

IDEA Grant funds distributed

The IDEA (Inspiring Development through Educational Achievement) Project is a classroom grant program that provides an opportunity for Wayne Community Schools faculty and staff to receive a grant through an application process. The Foundation encourages faculty and staff to apply for projects, materials, and/or programs that will be used directly by students. The IDEA Project is a great way to inspire educational excellence and enhance learning within the classroom.

Those receiving grant funds for the 2015-16 school year and the way the funds were used are as follows:

First Grade Team: Leveled Reading Books/Library in Language Arts for Differentiated Learning.

The first grade team utilized the grant money to create a Library organized into leveled reading to meet the needs of their first graders.

"Through this grant we were able to purchase a variety of books at different reading levels and organize them into a Leveled Library. This has provided our students with the opportunity to read successfully at their reading level and choose books that are interesting to them," said Mrs. Ostrand, a first grade teacher.

Mr. Wieland: Zoom into Music

The grant was used to purchase two music recorders to be used for reflection and learning during individual and group instruction and lessons.

"The Zoom H4n Handy Recorder has helped out the band throughout the year. It is now possible to easily produce high quality recording for honor band auditions, scholarships, and as a tool for the band room. We often record ourselves and fill out a listening reflection sheet to improve our playing," Mr. Wieland said.

Mr. Cantrell: What is my car trying to tell me?

Mr. Cantrell used his grant to purchase a diagnostic instrument to troubleshoot vehicle problems. It is a hands-on instrument that students are able to utilize.

"Students enjoy being able to diagnose their own vehicles and determine if they are able to fix the problem or not. The chassis ear diagnostic tool has allowed me to isolate engine noises to the whole class at the same time, instead of each student having to share a stetho-

scope," Mr. Cantrell said.

Mrs. Wendte: Igniting a Passion for Reading

Mrs. Wendte used her grant to purchase books to enhance her classroom library.

"Through the IDEA grant, I was able to greatly increase my classroom library. I ordered books from a variety of genres and reading levels which has made it much easier for me to help my students find good-fit books. My students have been more excited about their independent reading, and I've loved hearing them tell each other about the books that they're reading. I was also able to purchase instructional read aloud books that have helped me introduce new concepts in an engaging way. My third graders love having picture books read aloud to them, so it's a great opportunity to explain and provide examples of new content that might otherwise be difficult to understand," Mrs. Wendte said.

Grant recipients for the 2016-2017 include:

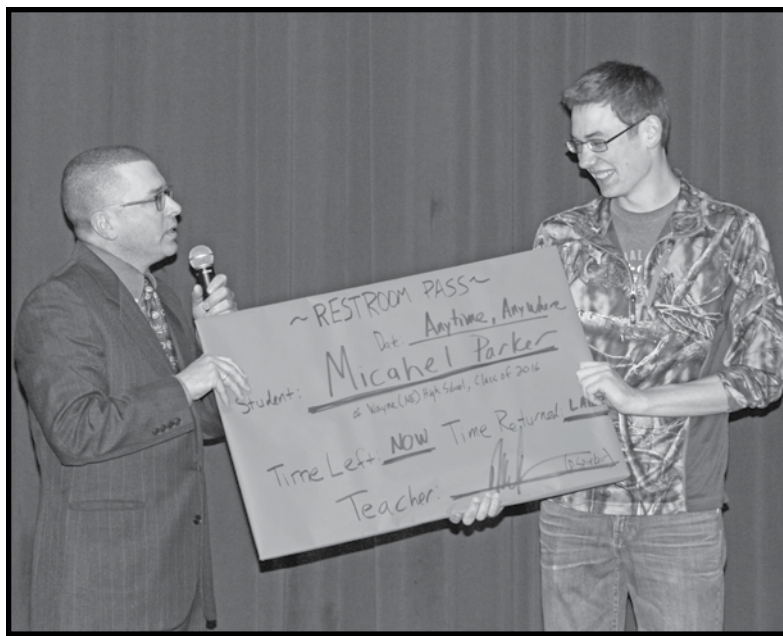
Mrs. Schardt: Bon Appetit! Hospitality and Tourism Career Readiness;

Mrs. Brink and Mr. Hochstein: Advancing High Achievers;

Fourth Grade Team: Igniting our Nonfiction Addiction; and

Mrs. Lilienkamp: Imagine Learning English Technology.

"The Wayne Community Schools Foundation would like to thank Pac 'N Save, Herman Chiropractic and Ameritas for partnering with us to help fund these classroom grants. It is with the help of our corporate matching donors, we are able to provide support to our teachers and staff for educational enhancements within their classrooms. We are very grateful for the passion of these partners for education and supporting the students of Wayne community," Dr. Lindsay McLaughlin, Foundation director, said. "We would also like to thank our selection committee which volunteers their time to review all the applications and provide insightful discussion throughout the selection process. We truly appreciate their support as well."



(Photo by Michael Carnes)

Grad gift?

Dwaine Spieker, senior class sponsor and English teacher at Wayne High School, presents Micahel Parker his own restroom pass to use after he graduates from Wayne High School. The Class of 2016 were guests at last Friday's Chamber Coffee, held in Haun Lecture Hall at Wayne Junior-Senior High School.

PMC named among top 100 critical access hospitals in U.S.

Providence Medical Center in Wayne was recently named one of iVantage Health Analytics' Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals (CAHs) in the United States.

"Providence Medical Center is proud of the efforts of our physicians and staff who have contributed to our achieving this designation," said Jim Frank, CEO.

Providence Medical Center scored in the top 100 of Critical Access Hospitals on iVantage's Hospital Strength INDEX®. The INDEX is the industry's most comprehensive rating of rural and Critical Access Hospitals. The results recognize that the Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals provide a safety net to communities across rural America - measuring them across more than 70 different performance metrics, including quality, outcomes, patient perspective, affordability, population risk and efficiency.

"Rural healthcare deserves the same performance analysis as all provider performance. It plays a vital role for communities across America, serving more than 60 million people. The services provided in rural America are similar to those needed in any major metropolitan area, yet the volumes and economic

PMC conducting survey on area medical needs

In an effort to better determine the healthcare needs of the hospital service area, Providence Medical Center is conducting an area-wide needs assessment.

According to Providence Medical Center CEO Jim Frank, this survey "focuses on the challenges and issues facing households in our community as well as the strengths. We want to know what people are thinking and feeling."

The survey takes an average of 3-5 minutes to complete and all responses are anonymous and people cannot be identified.

The survey consists of 27 questions to obtain opinions of various needs and problems regarding healthcare. The completed assess-

ment will determine the health needs of the area-wide community and from that information an implementation plan to meet those needs will be created.

Once the survey is completed and tabulated, Providence Medical Center will publicize the results. All area residents 18 years and older are encouraged to participate in the survey to assist Providence Medical Center in planning for a healthier tomorrow.

To participate in the on-line survey in English, go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/QKYBN5S.

To participate in the on-line survey in Spanish, go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/PNCPBF5.

resources provide little economies of scale, making for little benefit from scale. These top 100 Critical Access Hospitals exhibit a focused concern for their community benefits and needs, regardless of scale, reimbursement and people's ability to

pay," said Michael Topchik, senior vice president of iVantage Health Analytics.

The list of the top 100 Critical Access Hospitals and more information about the study can be found at www.iVantageINDEX.com.



(clockwise from top left) first graders Alexa Chavez, Dylan Jensen and Jaxon Chase chose books; Brayden Woehler, Ashlynn Parker, Ty Zach and Kingston Hanson enjoy reading new books; Noah Braun (second from left) explains the new device to Logan Milligan, Ty Grone, Seth Hochstein and Daniel Greenwald; Claire Barnes uses the new equipment.

School Board

From Page 1A

The new policy will include a \$250 raise in deductible, but employees eligible for insurance through the district will be reimbursed this amount. Board members did note concerns about the fact that nearly 10 percent of the general fund budget goes toward insurance, and changes may have to be made in the future.

Bids for gym doors for the junior-senior high school, high school So-

cial Studies textbooks and a kindergarten assessment program were accepted.

In other action, the board listened to a report from Lenihan on the upcoming year's budget. He said preliminary numbers for expenses show less than a one percent increase.

Lenihan also told board members that an AdvancED report came back very positive and the district has responded to areas that had

been identified as areas of concern.

Reports were given by each of the administrators and included information on the upcoming graduation ceremonies, the recently held Spring Sprints, Bike to School Day and the first year of the Early Learning Center.

The Wayne Community Schools Board of Education will next meet in regular session on Monday, June 13 at 5 p.m. in the junior-senior high school library.

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EDITOR'S RATING: 9/10
androidauthority.com (1.10.2016)

Providence Medical Center

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All is But a Beginning

Inauguration of Wayne State College's 13th President – Dr. Marysz Rames



Wayne State College President Dr. Marysz Rames was inaugurated as the school's 13th president in its 106-year history during ceremonies Friday, April 29 at Wayne State College.



Dr. Marysz Rames is greeted as she walks down the aisle in Ramsey Theatre during the start of ceremonies of her inauguration as the 13th Wayne State College President.

While her time at Wayne State College actually began last summer, Dr. Marysz Rames' speech, "All Is But A Beginning" highlighted her inauguration as the 13th President of Wayne State College on Friday, April 29.

Dr. Rames was hired by the Nebraska State College System on May 6, 2015, succeeding Curt Frye, who retired after more than 30 years of service to Wayne State College. Rames came to Wayne State from Dakota State University, where she had served the previous school year as an interim president.

Dr. Rames' career in education started soon after her graduation from University of Northern Colorado. She started at the University of Wyoming, moved back to Colorado to serve as activities coordinator at Ames Community College, then found an opportunity at South Dakota State soon after completing her Master's degree.

Dr. Rames served as assistant director of the union, and later as director, at South Dakota State University before moving up to serve as vice president for student affairs, a position she held for 14 years before taking over at Dakota State University.

Dr. Rames and her husband of 28 years, Steven, have two children – Matthew, a college student in Missouri; and Jessica, a college student in Minnesota.



Nebraska State College System Chancellor Stan Carpenter greets those in attendance as Dr. Marysz Rames' inauguration ceremony gets under way at Ramsey Theatre.



Dr. Maggie Owens directs Wayne State College students in a musical tribute to Dr. Marysz Rames during her Inauguration.



"I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as the President of Wayne State College," Dr. Marysz Rames said upon the announcement of her selection as the 13th President of WSC. "Wayne State College has an excellent reputation of being a student-centered institution committed to providing a quality and affordable educational experience that focuses on student success and regional service. This educational mission fits well with my steadfast commitment to ensuring that higher education not only remains accessible but also provides students with a quality educational experience."



Dr. Marysz Rames introduces Willy Wildcat to her visiting guests of all ages. Willy is proud to give a high five to family of Dr. Rames at WSC for her Inauguration.



John Dunning lights a lamp during a theatrical presentation depicting James Pile and John Neihardt and the earliest days of Wayne State College in honor of Dr. Marysz Rames during the Inauguration meal.



Dr. Marysz P. Rames (right) Wayne State College President, is congratulated by Allison Backer of Randolph during a student event for the Inauguration of Dr. Marysz Rames.



Steve Elliot, Vice President for Academic Affairs at Wayne State College, talks with Dr. Marysz Rames (center) and Dr. Joshua Calkin, Instructor of Low Brass and Assistant Director of Bands at Wayne State College, before Calkin directed student musicians in a tribute to Dr. Rames during the student event for Inauguration the day before her official ceremony.

Pictures courtesy of
Angela Steffen and Amanda Broberg/Wayne State College
and by Michael Carnes/Wayne Herald

Congratulations

Dr. Rames
Wayne State College's 13th President

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Dr. Marysz Rames welcomed guests with a meal and program in the Kanter Student Center following her Inauguration, April 29. Rames assumed the Wayne State College presidency in July.

Dr. Marysz Rames and her husband, Steven (pictured at left), welcomed students at an Inauguration event in the Kanter Student Center, April 28.



Dr. David Bohnert leads Wayne State College student musicians during a performance during Inauguration, April 29.



Inauguration guests gather outside Ramsey Theatre in Peterson Fine Arts Building after the ceremony.



These businesses would like to congratulate Dr. Rames on her Inauguration

- | | |
|--|--|
| Glen's Auto Body & Sales | U Save Pharmacy |
| McDonalds | Wayne Auto Parts –  |
| Farmers State Bank, member FDIC | Carquest |
| Sharp Construction | American Broadband |
| Gill Hauling, Inc. | First National - |
| Vel's Bakery | Omaha Service Center |
| Tom's Body & Paint Shop, Inc. | Pizza Hut |
| Wayne East – Prime Stop | Wayne Community Activity Center |
| Pieper & Knutson Law Office | IPI |
| Bailey's Hair & Nails | The Max |
| Brookdale Wayne - | BankFirst, member FDIC |
| Senior Living Solutions | Discount Furniture |
| Tom Hansen, CPA | Wayne Vision Center |
| Wayne Area | Fredrickson Oil |
| Economic Development  | State Nebraska Bank & Trust Co., member FDIC |
| Chamber — Main Street | Helena Chemical Company |
| Burrows Family Dentistry | Elkhorn Valley Insurance Agency |
| Grossenburg Implement, Inc. | White Dog Pub |
| State National Insurance Agency | Law Offices of Amy K. Miller, PC, LLO |
| Quality Food Center | JB Mart |
| Doescher Appliance | Wayne Herald & morning shopper |
| Stadium Sports | |
| Gerhold Concrete | |
| Runza | |

All is but a Beginning...

Thank you for celebrating with us as we embark upon this new beginning.

Congratulations, Dr. Marysz P. Rames, on your inauguration as the 13th president of Wayne State College.



Wayne State Women's Rugby Team Claims National Title



The 2016 NSCRO 7-on-7 National Champions from Wayne State College: (front) coach Darrin Barner, Amy Oates, Alex Feeley, Kelcey Stutzman, Hannah Meyer, Jasmine Kovacs, Faith Sorensen, Turner MacPhee, Nancy Escobar, Charlotte Caniglia, Faith Schultz, assistant coach Dennis Danielson, (back) Maryssa Schleis, Sam Warneke, Rebecca Hagemann, Annabelle Eades, Laura Bergeron, Shelbi Brown, Haley Becker, Katie Kirkpatrick, Kelsa Mills, Leanna Rosberg, and assistant coach Jonathan DeRocha. Not pictured are Jak Blackman-Leffler, Megan Fielder, Alyssa Fisher, Holli Gist, Alex Gorden, Ashley Kollbaum, Jessi Lange, Gaby Linares, Celeste Maria, Kate Nelson, Jennii Nguyen, Olivia Schneiders, Bethlehem Thok, Nita Valdez, Janda Verdin and and Hannah White.

These businesses would like to congratulate the Rugby Teams

Glen's Auto Body & Sales
 McDonalds
 Farmers State Bank, member FDIC
 Sharp Construction
 Gill Hauling, Inc.
 Vel's Bakery
 Tom's Body & Paint Shop, Inc.
 Wayne East - Prime Stop
 Pieper & Knutson Law Office
 Bailey's Hair & Nails
 Brookdale Wayne - Senior Living Solutions
 Tom Hansen, CPA
 Wayne Area Economic Development Chamber
 Main Street Burrows Family Dentistry
 Northeast Nebraska Insurance
 Grossenburg Implement, Inc.
 State National Insurance Agency
 Quality Food Center
 Doescher Appliance
 Stadium Sports
 Gerhold Concrete Runza
 U Save Pharmacy
 Wayne Auto Parts - Carquest
 American Broadband
 Elkhorn Valley Bank, member FDIC
 First National - Omaha Service Center
 Pizza Hut
 Wayne Community Activity Center


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Good work this season ladies!

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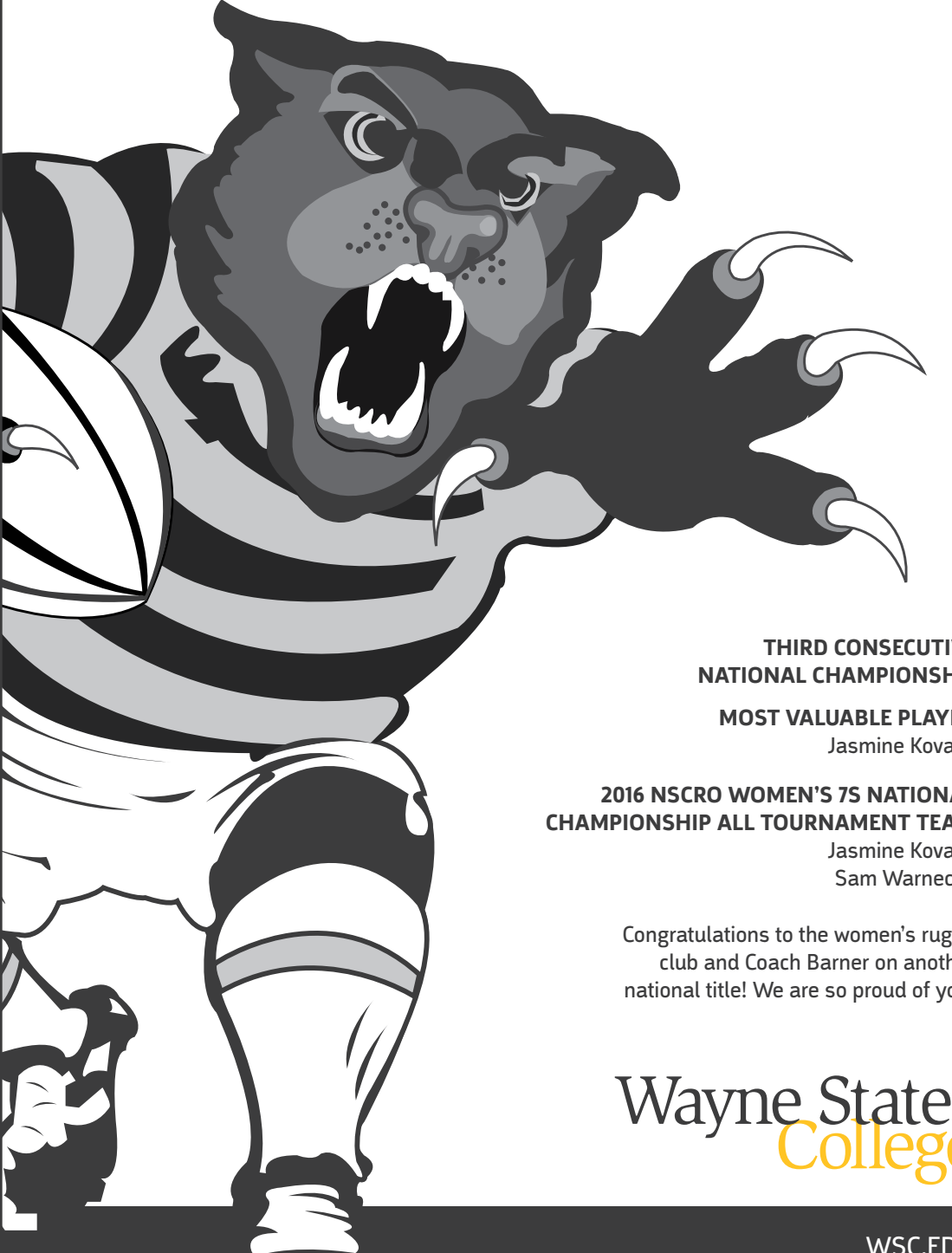
Congratulations to the Wildcats Women's Rugby Team!

 Great Dane


Great Job Wayne State Womens Rugby Team!

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CONGRATS WILDCAT RUGGERS!
 2016 NSCRO WOMEN'S 7S NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



THIRD CONSECUTIVE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
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 2016 NSCRO WOMEN'S 7S NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP ALL TOURNAMENT TEAM
 Jasmine Kovacs
 Sam Warnecke
 Congratulations to the women's rugby club and Coach Barner on another national title! We are so proud of you!

Wayne State College
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Graduation Day at Wayne State



Trevor Randall Reeves of Colorado City, Colo. acknowledges cheers from his friends during the Wayne State College commencement ceremony. Reeves earned a master's degree in sport and recreation management.



Father's wish fulfilled

It wasn't Father's Day weekend, but Chauntell Geary of Sioux City, Iowa paid tribute to her father, who passed away from pancreatic cancer two years ago, during graduation ceremonies at Wayne State College. Geary decorated her hat (below) with four images of her father to share with everyone during the May 7 commencement ceremony. Geary said she fulfilled a promise to her father, Kurt Geary. She returned to Wayne State College after her father's death to finish her master's degree, as she and her father had planned while he was in hospice. She said the professors in her classes helped her "stay in the moment" to do the work required to finish and fulfill her father's dream for her. Geary earned a degree in master's degree in counseling.



Photos by Angie Steffen



His future is so bright, he's gotta wear shades. Jacob Zeiss of Wayne is all smiles as he graduated with a degree in elementary education with a minor in coaching



Brittney Peterson of Wayne is all smiles after receiving her bachelor's degree in Life Sciences Biology with a Spanish minor.



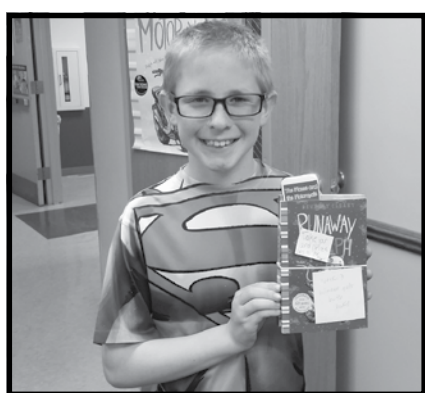
Tanya Victoria Arzola of Omaha graduated with a bachelor of arts in Spanish with a minor in foods and nutrition from Wayne State College. She is congratulated by Dr. Marysz Rames.



(Photo by Clara Osten)

Cool igloo at school

Building an igloo involves lots of time, the use of math skills and lots and lots of milk jugs. Second graders in Mr. Jaixen's class started collecting milk jugs in January and this year's igloo turned out to be the largest ever - with at least 1,211 milk jugs. This year's project involved estimating, multiplying and starting over after building issues delayed the project.



One School, One Book program

During April, students at Wayne Elementary took part in the One School, One Book program and were encouraged to read "The Mouse and the Motorcycle" by Beverly S. Cleary. Families and children were encouraged to read at home and a variety of activities took place at school. Wayne Education Boosters (WEB) sponsored a raffle in which all students were encouraged to answer daily trivia questions. Each correct answer was entered into a raffle. Winners include Tyler Parker (right) Kyla Krusemark (above) and Eli Barner (top right). Community sponsors for the event included Ameritas, Dairy Queen, Hasemann Funeral Homes, Innovative Protectives, Quality Foods, Rath, Walling & Associates, Rustic Treasures, State Nebraska Bank & Trust, Swans Apparel, Swans Clothing, T&S Trucking, The Diamond Center/Flowers & Wine, The Max, Tom Hansen CPA, WEB and Wilma Moore.



Winside youth to take part in Junior Law Cadet program

The Nebraska State Patrol Training Academy in Grand Island will be home to two Winside Public School juniors - Mackenzi Edwards and Sean Mann. Each have been chosen to attend their respective sessions in Grand Island.

Each year, four high school juniors from the 14 Legion Districts are chosen to participate in the Junior Law Cadet Program. This program is a joint effort between The American Legion and the Nebraska State Patrol.

Basic requirements for the program include, but are not limited to, students must be in good health and able to participate in physical activities; possess a positive attitude and display respect for law enforcement; good grooming, average or above scholastic record and able to share the knowledge gained through the program with others; possess a valid Nebraska operator's license or learner's permit; reside in the State of Nebraska; and must have attended an accredited Nebraska High School for the 2015-2016 school year.

Additionally, in District 3 the students must complete an individual interview with law enforcement officers and members of The American Legion. This year there were seven students interviewed and all seven will represent District 3 at the 2016 Junior Law Cadet Program. District 3 is comprised of Burt, Cedar, Cuming, Dakota, Dixon, Thurston and Wayne counties.

On the local Legion Post level, the process begins with students being selected by Legionnaires based

on competitive evaluation; namely, interest in the program, citizenship, evidence of self-discipline, and ability to share their knowledge with others.

What do these students get to do and learn at this program? To name just a few, drive a State Patrol car under close supervision; fire a service weapon under expert guidance; learn self-defense, pressure point control tactics and assault prevention measures; interact with law enforcement officers and other young adults while learning the different roles agencies play in the criminal justice system, both in Nebraska and across the United States; study drug enforcement, proper methods of patrolling, K-9 handling, gangs and many issues facing law enforcement today. Plus a lot of fun working as a team, carrying out responsibilities and achieving individual goals in a para-military setting. Yes, these youth will get into fingerprinting, accident investigation, physical fitness, lie detector, and so much more.

Edwards will attend the female session June 13-17. She is the daughter of Kristi Edwards, and granddaughter of Walt and Donna Edwards, all of Winside.

Mann will attend June 20-24. He is the son of Chris and Brooke Mann, grandson of Dean and Cheryl Mann, all of Winside; and Lynette O'Dey, Norfolk.

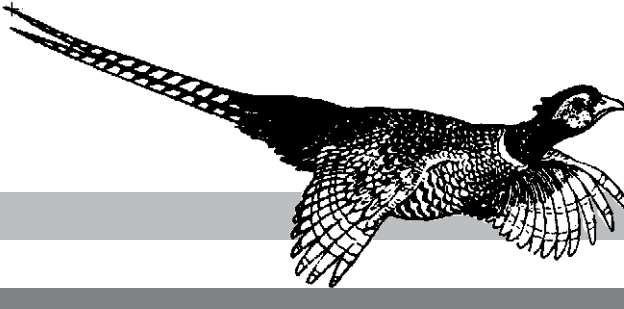
Both will be expected to report their experiences to their sponsor, American Legion Roy Reed Post 252, Winside; and also be a voice to encourage the next set of juniors to participate in this program in 2017.



(Contributed photo)

College radio helps Haven House

Wayne State College radio station KWSC recently presented checks to Haven House from money they raised during their annual 24-hour broadcast in support of the local shelter. They raised \$310 in cash donations, and also had donations of gift certificates and gift cards to Shopko, Back In Touch and Wayne Country Club. Pictured are (from left) KWSC staff Justise Brundage, Adrian Eggers, Andrew Eaton, Taylor Clark and Haven House staff member Denise Tello.



Don't get me started

By: Michael Carnes
Managing Editor

One thing to say to Class of 2016: My apologies

Normally, the column that I write on the week of high school graduations is one in which I offer words of wisdom, advice or good luck to the area graduates as they take their final steps as high school students and begin that transition into college and adulthood.

This year, I'd like to offer something different – my apologies.

You, the Class of 2016, are about to enter a world that is, to put it in one glaringly blatant moment of understatement, a mess. The world is turning upside down, inside out and doing everything but reversing course of its clockwise spin. We adults have made such a complete disaster of things in so many very important areas, and my only hope at this point is that, by the time you're old enough to actually make a difference, there will still be a United States of America, if not a world, left to fix.

This isn't something that happened overnight, and we've had PLENTY of opportunities to right the ship while you were growing up. A lot of the troubles America faces today can be traced back long before you were born – back to the days when yours truly was a wide-eyed, world-conquering, taking-care-of-business kind of high school graduate. We still had respect for our elders back in those days – but at the same time, we knew we could do better than what they'd done, and we set out to do just that.

And, boy, did we screw it up.

FROM THE ECONOMY TO THE ENVIRONMENT, FROM relationships to entertainment, the last 30 years or so have been one train wreck after another. The past couple of generations have dropped the ball on so many things, and now we stand at a point in our nation's long, storied, amazing history wondering how in the world we sunk THIS low?

We've seen the signs coming for a long time. From where I see it, it started with the entertainment business. When Archie Bunker uttered one racially-insensitive comment after another on "All In The Family," it was viewed in a comical manner, making fun of those who held those beliefs. Even for this 6-year-old kid in small-town Nebraska, this was TV worth watching.

We went from that thought-provoking programming to what passes for TV entertainment these days – and we've gone from a time when the "M" in MTV stood for WHAT it programmed with music videos, concerts and some socially-relevant interviews to today's version of MTV, in which programs glamorizing unprotected sex, single parenthood and otherwise stupid behavior was geared toward the intelligence level of another word starting with "M" – namely, morons.

Political correctness has run amok in our society. It seems we can barely utter a statement about the weather without SOMEBODY being offended. In fact, I've probably already offended about half of the population with what has been written to this point (and to those individuals, I offer this suggestion – get over it and stop being such a spineless wimp). It's so bad, I never thought I'd see the day where I could LEGALLY walk into a woman's restroom and claim a right to be there based on my own personal identity belief (of course, I've never INTENTIONALLY walked into a woman's restroom and have no plans to).

FAST FORWARD TO TODAY, AND THE YOUNG MEN AND women who are about to step across the stage of their local high school to receive their diploma will step to the other side and be asked to make a decision no intelligent human being should ever be forced to choose – do we elect as our next President a blowhard who is a diplomatic dimwit, or a known liar with a history of behavior that, in most circumstances, would have the accused tried, convicted and hung in just about any other nation on this planet?

We adults have long held this belief that we control the elections, and it's becoming clear to more every day (although it's something I figured out a long time ago) that our vote really DOESN'T matter if we're voting for one of the two traditional political parties. They have already "elected" who will represent them at the ballot box this November, and the general public has been repeatedly lied to when it comes to this process – that their vote REALLY DOES matter.

Mind you, members of the Class of 2016 – not ALL of us in the adult world adhere to these belief systems and support these two political parties. I'm doing my best to get people to see the Republicans and the Democrats for the frauds and phonies that they clearly are, but some bad habits are hard to break . . . and then there are some who see nothing wrong with what those two represent through their personal and professional histories. These people should never, under any circumstances, be trusted.

I really wish I had all the answers to give you so that you could fix all the crap that we have left behind for you. Maybe you guys can get it done. It's not going to happen overnight (believe me – we didn't go from Lucy and Desi sleeping in separate beds to Charlie Sheen having multiple sexual conquests on TV overnight), but maybe you can be the ones that helps orchestrate the change this world so desperately needs right now.

May the best of luck and God's grace go with you as you take that final walk this weekend – along with my apologies for the mess that awaits you on the other side.

Capitol View Board goes under microscope

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

The state auditor has issued a lengthy report critical of the four-year-old Nebraska Tourism Commission, saying the independent agency needs a change in culture as it pays attention to a recognized standard of fiscal practices.

Created by lawmakers in 2012, the commission is dedicated solely to promoting tourism in Nebraska. Then-Sen. LeRoy Loudon of Ellsworth offered the bill (LB1053) to create the commission that assumed all powers and duties of the travel and tourism division of the state Department of Economic Development. Staff from that division became commission employees.

As with other commissions in state government, the nine board members were appointed by the governor and confirmed by the Legislature.

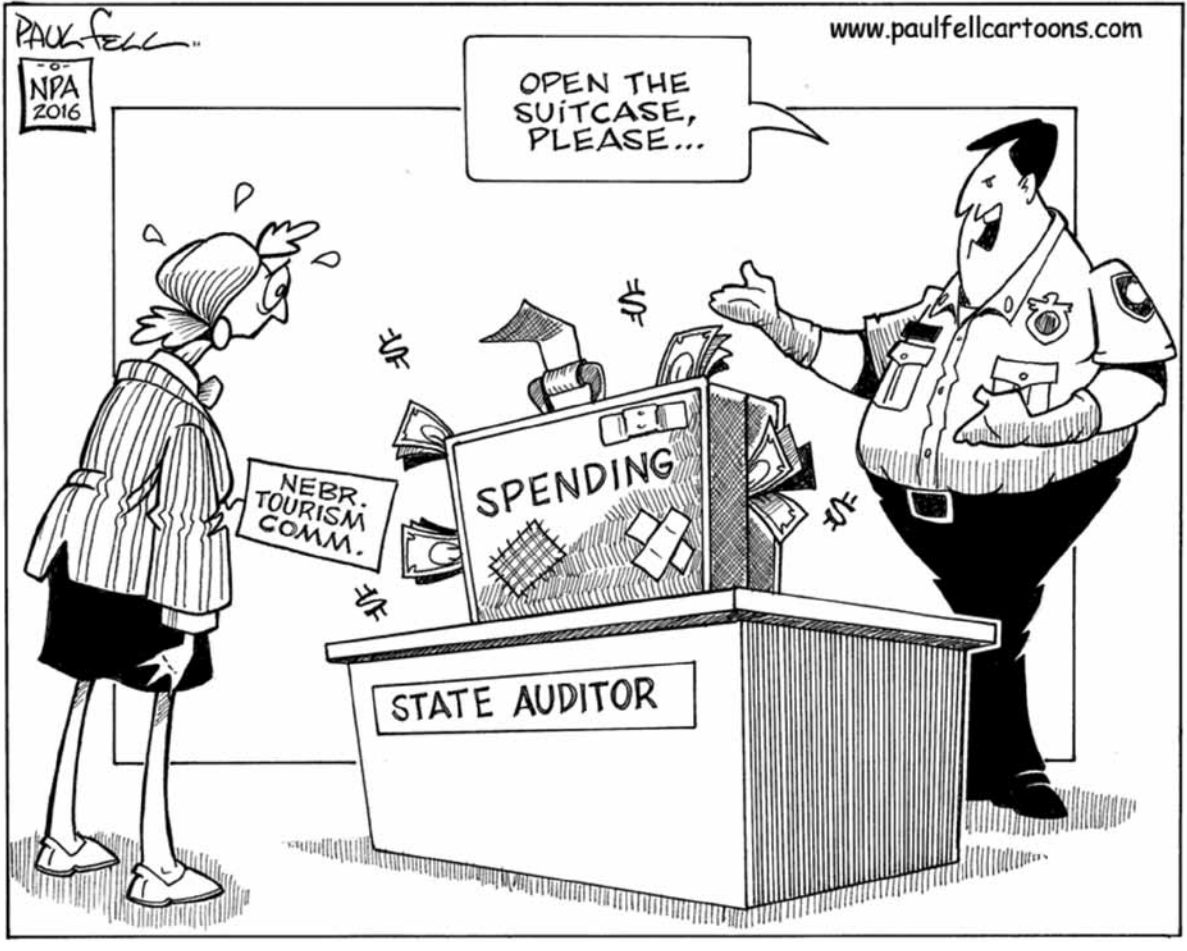
Visit Nebraska. Visit Nice. That new slogan was introduced by the commission in May 2014 and immediately became the brunt of jokes in social media and letters to the editor. It also drew some national criticism as being, well, just too nice.

Not Nice. A 79-page report from State Auditor Charlie Janssen portrayed the commission as an entity that frequently sidestepped government transparency, ethics and record-keeping standards.

Among the critical issues, Janssen said the Commission: Signed contracts and made purchases without a public bidding process; accepted meals and other gifts from top contractors; overspent its budget and failed to keep diligent financial statements; reimbursed an outside firm for alcohol and cigarettes; and paid the director's daughter to appear in an advertising campaign.

Commission Director Kathy McKillip of Lincoln said the advertising agency, not the commission, hired her daughter.

But Janssen noted that McKillip was reimbursed \$1,318 for more than 2,200 miles put on her daughter's convertible during the photo tour, while the commission's purchasing card was also used to buy gas on the trip. The report said the



possibility of double dipping and a lack of documentation "could raise concerns regarding possible abuse, if not actual fraud."

The report also noted that the commission paid a single conference speaker \$44,000 for a 90-minute speech that was heard by no more than 150 people. That's about \$500 per minute. I don't know what the guy said, but I doubt that it was worth the \$293 per person it would have cost to make the talk cash flow.

Three other speakers were each paid \$9,000 and the state agency picked up the tab for complimentary foot massages. Really?

Tourism is big business in Nebraska and industry leaders say the practices of the commission are well within industry standards. Commissioners are all in the industry. The four-year terms of five of them expire in July and Gov. Pete Ricketts could choose replacements that will change the face of the board. That could also be a great opportunity to change the culture of the agency.

McKillip said the audit did exactly what state audits are designed to do. It found areas of weakness that can be improved. She said there is no manual for forming a new state agency and the audit will guide the commission to develop an internal policy manual and partner with the state Department of Administrative Services for help with purchases and accounting. Really?

As a longtime state employee, the director surely knew of the availability of such policy manual models and help from the vast menu of services offered by DAS, including accounting and purchasing and personnel. Proactive instead of reactive.

In an official response, the commission said it will work to improve its internal controls and establish formal rules and regulations, which it has not done since it was spun off from the state Department of Economic Development four years ago.

So, is it easier to ask for permission or to apologize?

There isn't just some big pot of

money out there for tourism promotion. That money comes from lodging taxes paid by you and me and thousands of visitors from other states and countries who spend a night in Nebraska. Travelers have just come to expect it.

But they don't expect it to be used to pay for alcohol and tobacco and \$500 per minute speakers and hiring the boss's daughter.

The audit report didn't directly accuse the director or the commission of breaking any laws, but noted state statute prohibits government officials or their families from using their positions for outside gain. Another law bars people from offering items of value to influence a public official. Both are misdemeanors.

Janssen said the audit report would be shared with the Nebraska Attorney General's Office for review.

Let's hope this is a wake-up call to the tourism industry that we won't tolerate anyone playing fast and loose with the rules.

That's just not Nebraska Nice.

Letters

Reservoir study's adverse impact

My whole life I have been proud to say Wayne, Nebr. is my hometown. I grew up on a farm seven miles north of Wayne, graduated from Wayne High School and Wayne State College. My parents bought and sold grain in Wayne, purchased groceries, machinery, and cars in Wayne, and shopped frequently in

Norfolk. My parents have passed, and my siblings and I now own the farm.

On April 28, I flew from my home in Louisville, Colo., to attend the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District meeting, and to support my neighbors and fellow landowners, objecting to the LENRD's recently disclosed reservoir study. A very large crowd, disapproving of the

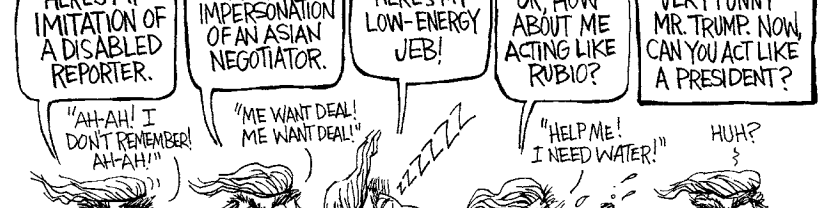
study, was at the meeting. You can only imagine my disappointment when I heard letters from City of Wayne leaders supporting the continued reservoir study that sits on my family's farm. A reservoir that supposedly would help with flood control, recharge the aquifer that sits underneath the City's well, and provide recreation for the City of Wayne. As LENRD heard at their meeting and the Wayne City Council heard at their May 3 meeting, the data does not support the advertised positive impacts of these or other study criteria.

As LENRD has pointed out, it is their first responsibility to manage natural resources and support the best interests of the people in the district. I see a study that has already impacted hundreds of farmers. Why would you continue a study that takes away productive farm land and constituents livelihoods?

LENRD General Manager Mike Sousek published a letter in The Wayne Herald last week, where he indicated LENRD would be neglecting their duties by not discussing options to "find water and transport

it to where other needs are present" (outside of the LENRD district). This is NOT LENRD's primary job, especially when it is adversely impactful to district constituents. Talking with LENRD members after their last meeting, there is a concern Lincoln could exercise its right to be supplied with water, given their experience in the 2012 drought. The key word is "could." Go talk to Lincoln and determine what the options are. The lack of a clear need for this study is frustrating. If there is a true need for reservoirs (which one has not been publicly established), conduct a study that is open to the public and does not adversely impact district constituents to the degree this study has.

A big concern of mine is the study seems to be focused on LENRD spending money. In fact, during the April 28 LENRD meeting, Mr. Sousek indicated the need to spend another \$45,000-50,000 per proposed dam for further study in the next few months (1-3 dams may be recommended). It was stated they can then apply for a grant that



Joe Heller

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Second Ward Jennifer Sievers — 833-1234 Matt Eischeid — 375-1944	Fourth Ward 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.

Jacob Abraham receives Eagle Scout Award April 30

Jacob Lynn Stephen Abraham, son of Scott and Cindy Abraham, received his Eagle Scout Award at a Court of Honor Ceremony on Saturday, April 30, at First Presbyterian Church in Wayne.

The Eagle Scout Award is the highest rank for the Boy Scouts of America.

Abraham began his scouting career in 2008 with the Troop 174 of the Wayne Nebraska Troop Quartermaster, Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader and Senior Patrol Leader are positions he has held throughout his scouting career.

Abraham has been involved in many scout and community service projects including, numerous paper drives, serving and bussing tables for the Wayne Kiwanis Club pancake feeds, the Wayne County



Jacob Abraham recently received his Eagle Scout Award in a ceremony at First Presbyterian Church.

Barbecue, the Wayne Chicken Show Omelet Feed, the Wayne Fire Department pancake feed and participating in Flag Ceremonies, (including the evening Flag Ceremony at Mount Rushmore National Park in 2009). He has attended Camp Cedars near Fremont, Troop 174 Black Hills Camping Trip and Philmont High Adventure Camp in Cimarron, New Mexico.

To earn the Eagle Scout Award, Abraham's project was to refurbish the Izaak Walton League grounds. The project included coverings for the lower half of the school house windows, and chicken wire across the top of those windows, storm shutters on the picnic shelter windows, coverings on the walls of the restrooms, and handicap rails in the restrooms, fresh paint inside and out of the restrooms and a sign at the front of the Izaak Walton League entrance

Abraham has been a WHS videographer for four years. He has been a varsity band member playing trumpet for four years, and a trumpet section leader during his senior year. He has volunteered to play Taps for Memorial and Veterans day programs, and has also played Taps for Veterans services. He has also been a member of the WHS Power Drive team for the past two years and the WHS Speech team for one year.

LifeServe Blood Centers will recognize him at graduation in May for his 2.5 gallons of blood donated, since turning 16. He is a confirmed member of the First Presbyterian Church in Wayne Nebraska.

Upon graduation Jacob will be pursuing an education in the electrical engineering field.



(Photo by Clara Osten)

Essay award winners

Wayne Elementary School fifth graders (left) Eli Barner, Maia Davis and Natalia Meyer were recognized at a recent school Honor Coffee for being selected by the Nancy Gary Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution as essay contest winners.

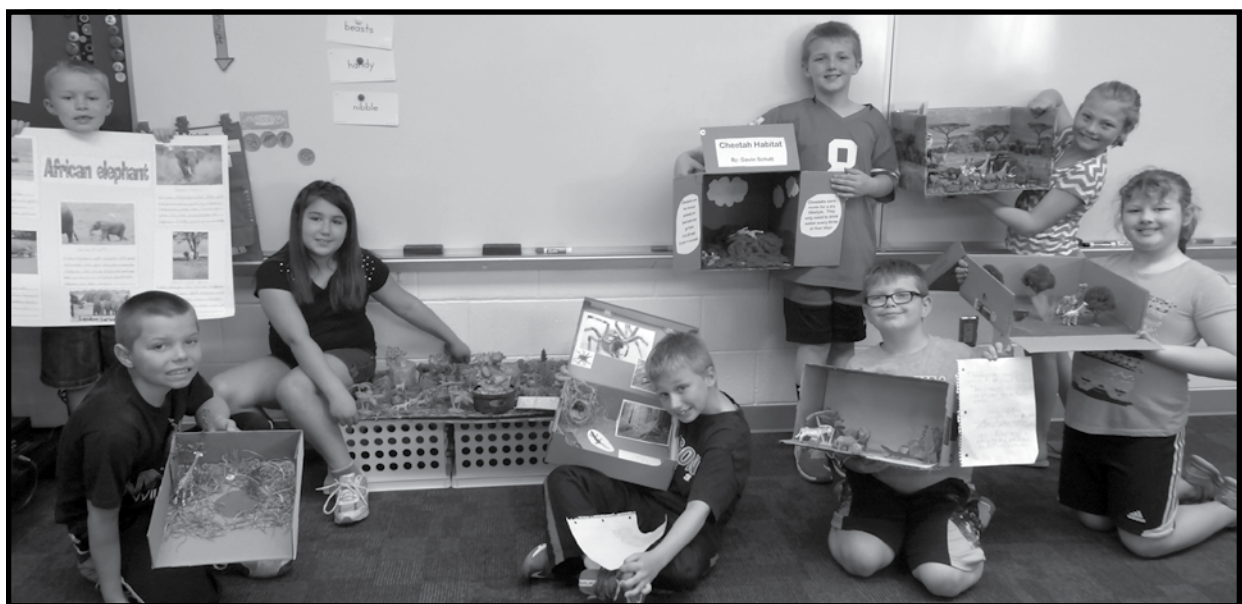
Ikes Lake to hold Open Gate Day

The Wayne Izaak Walton League would like to invite everyone to the fifth-annual Open Gate day on Saturday, May 21. The gate will be open from 9 a.m.-7:30 p.m. This day coincides with the Nebraska Game and Parks free fishing day so you do not need a license. All are welcome to come out to the recreational area and see what we have to offer for outdoor activities. While visiting

the facility everyone is welcome to fish, walk the nature trail or have a picnic. Ike's Lake is located four miles north, two miles west, and a one-half mile north of Wayne on the right side.

A 2016 Membership is \$60 which is available at Doescher's Appliance. Membership fees go into stocking the lake, maintaining and upgrading the facility.

Fish are now catchable size and the lake is in good condition. The catch-and-release requirement has been removed, and keep limits are in place on bass and bluegill. Limits are five bluegill and one bass 15 inches or larger per person per day. In an effort to preserve the quality of fishing only keep what you intend to eat and follow all state fishing laws.



Habitat study

Winside second graders studied habitats in science class, creating a habitat to share with the class. Second grade teacher is Karol Stubbs. (above) Matthew Gubbels, Devon Barg, Wyatt Frahm, Aubrey Russell, (back) Landon Carlson, Rachele Duarte, Gavin Schutt and Lainey Jensen. (below) Anslee Watters, Jaden Wragge, Natalie Cautrell, Jerzi Carlson, Myles Ferry, (back) Jordis Blackburn, Kody Fuchs, Khloe Mundorf and VeAnna Dotson.



Letters

From Page 7C
could yield millions of dollars for a need the LENRD has not identified. This behavior is exactly what taxpayers across the nation are upset by. Is this what we want from LENRD?

How do the tax payers want LENRD to act? As a Nebraska property taxpayer, I ask them to have the courage and do the right thing for the community, rescind their support for this reservoir study, and look at all the ways to meet water needs across the state without the impact. Per my conversation with LENRD board members, several less impactful methods are already in place. Use our tax dollars to support the community and "do the right thing." This is what strong leadership does. Thank you!

**Perry Nelson
Louisville, Colo.
Wayne County landowner**

Counterpoint to reservoir push

While proponents of the proposed LENRD reservoir seem to believe that economic benefits are just a dam away, they don't realize the

published justifications engage in faulty thinking. Just to be up front here, I have a vested interest in this topic, being an affected land owner. However, my concerns are about more than my interests - I'm always upset when the facts are not presented by the affected/interested parties - including those very interested parties on the LENRD board! While I appreciate the Board's responsibility to preserve national resources, they are also required to respond to the needs of the local communities they serve.

It puzzles me to see that the USDA published a map of the proposed Ogallala Aquifer Initiative Area (www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_MEDIA/nrcseprd413927.jpg) with Wayne County, Nebraska nowhere near the targeted initiative area, which indicates there are no urgent calls to action by either the state or the USDA. However, I do see calls to add irrigated farmland, which is at odds with the proposal to inundate up to a thousand or more productive acres, with no apparent benefit to the aquifer. And just a few statistics on the loss of productive cropland:

"Implications of Rural Land Use Changes - National agricultural statistics show that we have about 360 million productive acres in the U.S., or less than 1.2 acres of quality farmland per person with a national population of just over 300 million. We have a current rate of farmland loss of 2 million acres per year and a 1.1 percent increase in population per year. Projecting these rates of change over the next fifty years, assuming the same rate of farmland loss and increase in population, there will be less than 0.6 acres per person of productive land in 2056. This is a conservative estimate, since rate of farmland conversion is actually increasing each year. Obviously the economics of land use will change, food prices will increase, and many other adjustments will occur. But the need for good farmland in the future is clear." (Ref: Hansen, Twyla M., C Francis, J D Esseks, J A Williams, Jr., Multifunctional Rural Landscapes: Economic, Environmental, Policy, and Social Impacts of Land Use Changes in Nebraska, 2007 Master Thesis, Agronomy and Horticulture Department, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska)

While most communities are using U.S. and state funding programs to improve the efficiency of land-use practices to preserve productive cropland, and conserve water resources, agencies such as the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District seek to inundate hundreds, if not thousands of acres of prime farmland. Of course loss of local farm income has a more immediate impact than the loss of state food production shown in this study. Other impacts will include a decline in local, established, businesses that serve agriculture, lost property tax base,

loss of native wildlife habitat, and fewer agricultural employment opportunities.

**Sher 'Nelson' Schranz
Mead, Colo.**

Clarifying thoughts on NRD reservoir

Two weeks ago today, the local NRD met in Norfolk to discuss proposals for conducting reservoir studies in the Lower Elkhorn District, determining the feasibility, cost, and impact of such a plan. The last criteria mentioned, impact, is undoubtedly the most difficult to assess and the most difficult on our local community.

Wayne was built by homesteaders. Family farms remain the core of our very fabric. One of the potential and serious outcomes of this study is that it might suggest several sections and family farms are flooded and never replaced. My family still owns our homestead and we continue to farm today. Family tradition, pride and the business of farming should not be taken lightly. Every business, every family in Wayne has a direct or indirect tie to the surrounding farms. That said, I wrote a letter to the LENRD two weeks ago encouraging them to pursue the study in Wayne County. In it writing a silent majority believed completion of the study to be an important endeavor - vital to knowing our options and keeping the decision local. After learning of Lincoln's struggles in 2012 to source water and their plans to look upstream to nearby districts to source water in the future, I was concerned decisions would be made without our input or concerns addressed and without the studies we would not have facts to defend our

local interests.

This study and an eventual decision seemed to me the best option for an active, fact based dialogue we as a community could have. Perhaps I was too optimistic, and I apologize to the agriculture community for coming across unsympathetic, or just simply wrong in how I positioned my letter. My concern is this study will tilt the scales to making a decision FOR the reservoir without fully assessing the entire agricultural business impact mentioned earlier if we don't have local involvement. Locally, should we be investing in an aquifer mapping and recharge study to provide alternatives to a reservoir? I have received my fair amount of push back from friends and community members given how the letter was positioned at the meeting. The subject matter is extremely personal, the consequences dire. My correspondence should have been handled differently, seeking out more opinions from farmers in the area before reaching out to board members. My heart sides with the agricultural businesses that may ultimately be affected. My mind believes the study makes the most sense to help us all prepare for the discussion vs. having Lincoln drive the study and the decision. We all agree that our local water supply is vital and want to maintain local control in order to control our own destiny. The only difference of opinion is the means to which we accomplish our common goals.

My e-mail follow up with the NRD includes a copy of this letter to further clarify my position. I appreciate that we live in a community where we can express our concerns with each other's position professionally and work for common

goals.

**Cale Giese
Wayne City Councillman**

Chicken plant sparks group

I am a citizen of Nickerson Township in Dodge County. On March 23, a neighbor called saying he had heard a multimillion dollar chicken processing plant, feed mill and hatchery were scheduled to be built one and a half miles from our farm home of 40 years.

Many phone calls later this information was confirmed. The Nickerson Planning Commission was to hear, and vote on, re-zoning the land for industrial use seven working days later. Land surveys were underway. Public outcry over disinformation and what the facility would mean to our rural community erupted. On April 4, with a unanimous vote, Nickerson vetoed the re-zoning.

Out of this effort, many residents began thinking about the meaning of modern agriculture and what we value about our way of life. From this grew an organization called Nebraska Communities United, dedicated to providing the other side of the story; eg. "vertical integration farming," what that means to our land, water and air, the ensuing tax burden, the infrastructure required for an operation of this magnitude, the profound and lasting changes it would bring to us and surrounding communities.

I hope you and your readers will visit the website www.ncunited.org for more information.

**Nancy O'Connor
Nickerson**

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We all need a spiritual renewal

There is nothing like something new: a new car, a new computer, a new house, a new job. When we receive something new to us there is an initial sense of excitement and happiness. We often love to tell others about what we have received and we want to share it with them. However, over time the newness begins to wear off and that which was once new becomes familiar. We may still enjoy it, but that initial excitement has subsided.

This is often true of our Christian lives. The initial moment of salvation can be very exciting. Something has changed within us. We feel and sense God's presence in our lives. We have an assurance that we have been redeemed and belong to God. We know that our life has taken a new direction. We know we have a new and eternal purpose.

In the first weeks and months after our salvation everything seems different. We have a new perspective on life. Our attitudes and desires have changed. We attempt to live faithfully for our Lord and Savior Jesus.

Then reality slowly sets in. Many things in our life stay the same. Our relationships don't really change. Our struggles in life don't go away. We still experience pain and sorrow. We find that we still struggle with some of the same sins and temptations.

This often leads to feelings of doubt. Because of the presence of sin in the world around us and in our own lives, we begin to become

A Word In Faith

By James Seal
Pastor, Calvary Bible Church



discouraged and lose heart. We can become apathetic and indifferent about life and the work of the ministry. Maybe we even become bored with our Christian lives.

We may go through the motions of the Christian life (attending church, doing good things for others, being faithful to our family, and giving) but without any real change. Life can become just a series of daily routines and weekend rituals.

When I read the New Testament I find that Jesus came to give us more than just a religious experience or a weekend obligation. In fact, Jesus never said he came to start a new religion. Jesus came to give new life and a new way of relating to God. Jesus came to offer the free gift of eternal life through faith in his finished work. He came to make us children of God. He came to give us purpose and direction for the rest of our lives on this planet.

Jesus came to change and transform us into men and women who reflect his love and grace to the

world. He came to redeem what was lost at the fall of mankind and to restore people to a place of ministry in the Kingdom of God. The life Jesus came to give was not intended to be dry, dull and boring.

What we often need in order to experience the real Christian life is renewal. Romans 12:1-2 speaks of the renewing of the mind. This is not necessarily a one-time spiritual experience. This is talking about a regular, continual renewal of our thoughts and attitudes. This renewal comes as we better understand God through the revelation in His Word. Renewal of the heart and mind then leads to a change in our outward behavior.

Renewal also comes through the work of the Holy Spirit in our heart and soul. We are new creations in Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit was the fulfillment of the New Covenant that was promised in the Old Testament and initiated through the death and shed blood of Jesus.

Jesus freed us from the Old Testament Law and set us on a new path of life lived through the Spirit.

When we allow the Holy Spirit to fill our lives, He begins to produce the works of God in our lives. The Holy Spirit compels us to relate to God as our Father in heaven. The Holy Spirit compels and empowers us to live a holy life for the glory of Jesus Christ.

Where are you in your walk with Christ? Do you live with a sense of purpose or are you just existing day to day? Do you serve out of a heart of love for Jesus or out of a religious obligation? Is the Holy Spirit alive and moving in your heart and life or do you rarely sense the presence of the Holy Spirit? Are you looking forward to what God is going to do in your life or just looking forward to dinner?

If your Christian life lacks enthusiasm, I would like to encourage you to seek the Lord daily for renewal in your own life through His word and His Spirit. Ask the Lord for a renewed sense of purpose in your Christian life. Ask Him to restore the joy of your salvation.

I would also like to challenge you to ask the Lord for a renewal of the church in America. Ask the Lord to give His church a renewed sense of purpose and direction. Ask the Lord to renew our hearts to desire the things He is passionate about. Ask the Lord to use His Church to impact this community for His Kingdom and His glory.



Community improvement project

Four new benches, a project initiated by the Allen Community Club, have been put on main street in front of various businesses. The benches were made by Andrew Gensler and painted by Adam Gensler. A donation by Ken and Doris Linafelter's children helped pay for two of the benches and donations by Wayne and Carol Chase and Dean and Sandy Chase paid for a third bench. Plaques stating that the money was donated in memory of their respective parents will be put on the benches.

Mortgage limits increased for loan program

USDA Rural Development (RD) has announced that the maximum mortgage limits for the Direct Home ownership loan program in Nebraska have increased effective May 4, 2016.

This is the first increase in the mortgage limits since 2009. The mortgage limits for Platte, Madison and Stanton Counties were increased from \$155,000 to \$180,000. All other counties in the area have a new maximum mortgage limit of \$170,000, which is a \$25,000 increase from \$145,000.

The RD Direct loans are made through USDA Rural Development offices and the current interest rate is 3.00 percent and may be reduced to as low as 1 percent for qualifying households. The program allows for 100 percent financing for home ownership loans. More than \$6.5 million in funding is available through the Direct Loan program in Nebraska in Fiscal Year 2016.

The increased mortgage limits may allow more fami-

lies to purchase or build homes to meet the housing needs in rural communities. The USDA Direct loan program is available to households with incomes at 80 percent or less of the county median income. All communities in Nebraska are eligible for housing programs with the exceptions of Fremont, Grand Island, Hastings, Kearney, Lincoln, North Platte, Omaha and South Sioux City/Dakota City.

See eligibility.sc.egov.usda.gov/eligibility/welcome-action.do for eligible areas to determine if you are within the established income limit based on the size of household and county and if the property is located within an eligible area.

Visit www.rd.usda.gov/ne and click on the link for "Single Family Housing Direct Home Loans" under Key Feature Programs for more information and a list of contact information.

St. Paul's Ladies Aid, LWML meet

Winside St Paul's Ladies Aid and LWML met on May 4 with 13 members and Pastor Goodman present.

President Daisy Janke opened the meeting and everyone recited The League Pledge.

Mrs. Janke had devotion on 'A Bit of Clay' and then everyone sang the hymn "Hark! The Voice of Jesus Crying".

Pastor Goodman had Bible study on The Worship We Share.

Both secretary and treasurer's reports were read and approved.

Old business: Daisy Janke and Pat Janke gave a report on the Spring Workshop held on April 19 at Hope Lutheran Church in South Sioux City.

New business: The LWML Nebraska North District convention will be held June 17-18 at Lutheran High Northeast in Norfolk.

Janice Mundil reported on visiting the shut-ins in April. Pat Janke will visit the shut-ins in May.

The birthday song was sung for Gloria Evans, DeLana Marotz and Lorraine Prince.

Birthday cards were sent to Gerty Johnson and Marlin Westerhaus.

Get well cards were sent to Don Langenberg and Miles Surprenant-Vogt.

A graduation card was sent to Ryan Janke.

The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer and table prayer.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, June 1.

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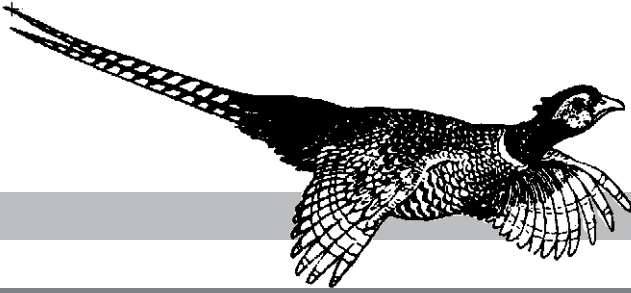
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Agriculture

Don't blink – you'll baby will grow up

My son, Jon, is giving me a week off! This kind of sums up what we are experiencing around here, and a lot of other families, too! Happy Mother's day. Pat



The Farmer's Wife
By: Pat Meierhenry

There's a song by Kenny Chesney that says, "Don't blink, you just might miss your babies growing like mine did". It holds particularly true for my youngest daughter who turned 18 on April 29 and graduates from High school on May 15.

I told her the other day it truly seems like yesterday that she was playing 3 on 3 youth soccer in Kansas City and was knocking over other kids like a wrecking ball. She was always extremely competitive even at an early age. Everything was a competition and a lot of things in her life came relatively easy for her. We would spend hours throwing or punting a ball back and forth to each other and counting the number of times we could catch it without a drop or we must start over again. We would keep going until we beat the old record.

She was the ultimate tomboy when she was younger and always

felt more comfortable hanging out with the boys in the neighborhood. The girls needed to be able to at least throw and catch or they were not worthy.

Blink. As time moved on the games became more and more meaningful and the thrill of watch-

ing them became more and more enjoyable. She seemed to excel more when the game was on the line and especially when she got mad! When her face started to turn red and her lip started to wrinkle you probably should just get out of the way. Club softball and club basketball filled up the summer and winter months. She developed lifelong relationships with many of her teammates and she always seemed to surround herself with kids with good character. You can't always control your son/daughter but you can try to control who they hang out with. She made that part easy for her family.

Blink. She wore a dress! And then another. She decided to follow in her sister's footsteps and got the same lead role in the eighth grade musical. She started to take voice lessons, she sang in recitals. She made the high school show choir. She was selected to play Belle in Beauty and the Beast. I sat behind a little boy and his family during the performance and he said to his dad, "That's the 3 point shooter up there singing!" Music brought out the softer, creative side of her and

the transformation from a down and dirty third baseman to a princess was pretty special and showed her versatility.

Blink. Four years of high school sports and activities are now almost over. Track meets came to an end when a nagging knee condition had to be fixed. Club softball will have to wait thru rehabilitation with hopes of playing in the upcoming all-star game in July. But what awaits is college, college athletics and the next chapter of her life. Her life has been filled with accomplishments and successes with some disappointments and those memories will last for quite a while. But she always takes time out for younger kids, she went on a mission trip with her church and she has always been a good friend and teammate. These are the things that will always be a part of her forever. Her nuclear family feels pretty lucky, all these years, to watch the little girl grow up and become a woman.

Happy Birthday and Congratulations Danica Rae!! Looking forward to where you will be and what you will be doing the next time we blink!

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Nitrogen loss, management important now

From the Nebraska Extension Soils Team: Planting may be in the front of everyone's mind, but we do not want to lose sight of nitrogen (N) management. With the extra moisture, water movement through the soil creates reason for concern. If N fertilizer was applied either last fall or this spring before the past few weeks of rains, potential loss of N is likely.

Most inorganic N is in the form of nitrate. Nitrate comes from fertilizer N applied, as well as N mineralized from soil organic matter and plant residues. Nitrate in soil is subject to leaching losses when excess water drains below the active rooting depth, which is about 3-4 feet for corn. In the last two months (March and April) most areas across Nebraska have seen significantly more rainfall than long-term averages for the same period, causing many producers to wonder if their fields are at risk for nitrate leaching.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln publishes an N modeling tool, Maize-N, that estimates corn N need and potential N losses based on historic and current weather data. Using real-time weather data as of May 1, 2016, simulation results of the Maize-N model suggest soils in most corn and soybean areas are likely very wet, with moisture content around field capacity. Some areas have been at this level for the past one to two weeks. As soil hardly retains water above field capacity, excess rainfall likely has drained down through the soil profile below soil rooting depth along with the nitrate in the soil water. In addition, nitrate that did not leach below the 3-4 foot depth is still at risk for further soil water movement, which could leach additional N beyond crop roots.

Assuming a silt clay loam soil texture and soil moisture around 70 percent of field capacity in the beginning of March, the Maize-N model estimated nitrate leaching at approximately 14 percent of the total nitrate remaining in mid-April



Ag Happenings
Keith Jarvi
Extension Educator

2016. The risk of nitrate leaching is relatively greater for much of northeast Nebraska. For lighter soil textures the risk of nitrate leaching is greater while the opposite is true for heavier textures. For example, the average nitrate leaching was estimated to be 23 percent of total nitrate present in mid-April assuming sandy loam texture for all locations while the corresponding value was 9 percent for clay loam for all locations.

Because the soil in most fields has likely been fully recharged, further rainfall in the coming weeks will likely lead to more nitrate leaching. It is important to point out that models are estimates and not exact numbers. Any number of factors may affect an estimate such as variability in rainfall amounts, soil moisture movement, temperature, etc. That is why these estimates should be taken in the context. One's own sites will most certainly differ, but the important point is that N leaching is likely, and management plans must be assessed to prevent significant yield loss from N nutrition deficiencies that may show up later in the growing season.

Fortunately, several tools are now available to assess the N status

of your management system. The most rudimentary but yet invaluable tool is the soil sample. It may be a lot of work, but taking composite soil samples at different depths (0-8, 8-24, and 24-48 inches) and having them analyzed for ammonium and nitrate, would give more confidence as to how much N is currently in the system, and where it is located. Is the bulk of the N in the lower depths? This should raise concerns for future losses.

Other tools are also available, such as chlorophyll meters, active crop canopy sensors, and aerial imagery. These tools all require a growing crop and work best after the V8 growth stage, which is just beyond the window of most tool bar sidedress options. These tools are accurate if calibrated: They require N-rich strips to be used as the comparison. Sensors have been shown to be an effective management strategy for varying N rate throughout the field via high clearance N applicator. We realize not everyone will have access to these machines, and so what other options are there?

If the sensors need to be used beyond the point of when you can sidedress, think about using the PSNT which is a 1-foot sample taken the

first week of June. The ppm nitrate in this sample have been calibrated for Iowa, but not Nebraska. Consider how much N is currently in your system, and use the UNL N algorithm in Fertilizer Suggestions for Corn or use modeling tools like Maize-N to help estimate future N needs based on your field conditions.

Last but not least, some growers are set up to fertigate, applying fertilizer through an irrigation system. Many shudder at the thought of putting more water on a field that is sopping wet, but later in the season, fertigation allows a grower to respond to potential deficiencies by delivering a timely application of N to the crop. We do not currently have guidelines specific to fertigation (we're working on it), but by using the Nebguide Using a Chlorophyll Meter to Improve N Management, you can get a reasonable estimate of when and how much N to apply.

Of course all of these methods still require continuous monitoring of your corn crop and its response to changing weather and field conditions. Nitrogen is a tricky nutrient and needs to be watched carefully to prevent losses to both your bottom line and the environment.

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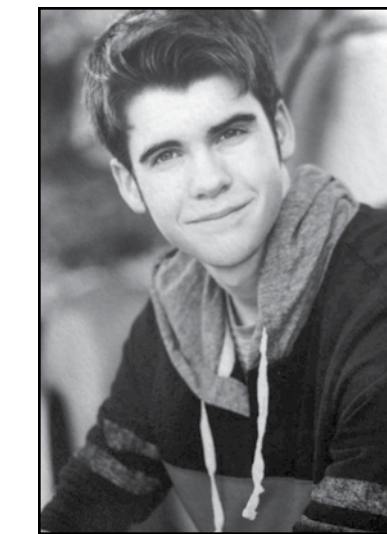
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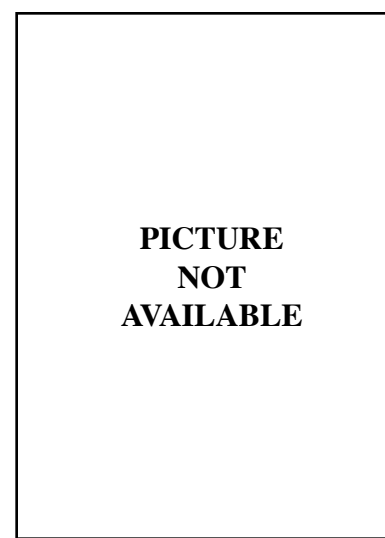
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The family of Donald L. Meyer would like to thank everyone for the expressions of sympathy, cards, flowers and memorials. God's Blessings to all. *Berniece Meyer Hogan Glendon (Lorie) Meyer & Family*
Kathleen (Dale) Baker & Family
DeLloyd E. (Diana) Meyer Jr. & Family

The family of Joanne Rahn would like to thank all who remembered us at the time of Mom's death with food, flowers, money, memorials and HUGS. Also our Church Family who worked so hard for us. *Sharon & Ray Brentlinger & Family*
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Friday and Saturday, 5:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, 12:00 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

We offer great pay and a good working environment. Previous mechanical or construction experience is helpful, but not necessary. Great Dane provides all training. Candidates must be 18 years of age and successfully complete a post-job offer drug screen. To find out more about these exciting positions or to apply in person, stop by our office between 8:15 a.m.-4:15 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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

