because while working in a nursing home for three years, she saw a lot of loneliness and depression and would love to be able to help with this important issue.

**Matthew Ostry**—"TRACTOR PULLS IN NEBRASKA"; **Instructor: Ms. Maureen Carrigg.**

Presentation: Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015; 4:30-5 p.m.; Connell Hall, Room 131

**Autobiography**

Matthew J. Ostry is the son of Michael and Karen Ostry of Bruno. He is an Electronics Media major with an emphases in Radio Broadcasting. Being from a farming background, Ostry stayed in close contact with all things farm related and relayed anything that was news worthy to the farm listeners of 91.9 FM The Cat college radio station. While attending Wayne State College he had a part time job at KCTY-FM in Wayne, as well as working for farmers in the local area. Matthew took great joy in being a coordinator for his hometown's Q125 celebration in July of 2013, and has been the general coordinator for Bruno's Annual Antique Tractor Pulls since then. He received two \$1,000 scholarships from the Nebraska Broadcaster Association. After graduation he plans to stay close to the family farm and build a recording studio to record his family musical talent shows, as well as work part-time for a local radio station.



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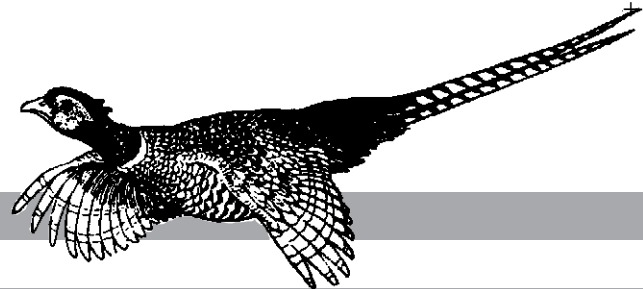
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# Lifestyle

The Wayne Herald



## Extension staff receive Creative Programming Award

A group of Northeast Nebraska Extension staff received the Creative Programming Award for a Team at their Annual Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association Meeting.

The group was recognized for the development and implementation of


the 4-H Summer Reading Connections Program. The program was designed to work in partnership with local libraries through summer reading programs.

The program provided a consistent message across the state that had a direct correlation to Nebraska 4-H through a series of lessons using 4-H curriculum that connected to the summer library theme.

In 2014 the slogan was "Fizz, Boom, Bang, READ!" and the team created a series of lessons that fostered science inquiry and exploration. In 2015 the slogan was "Every Hero Has a Story" and the lessons focused on citizenship and civic engagement.

4-H is uniquely positioned to apply youth development research, through non-formal education and technical assistance, directly from the university to local individuals,

**Cedar County**



**Jackie Steffen**  
Extension Educator

**UNL Extension**

families, and communities. The goals of the program are to provide 4-H youth development opportunities to youth, educational resources to librarians, and to spark an interest in additional 4-H programs. Extension staff reach out to youth where they live and interact to engage them in life skill development through the framework of 4-H and positive youth development.

Reaching a new audience was one of the team's main goals. Over 2,300 youth from 16 counties across the state participated in the Ne-

braska 4-H Summer Reading Connections program over the past two years. Two-thirds of the libraries had never partnered with Nebraska

Extension for youth development programming in the past and 100 percent of the sites plan on participating in following years.



Presenting the Award to the Team were (left) Nebraska Cooperative Extension Association President, Allan Vyhnaek; Extension Educator Ann Fenton; Extension Educator, Jennifer Hansen; Extension Educator, Jennifer Schoen; Extension Educator, Jackie Steffen; Extension Assistant, Sonya Glup; District 4-H Coordinator, Lisa Kaslon and Nebraska Extension Dean, Chuck Hibberd.

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**December 19**

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### Senior Center Congregate Meal Menu

- (Week of Dec. 7-11)
- Meals served daily at noon. For reservations, call 375-1460. Each meal served with bread, 2% milk, skim milk and coffee. All menus subject to change.
- Monday:** Augratin potatoes with cheesy sauce and ham, three bean salad, frozen Prince William vegetables, whole wheat fresh bread, Promise.
- Tuesday:** Swiss steak with gravy, stewed tomatoes and onion, scalloped potatoes, beets, whole wheat fresh bread, Promise, strawberries.
- Wednesday:** Barbecue chicken quarters, red roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables, whole wheat fresh bread, Promise, frozen fruit with yogurt.
- Thursday:** Sliced beef, twice baked potatoes with skins, Key Largo blend, whole wheat dinner roll, Promise, mandarin orange.
- Friday:** Turkey stack, turkey gravy, mashed potatoes with skins, corn, whole wheat fresh bread, Promise, applesauce.

### Wedding Sok, Jensen married in June 27 Norfolk ceremony

Nicole Jean Jensen and Andrew James Sok, both of Norfolk, were married June 27, 2015 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Norfolk. Parents of the couple are Kenneth and Deanna Jensen and Paul and Kim Sok, all of Norfolk. Father Dan Andrews officiated at the ceremony. Music for the ceremony was provided by Danae Henkel and Karl Henkel. Given in marriage by her father, the bride chose an ivory Allure Bridals gown. Page Jensen of Vermillion, S.D. was the Maid of Honor. Bridesmaids were Natasha Jensen, Morgan Jensen and Lara Lanphear, all of Norfolk. They wore tiffany blue David's Bridal gowns. Flower girl was Morgan Sok of Winside. Allie Davis and Brooke Zobnst were personal attendants. Colby Sok of Winside was the ringbearer. Candlelighters were Audrey Paxton of Norfolk and Ashley Thies of Omaha. Mark Hawkins of Norfolk served as Best Man. Groomsmen were Brian Lanphear of Norfolk, Taylor Suehl of Omaha and Kalin Koch of Wayne. Ushers were Nathan Wills of Winside, Jordan Brummels of Winside and Jan Jorgensen of Norfolk. The men wore light gray suits.



Mr. and Mrs. Sok. A reception was held in the Winside auditorium following the ceremony. Host couples were Randy and Connie Wills, Jim and Danetta Jensen and Pat and Marie Daughterty. Rosena Wills and Cindy Wills cut and served cake. Teresa Hansen was the program attendant. Keith Wills and Tom Wills served champagne. The couple took a wedding trip to Jamaica. The bride is a 2008 graduate of Winside High School. She is employed as a registered nurse at Faith Regional in Norfolk. The groom graduated from Winside High School in 2006 and is employed at Vulcraft in Norfolk.


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**Allen News**  
Heidi Keil  
402-841-6237  
heidikeil@nntc.net

**Community Club Calendars**

Although we are a small town, it is surprising how many changes are made in just two years.

The last calendar was printed in 2014 and many new names have been added, while others deleted. Keep up with birthdays, anniversaries, business hours, and meetings by purchasing a 2016 community calendar.

The calendars are available at a cost of \$10 at the gas station, bank, and village office. Need a year-long gift for someone this year? Purchase a 2016 Allen community calendar including birthdays, anniversaries, meetings, church schedules, and business hours.

This project is sponsored by the Allen Community Club. A new year will soon be here, and a new 2016 community calendar with many new names added is available for

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**School Lunch Menu**

**Friday, Dec. 4:** Breakfast — Breakfast pizza. Lunch — Biscuits & gravy, cookie.

**Monday, Dec. 7:** Breakfast — Omelet. Lunch — Cheeseburger macaroni, green beans.

**Tuesday, Dec. 8:** Breakfast — Yogurt. Lunch — Chicken strips, mashed potatoes, gravy, tea roll.

**Wednesday, Dec. 9:** Breakfast — Pop Tart. Lunch — Turkey melt, seasoned fries.

**Thursday, Dec. 10:** Breakfast — Cinnamon Roll. Lunch — Cheese Lasagna roll ups, peas, tea roll.

**Friday, Dec. 11:** Breakfast — French toast. Lunch — Orange chicken, rice, tea roll.

Most breakfast meals include: Choice of cereal or oatmeal. All Breakfast meals include: 8 oz. milk, fruit or fruit juice. All lunch meals include: 8 oz. milk, salad bar. Salad bar may include the following options: Fresh lettuce, fresh spinach, carrots/celery, tomatoes, diced eggs, bean variety, cucumbers, Fruit variety.

**Community Birthdays**

**Friday, Dec. 4:** Shelly Jones, Scott Jorgensen.

**Saturday, Dec. 5:** Kevin Smith, Leroy Koch, Milton & Sharon Boyson (A).

**Sunday, Dec. 6:** Cody Stewart, Adam Hinrichs.

**Monday, Dec. 7:** Joe Hackney, Brian Reinert, Erica Neimann, Gloria Dowling.

**Tuesday, Dec. 8:** Jaime Anderson, Esther Muecke, Doug & Greta Kraemer (A).

**Community Club Calendars**

**Friday, Dec. 4:** Brunch at Senior Center, 8:30 a.m.; Springbank Library hours 8 a.m.-12 p.m.; JV/Varsity Girls/Boys basketball at Wakefield, 4 p.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 5:** Springbank Library hours 8 a.m.-12 p.m.; St. Mary's Catholic Church (Laurel), 6 p.m.; Varsity Girls/Boys basketball vs. Cedar Bluffs, 1 p.m.

**Sunday, Dec. 6:** St. Paul Lutheran Church, 8 a.m.; St. Anne's Catholic Church (Dixon), 8 a.m.; United Lutheran Church, 9 a.m.; First Methodist Church, 9 a.m.; St. Michael's Catholic Church (Coleridge) 10 a.m.

**Monday, Dec. 7:** Exercise Class, Senior Center, 9 a.m.; Quilt Club, Senior Center, 7 p.m.; Dixon County Weed Control Board at Weed Building, 7:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, Dec. 8:** Fire & Rescue, Fire Hall, 7:30 p.m.; Junior Varsity/Varsity Girls at Omaha Nation, 6:15 p.m.

**Wednesday, Dec. 9:** Springbank Library hours 2-6 p.m.; Exercise Class at Senior Center, 9 a.m.

**Thursday, Dec. 10:** Varsity Girls/Varsity Boys at Ewing, 6 p.m.

**Friday, Dec. 11:** Brunch at Senior Center, 8:30 a.m.; Springbank Library Hours 8 a.m.-12 p.m.; Junior Varsity/Varsity Girls/Boys basketball vs. Homer, 4 p.m.

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(Photo by Angie Steffen)

**Inspector General at WSC**

Wayne State College students performing in "The Inspector General" take a bow, from left are: Payton Parks of Omaha; Ashley Murphy of Ainsworth; Hannah Ramsgard of Omaha; Caleb Cohen of Missouri Valley, Iowa; Blake Hughes of Omaha; Ali Mae Wilson of Franklin; Abigail Ramold of Ewing; Hope Pedersen of Norfolk and Pierce; Victoria McNamara of Papillion; Samantha Taylor of Beemer; Aahron Young of St. Louis, Mo.; Benjamin Bjorklund of Wakefield; Trevor McQuay of Magnet and Wausa; H. Jessica Sahagun of Bloomfield; Landon Norquest of York; and Sondra Wellington of Hull, Iowa.

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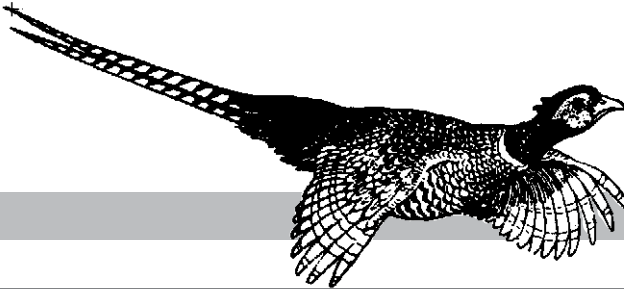
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## The Farmer's Wife Thinking of the Christmas season

I'm having trouble believing that tomorrow is the first day of the last month of this year! Ann decorated the tree yesterday, and it just doesn't seem that long ago that I was taking it down. Well, actually, I don't take it down; I just take the stuff off and have the grandsons take it to the store room and put plastic over it. Very different from the days we had to get it even in the tree stand and keep water in it. And sweep up needles!

We only had a good cupful of turkey left after dinner, so no leftover treats. Kay did forget her Watergate salad, so her Dad is glad of that. Say, why is it named that, anyway? And we have pumpkin bread pudding left, and I have a hard time staying away from that.

Somehow, we avoided icy roads and everyone got here and back safely. It was an unusually late fall, but it seems like winter now. The roof guy came on one of the last warm days and replaced the skylight that had been damaged by the hail. The roof will wait until spring.

The report today is that online sales far out weighed the in-store stuff on Black Friday, and Thursday, and Cyber Monday, which



**The Farmer's Wife**  
By: Pat Meierhenry

started on Black Friday. As a welcome reprieve from all that commercialism, tomorrow, Tuesday, is Giving Day! Seems to me that is far more relational to the season.

I watched the Charley Brown Christmas story for the first time in its entirety tonight; fifty years old and still a classic. The articles about it in the paper marveled at its staying power without ever hitting the big reason; the fact that Linus tells the original Christmas story and then says to Charley

Brown, "That's what Christmas is all about." Interesting to see the writers skirt around that subject.

I plan to read some seasonal stories yet this month, but a friend loaned me *Eighty One Seconds*, by LaRayne Topp, and I'm finding it fascinating. Plus, I'm learning that LaRayne is a very good writer. She has interviewed almost everyone affected by last year's tornado and uses some great adjectives for description. Even though I read every article about the damage, there were a lot of areas hit that never made the news because of the enormity of the damage to Pilger alone.

I loved that Pastor Makelin, who apparently serves the Altona church, also, told the congregation not to be too proud to accept help. "The Good Lord will provide, but we don't get to choose how He does it." And He did send many, many angels to help, and to give, and to pray.

That brings me back to the "reason for the season." He gave us so much, and there is so much need around us, it's imperative that we share during this Holy time. I hope you took advantage of National Giving Day! Happy Advent!

## Applications being accepted for Pork Program

The Nebraska Pork Producers Association believes in, and is committed to helping develop agricultural leaders. Anyone who is connected to agriculture and who believes in the future of the pork industry, is encouraged to apply for the Pork Leadership Program.

Interested participants may apply for this opportunity online by visiting the youth tab on [www.nepork.org](http://www.nepork.org), or request an application by emailing [kyla@nepork.org](mailto:kyla@nepork.org). Applications are due Jan. 15, 2016.

The Pork Leadership Program serves as a resource for talented people who want to contribute to the future of Nebraska's pork industry. The Pork Leadership Program will build awareness, interest, and involvement in the pork industry at the state level. Program participants will develop their skills as leaders and will naturally emerge as the next wave of active and engaged members of committees and board of directors.

The year-long program runs from February to February. During that time, the Pork Leadership Program participants will participate in six meetings and activities where they will learn about various aspects of the pork and agriculture industries and will also promote Nebraska's pork industry. Program participants will not be responsible for any expenses to participate in the program.

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## Holiday tree, plant tips are shared

Here is some information from Kelly Feehan on some holiday tree/plant tips.

To keep Christmas trees fresh and avoid drying, buy a fresh tree and don't let the basin run out of water. Use at least a one gallon capacity tree stand and keep the stand filled with water. If the water drops below the base of the cut trunk, a seal of dried sap will form over the stump in four to six hours; preventing the tree from absorbing water even after the tree stand is refilled. If a seal does form, the tree can be taken out of the stand and a fresh cut made; or one-half inch deep holes can be drilled into the trunk one-half inch apart; which might allow the tree to begin absorbing water again. Sounds like a lot of work; so be diligent and don't let tree stands dry out. We often hear about adding something to water, like sugar or a commercial product, to help keep Christmas trees fresh. Research shows additives are not beneficial. Plain tap water will keep trees fresh as long as they can take



**Ag Happenings**  
Keith Jarvi  
Extension Educator

up water. Cutting holiday greenery from your own landscape can help ensure freshness. Pine, fir and cedar are good to use for indoor decoration. They dry out slowly and hold their needles best at warm indoor

temperatures. For safety, be aware the red berries of Japanese Yew are poisonous, as are the green needles. Avoid the use of this greenery or be sure to keep Yew greenery out of reach of children and pets, and do not discard it where cattle or horses might eat it. Cutting greenery is pruning so use clean, sharp tools and well placed, evenly distributed cuts. This is not the ideal time to prune, so don't harvest too much greenery. Keep greenery in a cool location out of sunlight with the cut ends in water until ready to use. Crush the ends of woody stems to allow cuttings to take in more water. Immerse greenery in water overnight just before arranging. This will allow it to absorb moisture and remain fresh longer.

Potted chrysanthemums are a popular flowering holiday plant; especially at Thanksgiving. Potted mums bloom for up to one month when given proper indoor care. Place a mum in a window where it receives bright light but no direct sun. Check each day to make

sure the soil is moist. Do not allow the mum to wilt, but do not let the pot sit in water. Keep the plant at temperatures between 60 and 65 degrees Fahrenheit at night. Daytime temperatures can be 10 to 15 degrees higher. Chrysanthemum varieties used for flowering potted gift plants are usually not suitable for planting outdoors in Nebraska. However, if you would like to save a mum to try in an outdoor garden; then check to see if there is more than one plant in the container. If so, separate the plants and plant one per six inch pot; then provide it with adequate water and cool temperatures, around 60 degrees, throughout winter and early spring.

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## Test before feeding corn stalk bales

Corn stalk bales will provide much needed feed this winter for many producers. If you're one of them, be sure to feed them effectively. Baled corn stalks are going to provide a lot of feed this winter. But before you feed those bales, find out what they have to offer nutritionally. Sample and test your bales as soon as possible so when snow gets deep or other feeds run out, you will already know how to best feed your corn stalk bales. Begin by testing the bales for protein and energy. You may be surprised at how variable the protein and energy content can be in corn

stalk bales. I've seen protein as low as three percent and as high as seven percent. Dry pregnant cows need seven to eight percent protein in their diet so high protein bales will need only a little protein to adequately care for the cows. But those three percent bales will need quite a bit of supplement to keep cows in good condition.

Use a protein supplement that is nearly all natural and is mostly rumen degradable. Maintenance-level forage diets need degradable protein for the rumen microbes, but remember that urea and other non-protein nitrogen sources aren't used as well.

Many bales have pretty good TDN levels, nearly 60 percent. Cows fed these bales should do very well up until calving with just corn stalk bales and adequate protein supplement. However, stalks rained on before baling can be below 50 percent TDN. Cows fed these lower quality bales will need some extra energy, too. If your bales came from stressed stalks, like from drought or hail, also get a nitrate test to be sure they are safe.

Good testing of corn stalk bales can help make them a nutritious and safe feed. **SOURCE: Bruce Anderson, UNL Forage Specialist.**

[CROPINSURANCESPECIALISTS.com](http://CROPINSURANCESPECIALISTS.com)

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

**HELP WANTED:** Counterman with possibility of outside sales. Must have automotive knowledge. Pick up application at NAPA in Wakefield.  
**WANTED: FULL-TIME** employee for farm work. Must have CDL. Wayne and Pierce area. Ph. 402-360-0080 or 402-640-0408.

**The Nebraska Department of Roads is currently accepting applications for an Automotive/ Diesel Mechanic in Wayne, NE.**  
For a full job description or to apply, visit [www.statejobs.nebraska.gov](http://www.statejobs.nebraska.gov)  
An on-line State application must be completed on or before the closing date of December 16, 2015. Notify Nebraska State Personnel at 402-471-2075 if you need accommodation in the selection process.  
The State of Nebraska is an Equal Opportunity/Veteran's Preference Employer.

**~ HELP WANTED ~**  
**Part Time Med Aide**  
Contact Misty to apply - 402-375-1922  
811 East 14th Street  
Wayne, NE 402-375-1922  
**COUNTRY VIEW ASSISTED LIVING**

We are looking for one or two special people to become school bus drivers in Wayne School District. We will train you & prepare you for this adventure with children. Class B CDL and DOT Physical is required. We will pay all of your expenses & see you through with training and provide the necessary equipment to acquire your license. You will also receive a signing bonus after your first quarter!  
Please call Mid States School Bus for an appointment & discussion to see where you may fit into this exciting adventure! Call: 402-375-2887  
**Mid States SCHOOL BUS INC.**  
We Transport Your Future

**NOTICE OF VACANCY**  
**SENIOR CENTER KITCHEN COORDINATOR/ ACTIVITIES ASSISTANT**  
**CITY OF WAYNE**  
The City of Wayne is accepting applications for the position of a Senior Center Kitchen Coordinator/Activities Assistant. This is a part-time position (20 - 24 hours per week). Wage rate is \$8.00 - \$10.80 per hour, depending upon qualifications and experience. High school diploma or higher, with communication and computer skills, are required. Application and job description are available by writing or phoning the Wayne Senior Center at 402/375-1460. Completed application, resumé, and letter of interest due by 5:00 p.m., Friday, December 11, 2015, to the Wayne Senior Center, 410 Pearl Street, Wayne, Nebraska, 68787.  
City of Wayne is EEO/AEE

**Great Dane OFFICE CLERK**  
Great Dane Trailers of Nebraska is seeking a full time office clerk in our Sales Engineering Department. Office hours would be 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday - Friday. Personal Computer and Microsoft Excel experience is required. Benefits include medical, dental, vision insurance, company matched 401k, pension plan, paid vacation, holidays, and much more.  
Interested individuals should apply at the Wayne Plant  
**Great Dane Trailers**  
1200 Centennial Road, Wayne, NE 68787  
A Division of Great Dane Limited Partnership — EOE  
ISO 9001:2008 Registered Plant

Are you picturing a **NEW CAREER?**  
We can help.  
**Aventure**  
Immediate openings for:  
• Trailer Builder • QA/QC  
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EOE/AA - Drug Screen or Background Check may be required.  
Call or Apply Online Today!  
402.833.5020 www.aventure.com  
301 Main Street, Wayne (also located in Norfolk & Sioux City)

**Employment Opportunities** **Wayne State College**  
WSC is accepting applications for the following positions. WSC offers a competitive salary and an excellent benefits package including health insurance, retirement, tuition assistance (employee/family), paid leave time, and paid holidays.  
Accounting Clerk III  
IT Technician  
Custodian  
Office Assistant II - Human Resources  
For a complete listing of job requirements and application procedures, visit our Website at [www.wsc.edu/hr](http://www.wsc.edu/hr), call 402-375-7365 or email [hr@wsc.edu](mailto:hr@wsc.edu). WSC is an EOE.

**— HELP WANTED —**  
**Director Of Nursing Charge Nurse, part time**  
**CNAs, all shifts**  
**HILLCREST CARE CENTER & ASSISTED LIVING**  
702 Cedar Ave. • Laurel, NE • 402-256-3961

**RN/LPN**  
Every 3rd Weekend / Holiday  
**CNA/CMA**  
Every other weekend/Holiday  
\$1500 sign on Bonus FT • \$750 sign on Bonus PT  
Full benefit package includes Health, Dental, Vision 401K  
License Renewal for professionals  
Student Loan Reimbursement for New Graduates  
Contact: Jean Gall DON for more information  
402-337-0444 or email at [jgall@ensigngroup.net](mailto:jgall@ensigngroup.net)  
**Colonial Manor of Randolph**  
811 South Main Street • Randolph, NE 68771  
402-337-0444  
EOE

**— HELP WANTED —**  
**RN/LPN Full Time Evenings & Part Time Nights**  
**CNA All Shifts**  
Apply in person at:  
**WAKEFIELD HEALTH CARE CENTER**  
306 Ash Street • Wakefield, NE 68784  
Phone: 402-287-2244 EOE

CALL TODAY!  
**join our team**  
WE'RE HIRING!  
ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW LOOKING FOR A NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITY? WE ARE WANTING TO EXPAND OUR TEAM AND ARE LOOKING FOR QUALIFIED APPLICANTS!  
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

**CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE**  
Full-Time | ALLEN, NE  
SNAPSHOT: Duties include teller functions, opening new accounts, and general bookkeeping functions. Candidates must be proficient with computer skills and possess excellent communication skills.  
DESIRED SKILLS OR EXPERIENCE: Associates Degree, Degree in related fields, or equivalent work experience preferred but not required.  
BENEFITS: Competitive wage and benefits package.  
CONTACT: SUSAN KORANDA AT 888.256.3247 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS POSITION!

**NorthStar Services in Wayne** has a Part-Time Direct Support Staff position available at the Day Service Program.  
The hours are Mondays-Fridays between 8:00am-3:30pm with a ½ hour lunch. Position will be opened until filled.  
We are looking for dependable, self-motivated, organized persons with the ability to positively interact with persons with disabilities. All applicants must be 18 years of age, have a valid driver's license, the ability to lift 45 lbs., possess a high school diploma or GED, and be able to read, write and comprehend the English language.  
Applicants should have good interpersonal skills and the ability to work with a wide variety of people. Starting wage is \$10.25 per hour with a wage increase to \$10.50 after 180 days and completion of a paid training program.  
Applicants are REQUIRED to attend job training, most of which are day hours (example: 8:30am-4:30pm but, 2 of the trainings are evening hours 5pm-9pm.)  
Interested parties should pick up an application to apply at: NorthStar Services, 209 S. Main Street, Wayne, NE 68787  
ATTENTION: VERN ON APPLICATION

APPLY TODAY ONLINE at: [www.Heritage-Emerson.com](http://www.Heritage-Emerson.com)  
**Heritage of EMERSON**  
**Dietary Manager** (D.Mgr Education Paid by Facility)  
**RN - Nursing Assistants**  
Mileage Reimbursement  
Excellent Benefits Package - 2016 Health Insurance Premiums Reduced for Team Members  
Located just minutes from:  
•Wayne - 20 min.  
•Wakefield - 10 min.  
•Pender - 12 min.  
•S. Sioux City, NE - 25 min.  
•Sioux City, IA - 30 min  
•Allen - 20 min.  
•Ponca - 30 min.  
Check our website for details & other job opportunities  
607 Nebraska Street • Emerson, NE 68733  
Phone: (402) 695-2683  
[heritageofemerson@vhsml.com](mailto:heritageofemerson@vhsml.com)  
A Proud Member of the Vetter Health Services Family  
Check us out at: [www.mywaynenews.com](http://www.mywaynenews.com)

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NorthStar Services  
209 1/2 South Main Street,  
Wayne, NE 68787



