



# The Wayne Herald

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(Photo by Sarah Lentz)

Wayne County emergency manager Nic Kemnitz (left) and highway superintendent Mark Casey, discuss flood damage with the Wayne County Commissioners on Tuesday morning.

## Flooding, office space discussed at Wayne County Commissioners

By Sarah Lentz  
[editor@wayneherald.com](mailto:editor@wayneherald.com)

Nearly a week after Wayne County declared an emergency for flooding, the Wayne County Commissioners held their second March meeting.

After the consent and regular agenda and claims were approved, Nic Kemnitz, Wayne County emergency manager, and Mark Casey, Wayne County highway superintendent discussed storm damage from last week's rain and flooding event. Kemnitz and Casey said that the City of Wayne and Village of Hoskins both made declarations of disaster on March 13.

Kemnitz said he and County employees are currently working on mapping and categorizing all of the flood damage around the county and hope to create an interactive map. Vice President Mike Pence visited Nebraska on Tuesday. Kemnitz said if an emergency declaration is made by President Trump, he's sure both Wayne County and Nebraska will meet the minimum criteria for assistance. Kemnitz and

Casey estimate flood damage at roughly \$300,000 for the county. Kemnitz also mentioned he's received mutual aid requests from Knox County. He said that Wayne County got relatively lucky and he's happy to help when possible.

Kemnitz also joined Wayne County sheriff Jason Dwinell to discuss the possibility of refiguring the Public Safety Annex to take space in what was the district court space and turn it into a conference room and briefing room while giving both Emergency Management and the Sheriff's Office more space. The commissioners approved the plan. Both Kemnitz and Dwinell said their schedules will dictate when they're able to fully make the move, but will start working on it as they can.

Rod Gilliland with the Wayne Ag Society also came before the commissioners to discuss the possibility of constructing a new building at the Wayne County Fairgrounds. Gilliland said the Ag Society would ideally build a 4-H exhibition building that could also permanently house the Wayne County Extension office.

Otte Construction helped the group get an idea of a budget. Currently, the building as planned would cost over \$1 million. The commissioners said they didn't mind the idea of putting up a new building or moving the Extension office out to the Fairgrounds, but asked the Ag Society to find grants or fundraise to help pay for the construction.

Bids for a new dump truck for District 3 were opened. The lowest bid was for a 2018 International truck with a net trade in cost of \$73,965. The final decision was tabled so the specs could be verified by District 3 commissioner Jim Rabe.

The Wayne County Commissioners agreed to pay for a copier lease to save money. Wayne County Attorney Amy Miller said right now the commissioners are spending between \$230 and \$300 a month on copiers. Miller said by leasing a copier, they could pay \$62 a month.

At the next Wayne County Commissioners meeting, NextEra and the commissioners will sign a decommissioning agreement. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 2 at 9 a.m. at the Wayne County Courthouse.

## Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department has tips for flood clean-up

Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department (NNPHD) has information available to help aid in flood recovery. With last week's flooding event and the clean-up just beginning, NNPHD offers resources and contacts to ensure northeast Nebraska can recover safely.

Personal safety needs to be the number one concern of anyone dealing with flooding according to Julie Rother and Kim Schultz, of NNPHD.

"Safety is the biggest thing to think about," Rother said. "It's really risky to go into a scene without assessing the whole situation.

Before a flood victim even goes to survey damage, they need to ensure they're not going to be going through rushing water. Still water can also pose a threat if electrical lines are downed or the water is polluted. Rother and Schultz said it's important to make sure any building entered after a flood has been checked for structural integrity and that those aiding in clean-up should be up to date on their Tetanus shots.

"They recommend that people stay up to date every five to ten years depending on your situation and we are really recommending people get those at their doctor or public health immunization clinic or where-

ever you get your healthcare.

Clean drinking water is another big concern after flooding has occurred.

"There's lots of contamination coming from areas that people may not even be aware of," Schultz said. "It could be from hazardous chemicals to the run-off from a cattle yard. We don't recommend taking any chances."

NNPHD suggests for those with city water, pay attention to announcements regarding water quality. For those with private wells, after flooding, water should be considered unsafe until tested. NNPHD offers testing kits for private wells that service both single and multi-family homes.

Once the water has receded, people then need to think about mold mitigation.

"Mold can really be hazardous to a person's health, and depending on the person, some people react worse to mold than others," Rother said. "It can really impact people's breathing and allergies and asthma."

Mold resources are also offered through NNPHD.

Among NNPHD's flood recovery resources are also behavioral health tips, which Rother and Schultz say is just as important to a safe recovery.

"We know with the agricultural community, there are potentially some huge loses and even anyone who has a damaged home, part of their safety is making sure their behavioral health needs are met," Rother said.

NNPHD is circulating flood recovery informational packets throughout their service area of Thurston, Dixon, Cedar and Wayne counties. Their website also has an abundance of information and resources that can be found at [nnphd.org](http://nnphd.org). Water testing kits can be obtained by stopping in or contacting the office at (402) 375-2200.



(Photo courtesy Wayne Police Department)

After the melting and rains of the last week, much of the state is experiencing flooding. The Wayne Walking Trail is currently closed from Victor to Roosevelt Park as a portion of the trail has eroded into Logan Creek. NNPHD has a variety of resources to help aid in flood clean-up.

## All remaining Shopko stores to close by mid June

According to documents filed Monday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Nebraska, all remaining Shopko stores, including Wayne's will close.

According to the Green Bay Press-Gazette, the Wisconsin-based retailer had hopes another company would purchase the Shopko chain, but as of Monday, that

plan changed to liquidating all remaining stores.

Shopko claimed Chapter 11 Bankruptcy in January. The retailer announced that 250 stores would close in February. According to documents filed Monday, Wayne's Shopko location is expected to close by June 16.



(Photo by Clara Osten)

Jon Mooberry of JEO Consulting went over details of the 2019 Nebraska Street Improvements, Second to Seventh Street Project at the Wayne City Council meeting on March 19.

## Plans approved for street improvement project

By Clara Osten  
[clara@wayneherald.com](mailto:clara@wayneherald.com)

Acting as the Board of Equalization, members of the Wayne City Council tabled two resolutions during Tuesday's City Council meeting.

The resolutions deal with street and sanitary sewer costs in Street Improvement District No. 2017-1 (Fourth Street Project) and Sanitary Sewer Extension District No. 2017-1 (Fourth Street).

Council members were told additional details about the project and district boundaries needed to be obtained before a vote could be taken.

Jon Mooberry with JEO Consulting spoke at the meeting on the plans and estimated costs for the 2019 Nebraska Street Improvements, Second to Seventh Street Project.

He told the council the project is ready to go out for bids and two options will be available to contractors. The first would require substantial completion by Nov. 15, 2019 and the second would require the work to be substantially completed by September of 2020.

Mooberry said the estimated cost for construction of the project is \$1.19 million. This is slightly higher than original estimates because of unknown soil conditions that may require extra materials and time to be handled properly.

Following Mooberry's presentation, council members voted unanimously to

approve the resolution moving the project forward.

Council members listened to an update from Bryce Meyer, representing the Recreation and Performing Arts Community Task Force.

Meyer said the task force consists of representatives from Wayne State College, Wayne Community Schools and the city of Wayne. The group has been meeting regularly since it was formed in September of last year.

A survey has been distributed to area residents and is available online to obtain public input on the possibility of three projects in the city - an indoor pool, additional gymnasium space and a performing arts facility.

The deadline for completing the survey is April 1 and the task force hopes to have 4,000 surveys completed by that time. The results will then be tabulated and information brought to the city council at the end of April.

In other action, council members passed a resolution and ordinance authorizing the sale of two outlots in Western Ridge II Addition to the Wayne Community Redevelopment Authority.

The three readings of the ordinance were waived, allowing the project to move forward and allow for building on the parcel of land to begin.

Wayne City Council will next meet in regular session on Tuesday, April 2 at 5:30 p.m. in council chambers.



(Photo by Clara Osten)

## Lucky winner

Drew Reinhart poses with his dad, Tim, after being chosen as the winner of a Lifetime Hunting Permit during the annual Logan Creek Pheasants Forever Banquet on March 15. More pictures from this year's banquet can be found on page 4B of this week's Herald.



# Nebraska Farm Bureau launches disaster relief fund, information exchange portal

The Nebraska Farm Bureau has launched relief efforts to aid Nebraska farmers, ranchers and rural communities suffering from the natural disasters that have impacted the state. The relief efforts include the establishment of a disaster relief fund and launch of an online agriculture disaster exchange portal to connect those in need with those who can help.

"Nebraska is a special place with special people. Many of our friends and neighbors across the state are suffering. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who have lost or are missing loved ones, and to all those who have been impacted by the recent blizzard and massive flooding events," Steve Nelson, Nebraska Farm Bureau president said. "We want to do what we can to help. We believe our relief fund and information exchange can be of assistance."

Money donated to the Disaster Relief Fund will be targeted to aid Nebraska farmers, ranchers, and rural communities affected by recent storms and flooding. Priority will be given to efforts to restore health and safety in rural communities and to farm and ranch house-

holds that have been damaged or displaced by the natural disaster.

"The fund's targeted recipients are farm and ranch families and rural communities in the disaster areas who have immediate needs as a result of the natural disaster, those who cannot get assistance from other sources, those who will have to wait until they receive other assistance, and those who have losses not covered by insurance," said Nelson.

To aid farmers and ranchers in recovery, the Nebraska Farm Bureau has also opened the Agriculture Disaster Exchange portal. The online portal housed on the Nebraska Farm Bureau website allows members to share information, providing a place for those in need to make requests for assistance and for those looking to help, to offer it.

"The Agriculture Disaster Exchange operates like an online 'want ad' page. If a member has extra hay to sell or donate to a livestock producer in need, they can post it there. If a member needs help or equipment to remove debris after flooding, they can post that type of request as well. Those are

just examples of how the exchange can be used by our members. The goal is to provide an online clearinghouse so members can interact and help each other during tough times," Nelson said.

To donate or apply for aid from the Disaster Relief Fund, utilize the Agriculture Disaster Exchange portal, or access other disaster assistance resources, visit nefb.org/disaster.

Donations will be made to a fund established in the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation, which is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit. Any donations made to the fund are tax-deductible.

The Nebraska Farm Bureau is a grassroots, state-wide organization dedicated to supporting farm and ranch families and working for the benefit of all Nebraskans through a wide variety of educational, service and advocacy efforts. More than 61,000 families across Nebraska are Farm Bureau members, working together to achieve rural and urban prosperity as agriculture is a key fuel to Nebraska's economy. For more information about Nebraska Farm Bureau and agriculture, visit nefb.org.



(Photo by Sarah Lentz)

Queen Penelope's suitors played by Abby Schademann, Buffany DeBoer and Charity Potter run through the opening scene of "The Odyssey," which will be showing at the Little Red Hen Theatre is Wakefield March 28-31.

## Little Red Hen Theatre to take audiences on a journey with 'The Odyssey'

A title like "The Odyssey" may conjure the image of a dusty tome on literature scholar's shelf, but The Little Red Hen Theatre's production of the play adapted by Thomas Hischak will be anything but a traditional rendition of Homer's work.

"It has all the monsters, all the action and all the energy," theatre director Adam Goos said. "Our cast has worked really hard to actually find a lot of humor in it as well so it's got all these different elements rolled into one."

The play follows Trojan War hero, Odysseus's journey home.

"It truly is an ensemble show. Pretty much the entire cast is together on the stage for most of the show," Goos said.

Goos also said this show will be a change of pace for the Little Red Hen Theatre's audiences who are more used to traditional comedies. "The work that these guys have done, it's a really different type of show for the Little Red Hen to do and they are really rising to the challenge," Goos said.

Several of the 12 member cast are either new or new to the theatre and Goos said they are fitting in well.

For those hesitant to see classical literature come to life, Goos encourages trying it out.

"It's a really fun show and a great way to get to know a classic story," Goos said. "It is an adventure story. We're on a ship, we are fighting monsters. There are sorcerers and witches and goddesses that come down and mess with things, so it's really fun."

Tickets are now on sale for 7 p.m. shows on March 28 and 29 and a 2 p.m. show on March 31. For tickets or more information, contact the theatre at (402) 287-2818.



(Contributed photo)

Little Priest Tribal College president Maunka Morgan and Wayne State College president Maryz Rames signed an agreement that will allow Little Priest Tribal College students to transfer to Wayne State after obtaining an associates degree in Business.

## Wayne State College and Little Priest Tribal College Sign Articulation Agreements

Wayne State College and Little Priest Tribal College in Winnebago signed new articulation agreements March 4, in the WSC president's office on the Wayne State campus. LPTC president Maunka Morgan and WSC president Dr. Marysz Rames signed new transfer agreements that allow LPTC students to seamlessly transfer associate degrees in business to earn bachelor's degrees in business at Wayne State College.

Eleven program articulations were signed, each laying out the pathway of courses and academic credits from the start of the LPTC program all the way through to the completion of the WSC bachelor's degree. These pathways will serve students and the LPTC and

WSC advisors working with the individual students on their plans of study.

Pathways from associate of science to bachelor's in business degrees include concentrations in accounting, agribusiness, economics, finance, human resource management, international business, management, marketing, office administration, public accounting, and professional studies.

"These types of collaborations are important to the success of our students and institutions," Morgan said. "By updating our articulation agreements between Little Priest Tribal College and Wayne State College, we have ensured that an optimal align-

ment and amount of Little Priest Tribal College business degree credits are transferred into Wayne State College's related business degree programs. Ultimately, this means a greater level of student success and empowerment at our collective institutions."

"Wayne State is proud to work with Little Priest Tribal College to provide a high quality, accessible, and affordable pathway to a four-year degree," Rames said. "We are honored with the trust Little Priest has placed in Wayne State and confident that our partnership will ensure that Little Priest students have the best options for following their passion into important roles in the workforce."

## Allen News

Callie Anderson  
canderson@allenschools.org

### ALLEN CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL NEWS

**District Speech Results**  
Ashley Kraemer advanced to finals with her Humorous Prose and earned a 4th place medal. The OID team of Ashley, Alli Jackson, Alyssia Strivens, Joshua Cooper and Brogan Jones brought home 6th place medals. Katie Bathke also made finals with her Persuasive speech and earned 3rd place which qualifies her for the State Speech competition at UNK Friday March 22. Congrats to all on a great season.

### Lewis & Clark Conference Art Results

**High School Award Winners:**  
Ethan Malcom-Collage 1st, Summer Adair-Sculpture 2nd, Diana Rivera- Mixed Media 2nd, Isaac Verzani- Mosaic Window 2nd, Santiago Tinajero- Graphite 3rd, Ryan Anderson- Graphite 2nd, Taylor Boyle-Scratch 2nd

**Junior High Award Winners:**  
Dalynn Hackney- Pottery 3rd, Maddy Roach- Pottery 2nd, Joey Waldo- Graphite 2nd, Brianna Green-Printmaking 3rd, Michael Dickens-Graphite 2nd

**Elementary Award Winners:**  
Michael Gotch- Tempera 3rd, Jacob Warner- Mixed Media 3rd, Elise Niemann- Watercolor 2nd, Jude Ridenour- Oil Pastel 1st, Rebekah Green-Batik 1st, Samantha Rastede- Watercolor 3rd

**PROM 2019**  
Juniors & Seniors  
When: Saturday, March 30  
Time: 6 p.m.- Grand March- Allen High Gym, 7:30 p.m.- dinner & dance- Ponca State Park, 11:30 p.m.- Post

### Prom Activities

Transportation services to Ponca State Park will be provided by TravelPlus.

### ALLEN COMMUNITY CENTER NEWS

**Weekly Menu**  
Friday, March 22- Biscuit & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage Links, Hash Browns, Pears, Strawberry Juice, and Milk  
Monday, March 25- Chicken Skew-

ers, Potato Wedges, Diced Tomatoes, Peaches, Bread and Milk

Tuesday, March 26- Tuna & Noodles with Peas, Mandarin Oranges, Apple Juice, Bread, and Milk

Wednesday, March 27- Beef Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Corn Applesauce, Bread and Milk

**Weekly Activities**  
Tuesday, March 26- 8:30 a.m. FROGS



(Contributed photo)

## Donation

Brady Weaver, manager of Michael Foods in Wakefield presents a check to Haven House executive director Amy Munderloh. Michael Foods gave a \$1,000 donation to Haven House to assist in helping survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault in Dixon, Dakota, Cedar, Thurston and Wayne counties. For more information about Haven House please visit havenhousefsc.org



# Looking back...

Lauren Walton's crew qualified for the State Speech Contest to be held Saturday in Lincoln at the University.

Wayne was very impressive at the district meet and seven of the nine state categories will have a Wayne qualifier among them. Matt Chapman and Kerry McCue received first place medals in duet acting while Chapman earned another first place medal in serious prose.

Claire Rasmussen won the persuasive speech category and Liz Lindau captured first place in poetry. Runner-up medals were won by Robb Heier in entertainment, Rasmussen in extemporaneous speaking and Tim Heinemann in humorous prose. The will be the seven categories Wayne competes at the state competition in.

**50 years ago (1969)**  
Several hundred people turned out Friday evening to watch the

second annual physical education program of the fifth and sixth graders of the Wayne City Schools.

Presented this year at Wayne State's Rice Auditorium, and entitled "Physical Education at the Circus," the program opened with an introduction by physical education instructor Don Koenig and playing of a record of Red Skeleton's "Pledge of Allegiance."

Then to the tune of a song entitled "Chicken Fat," the youngsters demonstrated to their parents some of the ways to lose those extra pounds that almost everyone seems inevitably to acquire.

Other activities during the evening included demonstrations on four trampolines, games of indoor hockey played with plastic sticks and pucks, games of a version of volleyball called "Newcome," tumbling exercise,

demonstration on horses, wrestling exhibitions, relay and cart.

Last year's affair was held in the city auditorium but the crowd in attendance at Rice would have filled that building.

### 75 years ago (1944)

The golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. D. Hall which is March 24, will be observed next Sunday, March 26, with an open house at their family home from 1 to 5 and with a family dinner for about 60 at the Methodist parlors at 6:30. Mr. and Mrs. Hall invite friends to call.

Mr. and Mrs. Hall, the latter formerly Sarah McCracken, were married at Kennard, Neb., where Mr. Hall had a greenhouse and nursery until 1921 when he moved to Wayne to establish a larger business.

## The Wayne Herald

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### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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The public is being invited to "make plans to travel with this year's production of "Anything Goes," Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 29-31 at Wayne High School.

The production includes music, dance, laughs, and the age-old tale of Boy Meets Girl.

"Anything Goes" is a hilarious shipboard story wrapped around one of Cole Porter's most magical scores. Many familiar songs from this show include "Anything Goes," "You're the Top," "Friendship," and "I Get a Kick Out of You."

"Rehearsals began in January and students have been at work nearly every Saturday to create a sea-worthy cruise liner as a backdrop for the madcap mayhem that ensues. This ship is nearly ready to set sail, so don't miss your opportunity to wish the passengers Bon Voyage!" said Tracy Anderson, who with Carolyn Harder, is directing the play.

Tickets are on sale and can be purchased from any cast member



**Members of the "Anything Goes" cast rehearse for upcoming shows.**

or by calling the High School office at (402) 375-3150. "Anything Goes" is produced by special arrangement with Tams-Witmark.



(Photo by Clara Ostern)

## Feeding the hungry

**Hundreds of people turned out on March 17 for the Wayne Volunteer Fireman's Pancake Breakfast. Lines stretching through the firehall and out the door were common during portions of the morning. Above, Shawn Percy mans the French toast line, while 'volunteer' Laura Hasemann mixes up pancake batter.**

## Providence Medical Center counselors help Medicare recipients save over \$30,000 in 2018

Medicare Part D Open Enrollment statistics 2018 Medicare Part D Open Enrollment was a success again this year at Providence Medical Center. Each year our SHIIP (Senior Health Insurance Information Program) counselors along with a PMC pharmacist, team together to assist the community with their Medicare Part D drug plan comparisons. A total of 77 contacts that were

made during the open enrollment period which was from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7. Medicare recipients aided by the PMC team saved roughly \$32,000. Three full days were set aside to assist the public at the Wayne Senior Center.

Assistants also spent a morning at Brookedale to help residents. SHIIP volunteers include Kiley Wohlers and Leslie Schulz,

Social Service Workers at Providence Medical Center, Scot Surber, Licensed Pharmacist at Providence Medical Center and Jodene Cantrell, Social Worker at CareAge Campus of Care. Providence Medical Center encourages Medicare recipients to review their plans yearly during open enrollment. PMC professionals look forward to assisting with questions and concerns again next year.



(Contributed photo)

"Anything Goes" features a large ensemble cast, who will perform March 29-31.

## Wayne State College To Host Star Party

The public is invited to enjoy a Nebraska evening at the Wayne State College Star Party at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 6 at Ike's Lake just north of Wayne (take Hwy 15 north, turn left on 860th Rd., turn right on 574th Ave, and in 0.3 miles turn right into Ike's Lake - look for the white fish).

This star party is a service-learning project for the Honors Astronomy class. The early evening will include

kinesthetic astronomy, a solar system walk, and a moon talk just before sunset.

When the Sun goes down, get ready to gaze into the cosmos. Telescopes provided. In the sky will be a crescent moon, Mars, the stars Sirius, Betelgeuse, Rigel, and the Pleiades and Beehive star clusters. Tours of the constellations will be given. Anyone with a telescope or binoculars are encouraged to bring

them. Other suggested items to bring: coats, blankets, and outdoor chairs. Refreshments, games and food will be provided, but feel free to bring your own. In case of inclement weather, the party will be rescheduled for April 13 at Ike's Lake.

More information can be found at [wsc.edu/planetarium](http://wsc.edu/planetarium), and any questions and/or comments should be directed to Dr. Todd Young (375-7471; [toyoun1@wsc.edu](mailto:toyoun1@wsc.edu)).

## Wayne State students' photo goes viral

On his Wednesday morning drive to Wayne State College, Exercise Science grad student Matt Melcher saw a flooded Willow Bowl and make a quick decision.

"I noticed the Willow Bowl was full of water so I thought it'd be a good idea to get some friends and inner tubes and take a picture," Melcher said.

Later that day, Wayne State College posted a photo from 1971 featuring students in a canoe during a bout of flooding. Instead of getting inner tubes Melcher decided to call around to find a boat for his photo op and as luck would have it, he found one. Next, he enlisted his friend and fellow Papillion-native Isaac Baker to take a quality photo.

"That was the hardest thing to wait for, I was excited," Baker, who has his own photography business, said.

Right as Melcher and seven oth-

ers were picking up the boat, the sun came out and the photo was snapped. Not quite "Washington Crossing the Delaware," but probably as close as can be with a jon boat in the Willow Bowl.

Despite all the work, with news pouring in of the increasingly drastic circumstances created by statewide flooding, Melcher had to think about posting the photo on social media. He then decided, if it gave someone a break from the tragedy and a brief second to smile, all the better.

"At first I kind of felt bad because I felt like we were making light of a very serious situation, but then I started to think about that it was something people needed because the whole state was underwater," Melcher said.

Melcher posted the photo and told friends and family to check it out because he thought he could get at

least 100 likes from Facebook.

He was wrong. By the time he woke up Thursday morning the photo had been liked and shared over 1,000. At the time of print, the photo has 1,666 likes. Melcher and Baker said they were particularly pleased with one of the comments.

"Wayne State commented on it, that was the funniest to me," Baker said.

With his photo going viral, shared from one end of Nebraska to the other and beyond, Melcher said he's been getting some extra attention on campus whether it be from the football players he works with asking him questions or workers in the cafeteria.

Melcher and company have given people a moment of levity during an otherwise trying time, and have perhaps made boating in the Willow Bowl an official tradition at WSC.



(Photo by Isaac Baker Photography)

Pictured from left to right are Matt Melcher, Matt Throener, Bailey Fletcher, Mitch Gulikson, Justin Jarman, Ty Hegemann, Kiefer Kotrous and David Dunklau. The students organized a photo shoot after getting inspiration from past photos of Willow Bowl flooding.

## Wayne State College CAMPUS EVENTS...

**March 25, April 1 and April 8** - "Writing the Family Story," a Service-Learning Project, will be hosted at the Wayne Public Library at 4 p.m. These workshops will focus on helping new and experienced writers learn how to write a family story. The story can be a personal memoir or a record of a family member's life and experiences. Students from ENG 404 (Advanced Creative Nonfiction) will help participants with any stage of the writing process from brainstorming, to writing (even transcribing), to editing, and offering feedback along the way.

On April 29 we will host a reading and reception, where participants and students can read their work and receive a copy of an edited collection of family stories from the project.

**March 26** - Guest Artist Brett Keating featured on euphonium, 7:30 p.m. in Ley Theatre, Brandenburg Education Building

**March 27** - Two Low Duo of Dr. Josh Calkin (tuba) and Dr. Matt Driscoll (trombone) performs at 7:30 p.m. in Ley Theatre. Free and open to the public. Calkin is a professor of low brass at Wayne State College. Driscoll is an adjunct low brass professor at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa, and Kirwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

**April 17** - Wellness Fair in the Frey Conference Suite, Kanter Student Center, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. All organizations welcome to participate.

For information: Paul McCawley, MSE, CSCS, Instructor, Exercise Science in the Department of Health, Human Performance and Sport; [pamccaw1@wsc.edu](mailto:pamccaw1@wsc.edu)

**For a full listing of events happening at Wayne State College, please visit [www.wsc.edu/calendar](http://www.wsc.edu/calendar). Some events are subject to changes. Please contact College Relations with questions at 402-375-7324**

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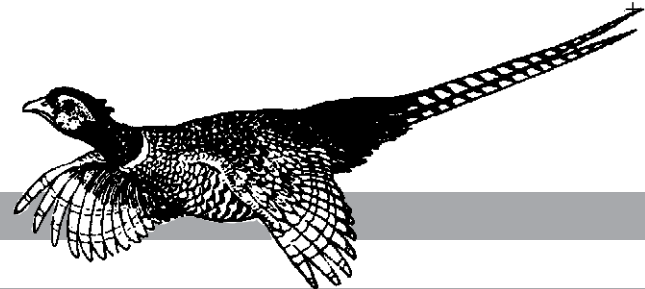
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# Sports



(Contributed photo)

## Allen has good number for track teams

The hallways and classrooms on some spring days in 2019 will be very quiet and empty at Allen High School, as more than half of the 62 high school kids are out for track this season.

The squad consists of 22 boys and 15 girls. Six of the 37 athletes competed in Omaha in the last three seasons. The Eagles captured 10 medals at the 2018 state meet, all by the returning participants on the 2019 squad. The squad size of 37 represents a high water mark topping any squad size in the recent years, if not a couple of decades. The 2018 squad had 25.

"The coaching staff is very excited about the number of participants," coach Dave Uldrich said. "It appears that the excitement is generated from within, and the atmosphere that the athletes have created in the past."

Heading the senior class for the Eagles will be Devin Twohig and Isaac Verzani. Twohig and Verzani are three-time state meet performers with Twohig holding four state meet medals, while Verzani has three.

Leading the junior class will be Brogan Jones, a two-time performer in the state meet, holding four medals. Noah Carr and Lukas Oswald

each participated in the state meet in 2018 winning a medal.

Leading the girls squad will be sophomore Alli Jackson, the lone state meet participant returning. Jackson snared two medals in the 2018 state meet with superb efforts in the 400 and 800. She will look to hang a few more around her neck in 2019.

Seniors who will jump in the competition area in 2019 are Jarod Lund, Katie Bathke, Haley Stapleton, Bethany Kneiff, Summer Jackson, Diana Rivera and Cassidy Thomas. All have the ability to contribute to team efforts during and by the end of the season. Lund is a middle-distance runner. Bathke is a jumper and sprinter. Stapleton has been a "staple" on the relay teams, Kneiff and Summer Jackson offer distance strength. Thomas and Rivera in the weights events appear as possibilities, and Thomas will hurdle. Junior Ally Twohig, may provide some depth in the distances.

The junior boys are bolstered by Joshua Grone, a member of the 400-meter relay. Steven Cooks, a high jumper and hurdler will have chances to make his mark as well. Joshua Cooper will be a hurdler. Brock Floyd will work sprints and

discus. Austin Gregerson will throw in the weights events.

The sophomore girls have some potential in the field events, headed by Carly Dickens and Ashley Kraemer. Lauren Gonzales is a hurdler who vastly improved in 2018, and newcomers Taylor Boyle and Malory Geiger could and should be contributors on the track. The sophomore boys who could make a move to the next level are Kobe Kumm (1,600), Anthony Isom (100), Steven Sullivan (triple jump), and Wyatt Verzani (1,600).

The freshmen are a very talented group, and will work to add depth to the squad. Jordyn Carr (jump and sprint) and Skyler Rahn (middle distance) are the two freshmen girls on the squad. Ryan Anderson, Josh Olesen, Ty Krommenhoek, Gabe Reinert, Kaleb Kumm, and Brennan Beach will look to fill track, hurdle and field event slots where needed.

It seems as if the 2019 could be a very exciting group to watch, as the talent walking through the school hallways have moved to the track, creating a stir of optimism with athletes who almost broke through, returning proven athletes, and of course, the youth who will develop and break through by season's end.

## Baller Bears

Back row: Izac Reifenrath, Lorna Maxon and Noah Schutte, were recently named to the Lewis and Clark Conference 1st team All-Conference Basketball team. Front row: Ty Erwin and Kinsey Hall were named Honorable Mention.

## Wayne wins four events at WSC Indoor

The Wayne High track team had yet to get in an outdoor practice before Saturday's WSC Indoor Invite, but performed well enough to earn four first-place finishes.

Coach Dale Hochstein said the team has not been able to get in any good workouts due to last week's weather, but showed up and performed well in their first competition of the season.

"The team competed very well considering the lack of decent training conditions with several athletes stepping up to fill in for injuries," he said. "It was good to at least be able to use the day for a solid workout."

In girls action, Wayne got wins in the 3,200-meter relay and the pole vault. The 3,200-meter relay of Gabi Meyer, Kiara Krusemark, Rubie Klausen and Frankie Klausen broke the tape in 11:09.68, while Masyn Dorey took top honors in the pole vault with a best mark of 9 feet, 8 inches.

Second-place finishes came from Kendall Dorey in the 200 and long jump, Meyer in the 800 and the 640-meter relay of the Doreys, Ashton Boyer and Mikaela McManigal.

Thirds were earned by Sidney Biggerstaff in the 55-meter hurdles, and in the 1,600-meter relay with Frankie Klausen, Krusemark, Erin O'Reilly and Meyer.

In boys action, Wayne earned wins in two events. Aaron Reynolds won the 200-meter dash in 24.81 seconds, while Reece Wilson Jaqua took top honors in the pole vault with a best mark of 10-6.

The 640-meter relay of Tristan Landanger, Koby Nelson, Casey Koenig and Reynolds took second place, while the 1,600-meter relay



(Photo copyright Mikey C Productions/Mary Vanderbeek) Brandon Wacker makes his way around the track during the 3,200-meter run at the WSC Indoor Invitational on Saturday. The senior runner finished third for the Blue Devils.

of Landanger, Nelson, Koenig and Reynolds finished third.

Wayne is scheduled to travel to Columbus Scotus on Tuesday,

March 26 for the Scotus Relays. Action is scheduled to begin at 2 p.m.

See Blue Devil Track, Page 2B

## Wildcats put 24 on NSIC All-Academic teams

Wayne State College landed 24 student-athletes on the 2019 Northern Sun Conference Winter All-Academic teams.

New this year, the NSIC is highlighting the All-Academic Team members with a 3.60 grade-point average or higher with the NSIC All-Academic Team of Excellence Award, and 11 of the 24 All-Academic selections from Wayne State College had a 3.60 GPA or higher.

To be eligible for the NSIC All-

Academic Team of Excellence, a student-athlete must have a 3.60 cumulative GPA or higher, while NSIC All-Academic Team members must have a 3.20 cumulative GPA or higher. Additionally, the student-athlete must be a member of the varsity traveling team, have reached sophomore athletic and academic standing at her/his institution (true freshmen, red-shirt freshmen and ineligible athletic transfers are not eligible) and must

have completed at least one full academic year at that institution.

The Wayne State men's indoor track and field team had eight selections followed by women's basketball with seven, women's indoor track and field six and men's basketball with three honorees.

The following Wayne State student-athletes were honored (\*All-Academic Team of Excellence members):

Men's Basketball — \*Vance Janssen, sr.; \*Luke TerHark, jr.; Ben Dentlinger, so.

Women's Basketball — \*Andrea Larson, sr.; Taylor Reiner, sr.; Taylor Wangerin, jr.; \*Brittany Bongartz, so.; \*Halley Busse, so.; \*Erin Norling, so.; \*Haley Vesey, so.

Men's Indoor Track and Field — Clay Kramper, sr.; Matthew Nemeec, sr.; Richard Sweeney, sr.; Jayle Hinkle, jr.; \*Dylan Kaup, jr.; Preston Davis, so.; Cade Kalkowski, so.; Kyle Lowe, so.

Women's Indoor Track and Field — Morgan Shearer, sr.; \*Tia Jones, jr.; Sophia Noecker, so.; \*Sarah Jang, so.; \*Kenzie Sullivan, so.; Jadin Wagner, so.

## WSC wrestlers 16th at nationals

The Wayne State Wildcat wrestlers wrapped up the season in Allen, Texas March 14-16 at the NCWA National Tournament.

Highlighting the team's effort was Hunter Weiss, a 149-pound junior from Beatrice who finished in the top 12 in the nation, one match short of All-American standing. Hunter was 4-2 and wrestled very well throughout a tough three-day tournament.

Gerald Kenkel, a 174-pound junior from Ogallala, made it to the round of 16 with a 2-2 performance. Ethan Fitzler a junior

from Papillion found the toughest guys in his 157-pound bracket, losing only to two All-Americans after a first-round win. Also getting mat time at the national tournament were senior Matthew Reeves (141) from Battle Creek and freshman Julio Sanchez (197) from Wakefield.

The team finished 16th in NCWA Division I, which includes major universities and programs with scholarships, paid coaching staffs and budgets much greater than Wayne State's. Coaches Devon Rupp and Greg Vander Weil

are extremely proud of the team's success, considering Wayne State has 3,300 students and the wrestlers earn their way by fundraising and putting in all the hard work to achieve this level of success.

The team will celebrate the season with all WSC Wrestling Alumni and friends and family on Sunday, April 14 at 12 p.m. in the Frye Suite of the WSC Student Center. Anyone interested in attending can RSVP to Coach Greg Vander Weil at grvande1@wsc.edu or by calling (402) 375-7283.

## Wayne Wrestling Club participates in state competition

By Kessy Hanson

Wayne Wrestling Club took 15 qualifiers to Nebraska USA State Youth Wrestling in Grand Island to compete against the top four wrestlers in their age/weight bracket from each district. Some wrestlers had an upwards of 18 to a full 32-man bracket. It was a long two days filled with heartbroken wrestlers. No matter how hard the Wayne Wrestling Club tried they

just could not find their groove and only one Wayne wrestler made his way to the podium. James Birkel, placed 7th in the 3rd-4th grade 112lb bracket!

Overall Wayne wrestlers had an outstanding season filled with success! We are proud of all the hard work, late nights, long weekends, and dedication the boys and coaches put in this season!

State Results:  
Ryden Hanson: 1-2 DNP

Merrick Miller: 2-2 DNP  
Grady Maas: 0-2 DNP  
Noah Magnuson: 0-2 DNP  
Jaheim Hamik: 0-2 DNP  
Dylan Jensen: 0-2 DNP  
James Birkel: 3-2 7th Place  
Will Leseberg: 0-2 DNP  
Zander Liston: 2-2 DNP  
Kinston Hanson: 1-2 DNP  
Ashton Munsel: 0-2 DNP  
Wyatt Heikes: 0-2 DNP  
Alex Frank: 1-2 DNP  
Eli Barner: 1-2 DNP



(Contributed photo)

James Birkel (center) was the last man standing from Wayne Wrestling Club at the Nebraska USA State Youth Wrestling tournament. James showed off his 7th place medal with coaches Levi Pofahl (left) and Danny Rockhill.

## Baseball team has quality talent returning

After a 12-6 record last spring and a good summer of competition, the Wayne High baseball team is looking for some good things this coming spring.

"We have a good nucleus coming back from last year's team, so that should help us be competitive," coach Adam Hoffman said. "We will need to build depth with our pitching staff and continue to make sure

we play defense at a high level."

Many of the players this spring were part of the Wayne American Legion Juniors team that won a state title last summer, and Hoffman is hoping that momentum carries over into this spring campaign.

Three seniors will lead the Blue Devil lineup this year, including Tyler Gilliland (pitcher, utility), Drew Buck (pitcher) and Kaleb Anderson

(pitcher, utility).

Returning juniors include Trevor DeBoer (pitcher, 1B), Blake Bartos (IF/OF), Josh Lutt (P, SS), Gunnar Jorgensen (INF/OF), Hagan Miller (3B), Brock Hopkins (OF/2B) and Tyrus Eischeid (OF). Sophomores back in the lineup include Reid Korth (C), Jacob Kneiff (P/OF) and Victor Kniesche (Utility).

## Wayne Blue Devil Outdoor Invitational announced

The Wayne Blue Devil Outdoor Invitational will be held on Tuesday, April 2 at the Kern Track Field starting at 1 p.m. Field events will begin at 1:15 p.m. with the running events to begin approximately 3:15 p.m.

Aurora, Boone Central/Newman Grove, Boys Town, Columbus Lakeview, Columbus Scotus, Pierce, Wakefield and Wayne will all be participating in the event.

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## Crookston sweeps Wildcats in NSIC opening series

The Wayne State baseball team played its "home" opener at Omaha Westside over the weekend due to wet grounds, but the home-away-from-home-field advantage did not serve them well.

Minnesota Crookston took a three-game series from the Wildcats in the Northern Sun Conference opener for both teams, finishing it off Monday with an 8-7 win at Omaha Westside High School.

On Sunday, Minnesota Crookston used strong starting pitching to shut down Wayne State College in both games of a doubleheader, winning 4-0 and 6-4.

In the opener, Golden Eagle starter Zach Rustad blanked the Wildcats with a one-hit shutout. The lefthander fanned seven Wildcats, allowing just a Kyle Thompson single in the fourth inning, along with three walks in recording the shutout. Crookston used a solo homer to take a 1-0 lead in the second and added three runs in the sixth inning to account for their offense.

In the second game, the Golden Eagles were able to hold off a late Wildcat rally to secure the doubleheader sweep.

Wayne State opened the scoring with a run in the bottom of the second as Andrew Hanson singled and scored on a Crookston throwing er-

ror.

Minnesota Crookston plated single runs in the third and fourth innings followed by a three-run seventh to grab a 5-1 lead before the Wildcats tried to rally in the bottom of the seventh. Brendan Madsen's opposite-field double down the left field line brought home Peyton Barnes and Garrett Graveline. Wayne State had the tying run on base when Bryce Bisenius walked, but Crookston was able to get out of the jam and added an insurance run in the top of the ninth.

Wayne State had a chance in the bottom of the ninth, starting the inning with pinch hits from Colin Chick and Jake Nielsen. Madsen walked to load the bases with no outs, and Alex Logelin's sacrifice fly to center scored Chick, but the Wildcats could not do any more damage.

Barnes led an eight-hit effort, going 2-for-4 with a run scored. Madsen added a two-run double while Thompson and Nielsen each had doubles. Starting pitcher Hunter Wienhoff (4-1) suffered the loss.

On Monday, senior third baseman Kyle Thompson hit two homers and went 4-for-5 on the day, but Wayne State could not overcome an early 4-0 deficit as Minnesota Crookston finished a weekend sweep with an 8-7 win Monday at Omaha Westside High School.

Minnesota Crookston scored one run in the first and three in the second for a 4-0 advantage, before the Wildcats responded with a three-run third, highlighted by an RBI double by Alex Logelin and Thompson's first home run of the day, a two-run shot to center.

Crookston added two more in the fourth to extend the lead to 6-3, but the Wildcats scored two in the bottom of the inning as Colin Chick doubled and scored on a Jake Lorenzini double, followed by an RBI single by Madsen that scored Lorenzini.

Crookston added two more in the seventh to take an 8-5 advantage. Wayne State got a run in the eighth on a Jake Lemar single that scored Bisenius, and Thompson hit a solo shot in the ninth, but that was as close as the Wildcats would get as the Golden Eagles finished the three-game sweep.

Thompson led a 12-hit attack with four hits, including two homers and three RBI. Chick was 2-for-4 with a double and Lorenzini and Logelin both had doubles. Aaron Ras took the pitching loss, allowing four runs in two innings of work.

The Wildcats (9-7, 0-3 NSIC) are scheduled to host Bemidji State in a Northern Sun Conference doubleheader on Thursday, with a location and time yet to be announced because of field availability and wet field conditions in Wayne.

## Blue Devils Track



(Photo copyright Mikey C Productions/Mary Vanderbeek) **Kiara Krusemark takes the baton around the track during the 3,200-meter relay to help Wayne win the event at the WSC Indoor Invitational on Saturday.**

### Wayne Girls Results

55: 13. Ashton Boyer, 8.66; 15. Reagan Backer, 9.12; 17. Brenda Barrera Ajqui, 10.50. 200: 2. Kendall Dorey, 28.84; 6. Maysn Dorey, 30.88; 9. Virginia Kniesche, 32.21. 400: 6. Frankie Klausen, 1:12.45; 8. Mikaela McManigal, 1:14.12; 12. Hope O'Reilly, 1:21.06. 800: 2. Gabi Meyer, 2:46.71; 7. Rubie Klausen, 2:58.66; 11. Faith Junck, 3:23.17. 1,600: 8. Maddie Bear, 6:59.57; 9. Andi Belt, 7:03.84. 55 Hurdles: 3. Sidney Biggerstaff, 10.02; 8. Erin O'Reilly, 11.26. 640 relay: 2. Wayne (Boyer, K. Dorey, McManigal, M. Dorey), 1:37.49. 1,600 relay: 3. Wayne (F. Klausen, Kiara Krusemark, O'Reilly, Meyer), 4:45.57. 3,200 relay: 1. Wayne (Meyer, Krusemark, R. Klausen, F. Klausen), 11:09.68. High jump: 7. Aliah Schulz, 4-4; 8. Belt, 4-4; 9. Jamie Janke, 4-2. Pole vault: 1. M. Dorey, 9-8. Long jump: 2. K. Dorey, 15-7 1/4; 10. Boyer, 12-7 1/4; 12. Hope O'Reilly, 12-1 1/2. Triple jump: 6. McManigal, 28-3; 9. Symphony Jareske, 27-4 1/2; 12. Maggie Fehringer, 26-11 1/2.

### Wayne Boys Results

Shot put: 4. Emily Armstrong, 35-0; 8. Allison Claussen, 34-1; 14. Skylar Mutchler, 29-1.

### Wayne Boys Results

55: 12. Israel Rodriguez, 7.62; 14. Owen Frideres, 7.79. 200: 1. Aaron Reynolds, 24.81; 12. Kobey Nelson, 28.87. 400: 7. Reece Wilson-Jaqua, 1:01.93; 9. Nelson, 1:02.35; 16. Edwin Espino, 1:06.97. 800: 11. Christopher Cruz, 2:42.39. 1,600: 12. Kaden Hopkins, 6:15.82; 13. Ethan Wibben, 6:30.47. 3,200: 3. Brandon Wacker, 12:37.83; 5. Sean Aschoff, 13:06.09. 640 relay: 2. Wayne (Tristan Landanger, Nelson, Casey Koenig, Reynolds), 1:23.69. 1,600 relay: 3. Wayne (Landanger, Nelson, Koenig, Reynolds), 4:01.46. High jump: 7. (tie) Landanger and Reynolds, 5-2. Pole vault: 1. Wilson-Jaqua, 10-6; 2. Cameron Muhs, 10-0. Long jump: 13. Quintin Billheimer, 15-3. Triple jump: 4. Wilson-Jaqua, 36-4; 10. Billheimer, 31-1. Shot put: 4. Mike Leatherdale, 46-7; 6. Kaden Kneif, 42-4.

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## YOUTH BOWLING

Division One-ages 6-10 Week #14	Division Two-ages 11-13 Week #14	Division 3-ages 14-18 Week #14
<b>High Games and Series:</b>	<b>High Games and Series:</b>	<b>High Games and Series:</b>
Dylan Jensen 160 386	Shayne Geidner 154 392	Tanner Sievers 157 427
Drue Jensen 144 380	Zane Sievers 139 364	Peyton Riesberg 143 384
Ben Haschke 143 407	Jersi Jensen 139 404	Christopher Archer 135 402
Blake Smith 139 383	Riley Haschke 114 328	Carter Hasemann 135 329
Konnor Kai 137 357		
Aiden Peterson 130 338		

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## WILDCAT LANES

**City League**  
Week #28 03/12/19

Grossenburg Impl.	35	13
One Office	34	14
Wildcat Cubs	33	15
Vet's Club	24.5	19.5
Bryan's Plumbing	26.5	21.5
Wildcat Lanes	23	21
4th Jug	25	23
Half-Ton Club	21	27
Wayne Country Club	18.5	29.5
Tom's Body Shop	17.5	30.5
The Odd Balls	15	33
Klein Electric	10	38

**High Games and Series:** Dylan Sokol, 269; Wildcat Cubs, 793; Randy Bargholz, 660; Wildcat Lanes, 2,235; Brad Jones, 640; Sam Wesely, 626; Kent Roberts, 624; Dylan Sokol, 632; Michael Denklau, 604; Amanda Rusch, 486.

**High Scores:** Sam Wesely, 245; Randy Bargholz, 242; Kelly Hansen, 235; Brad Jones, 235; Michael Denklau, 232; Dustin Bargholz, 225; Doug Rose, 224; Kent Roberts, 223; Darin Bargholz, 219; Dylan Reinhardt,

213; Rich Rethwisch, 205; Brady Ping, 205; Mark Klein, 204; Keith Roberts, 203; Kyle Kempf, 201; Kayleen Roberts, 192; Amanda Rusch, 187.

**Hits N Misses**  
Week #27 03/13/19

JS Enterprises	35	13
Ruwe Farms	30	18
Gary's Food Town	27	21
Kathol & Associates	25	23
Wildcat Lanes	24	24
White Dog Pub	19	29
State Nebraska Bank	18	30
Deerfield Ghost	14	34

**High Games and Series:** Renee Saunders, 195; Lynda Belt, 184; Marilyn Abts, 183; Renee Saunders, 525; Kathy Bird, 481.

**Splits:** Mandy Stabler, 4-10.

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# Working to preserve habitat



(Photos by Clara Osten) Hundreds of people turned out to show their support of the work of the Logan Creek Chapter of Pheasants Forever during the 29th annual banquet. While the weather prohibited Pheasants Forever Regional Representative Jerry McDonald from emceeding the event, Chapter President Jim Modrell (top left) was able to step in for the evening. This year's event was held at the Beaumont Event and Concert Hall and included many of the traditional events, including raffles, live and silent auctions and the recognizing of the youth who took part in last year's Youth Mentor Hunt. One of the highlights of the evening was the auctioning off of an autographed Rex Burkhead football jersey. During the evening Modrell highlighted the work of the chapter, including working with youth on a pollinator project at Thompson-Barnes Wildlife Management Area.

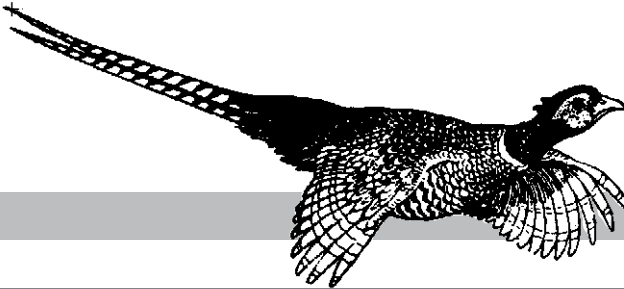












# Concern for all those in agriculture

Last week, I was concerned about the cow/calf guy; today, Monday, my concern is for Agriculture in Nebraska. And March is Ag Month! The president of Nebraska Farm Bureau announced that the losses could soon top a billion! Yes, a billion, when many farmers are already struggling after four years in a row of very little profit. The scenes can make you weep.

My friend in northern Minnesota called this evening, just to satisfy herself that we are high and dry. And we are! The snow has disappeared so quickly, it's hard to believe.

We are now on mandatory water rationing, though, and that could get interesting. For instance, restaurants are using disposable plates and utensils, and only serving water on request. Tonight, on local TV, we were told how to show-



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

er: turn on the water and quickly turn it off, use soap, and then turn on the water to rinse! My brother

called that a submariner's shower, and claimed that other Navy personnel usually gave them a wide berth when on shore.

They are also saying to only wash clothes or dishes with full loads; don't we do that, anyway? Car washes are closed, and I admit I did want to wash winter's accumulation off the Escape, but it can wait. As one owner proclaimed, "we are not suffering, this is the least we can do."

But scenes of stranded livestock, horses belly deep in cold water, air lifting dogs and cats, or taking them out via air boat give me the shivers! Towns cut off make us realize how dependent we are on routine deliveries of groceries, gas, diapers and baby formula.

Hy-Vee actually sent a convoy to Fremont yesterday, led by a military vehicle of some kind. Today, Channel 8 is filling a trailer for

North Bend. And, as the mother of Mr. Rogers used to say, "when there is trouble, look for the helpers." They are always there, folks are donating online (we did, Orphan Grain Train makes it easy), buying extra groceries, like bottled water and having pancake feeds to raise money.

That reminds me that Peru is really without water, so folks in Auburn are trying to help out there. The first responders and rescue squads have been working long days, we need to keep them in our prayers, also. The college there has sent the students home and have no idea when they can resume classes.

It's a totally different scenario, worse even than 1993 or 2011. And it will take many hours and dollars to repair the damage. Let's just hope the rain in the forecast is minimal. We don't need that, too!

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# Alfalfa is the forgotten crop

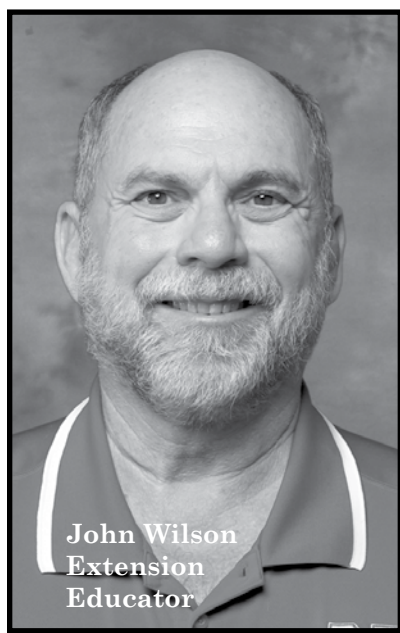
Often alfalfa is the forgotten crop on the farm. Confession: I know it seemed that way on our family farm when I was growing up. Looking back, I'm sure we could have managed it better. We can take that cutting next week... We won't worry about those weeds, we'll get rid of most of them with the first cutting... That stand looks OK, we'll harvest it one more year... I'm sure there were other poor choices we and other alfalfa growers made.

With grain prices where they are and seasonal demand for alfalfa, it can be one of the most profitable crops on the farm. If you don't think hay prices are good, ask anybody with cows trying to purchase enough hay to get them through until pastures are available for grazing. Our winter forced producers to supplement with hay when they were planning to graze stalks. Here are a few things you can do to improve your alfalfa.

Check alfalfa for winter injury: Alfalfa will soon green up and start to grow, at least those plants that survived the winter. Hopefully winterkill won't be too bad this year, but it pays to assess your stand... especially on older stands. We didn't have snow cover early, but temperatures were moderate most of that time. During the most recent bitter cold spell, most fields were protected by a blanket of snow.

Evaluate your own stands early this spring. Older, dryland fields that have fewer than 30 new shoots per square foot coming from two or three plants may need to be planted soon to a different crop and new fields planted to alfalfa. Very productive sites, such as irrigated fields, should have at least 40 shoots per square foot from four to six plants. Anything less should be a strong candidate for rotation. Stands tend to lose about one-tenth of a ton in yield potential for every shoot below these recommended numbers.

Check for these densities in several areas of your fields when the



**John Wilson**  
Extension Educator

early shoots are four to six inches tall. Since some shoots begin growing later than others, stands with enough plants but slightly low shoot density may be alright, especially if shoot height and distribution is fairly uniform. However, if plant density is low or shoot growth is not uniform, yields probably will be lowered.

Add Grass to Thin Alfalfa Stands: What do you do if you checked your fields for winterkill and find you have a marginal stand? You might not want to try to establish a new stand of alfalfa this spring because of rotational restrictions from herbicides applied last year or you prefer to establish new stands in the fall when there is less weed competition. In those cases, thin alfalfa stands can be rejuvenated by interseeding grasses and converting them to pasture or haying them as a grass-alfalfa mixture.

Most alfalfa fields start to lose stand and yield after cutting hay for several years. Sometimes winterkill thins stands. As your stands begin to get thin, consider interseeding grasses into it. Not only might you extend the useful life of your alfalfa field by several years, you also will develop excellent hay or grazing for your live-

stock.

The most common grasses interseeded into alfalfa are orchardgrass and smooth brome, but other grasses like wheatgrasses or Garrison creeping foxtail (excellent on a wet site) also can be used. If you plan to use this field as pasture, include other legumes like red clover for short-term pasture or birdsfoot trefoil if you plan to graze this as pasture more than three years. This will add diversity to animal diets and help assure good legume growth for several more years.

You must get these new seedlings off to an early start, so be sure to interseed as soon as soils thaw and the soil is dry enough to allow tractor and drills to operate properly. If your alfalfa still is relatively thick and vigorous, also take a very early hay cutting well before buds form, probably during the first week of May. This will allow sunlight to continue to reach new seedlings below the alfalfa.

Then use your good judgment regarding competition from the existing alfalfa for subsequent hay cuts. By mid- to late summer you could be able to start rotational grazing. The new seedlings won't contribute much forage this year, but next year they should be a welcome addition. Interseeding grass into existing alfalfa takes timely planting and haying, but can improve both the land and the livestock.

Dormant Spraying for Alfalfa Weeds: It's too early and too wet now, but it is amazing how quickly the seasons will change. Don't put things off, soon it will be spring and your alfalfa will be greening up and limit your options for control weeds. Be prepared to manage weeds in your alfalfa before they get a stronghold.

Weeds like pennycress, downy brome, mustards, cheatgrass, and shepherd's purse are common in first-cut alfalfa. They lower yields, reduce quality, lessen palatability, and slow hay drydown. If you walk over your fields during the next few weeks when any remain-

ing snow is gone and it gets a little dryer, you should be able to see their small, green, over-wintering growth.

If your alfalfa variety is Round-up Ready, you can spray almost any time without hurting your alfalfa. However, once conventional alfalfa starts growing, you can't control these weeds very well without also hurting your alfalfa. Fortunately, if you treat your alfalfa as soon as possible during upcoming spring-like weather, you can have cleaner, healthier alfalfa at first cutting.

Before spraying these weeds, be sure they are causing economic damage to your alfalfa. Spraying will give you more pure alfalfa but may cost some in total tonnage. Several herbicides can help control winter annual grasses and weeds in conventional alfalfa. They include metribuzin, Velpar, Sinbar, Pursuit, Raptor, and Karmex. They all control mustards and pennycress, but Karmex and Pursuit do not control downy brome very well.

To be most successful, you must apply most of these herbicides before alfalfa shoots green up this spring to avoid much injury to your alfalfa. If alfalfa shoots are green when you spray, growth may be set back a couple weeks. If it does get late, use either Raptor or Pursuit because they tend to cause less injury to your alfalfa. Timing is crucial when controlling winter annual weeds before alfalfa starts to green up. Take advantage of the nice weather when it occurs.

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## What is the most important tool in your cab? – Look Left!

I don't know when planting season will start, but I do know that when it does, it will feel like we are going 100 mph. When we are in the tractor, with that planter hooked up behind us, we find ourselves in a state of conflict. We want to know that we are doing a good job, but a stopped planter doesn't get anything done either. So, we rely on the monitor to our right to feed us information. Today, I want to remind everyone of the tools we have to our right, but also to our left.

The best planting monitors of today offer a lot of assurance about what is happening out the back of our planter. Notice that I used the term planter monitor and not display. While these two terms have been used interchangeably through the years, they are not. Some OEM monitors are displays that display planter information. For example, a Pro 700 gives you all of the pertinent information that you must know. For example, drive speed, population, section control, and high and low row information. That is all certainly important, but it does little to tell us more of the specifics about how the planter is performing.

What is far more useful and comes from a modern planter monitor is information about seed spacing, singulation, doubles, skips, downforce, and gauge wheel load on each and every row. More useful yet is when the monitor in your cab maps that information, so you don't have to watch it like a hawk. Instead, you can pay attention to the other aspects of your planter, the field, and the fence. Then, you have a map to see if things are a bit askew when you can divert your attention.

But what the modern planter monitor, or specifically the Precision Planting 20/20 lets us do is go beyond the seed tube. We have talked before about the SmartFirm, and some of its capabilities as a sensor, but for those that don't remember, it allows us to see into the seed trench. Of course, its abilities to sense Organic Matter and CEC are useful, but some of the other pieces are incredibly important as well. The three things that it sees and tells you as you are in the field that you get on the go is if you are getting the furrow clean or dragging in trash, the soil temp you are planting into, and the soil moisture you are planting into. Gone are the days of asking what the right seeding depth are. If you are below 1.5" and have good moisture and soil temps, then you are in good shape. If not, make an adjustment.

But for as much as I would like this conversation today to be about convincing you to upgrade your planter monitor or add some SmartFirmers to your operation before planting starts, that may not be practical. So instead my call to action for you today is to reach left instead of right, and use the tool you have on that side of the cab. For those of you that are still wondering what I am talking about, it is the door latch. The most important thing you can do is get out and dig. It is essential whenever conditions change. And it does not happen often enough. We field far too many calls every spring where the operator is concerned about something they are seeing on their display. But when we ask, "Did you get out and dig?" it is often met by silence.

So for those of you that don't have all of the latest and greatest tools on your planter to be your eyes from different angles, please get out and check things out a few times a day. Even if it is just five extra minutes after the planter is loaded, that's a start. And for those of you that have all the latest and greatest, guess what, you still need to dig too, if for nothing more than confirmation of the sensors readings.

At the end of the day, if you have dug for 30 minutes each day, you should feel good and have some confidence in the job you are doing. If planting takes you ten days, then that is five hours you have added to your season. As my Grandma used to say, "If you don't have time to do it right the first time, when will you find time to do it again?"

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Contact person:  
Russ Plager  
[Ruplage1@waynebluedevils.org](mailto:Ruplage1@waynebluedevils.org)  
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Positions 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 19 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-4:00pm but, 2 of the trainings are evening hours 5pm-9pm.)

Interested parties should pick up  
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Attention: Vern

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As an organization, we support persons with developmental disabilities to access and participate in their community, develop social networks and teach life skills, so people are successful in their homes, community and with employment opportunities

**All applicants must be at least 19 years of age, have a valid drivers 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. Positions are up to 30 hours per week.

**Applicants are required to attend job training, most of which are day hours (example: 8:30am - 4:30pm) Part-time positions must be available to work on holidays and weekends.**

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**FOR RENT:** 2 bedroom apartments in Wisner. Hilltop Apartments. (402) 841-4007. 3/26

**FOR RENT:** 1-2-3 bedroom apartments for rent in Sunnyview and Eastview Apartments in Wayne, and Wakefield Village Apartments in Wakefield. Rent is based on income with no income limits in Sunnyview or Wakefield Village Apartments. Call 402-373-3374 Or 800-658-3126 or stop at 805 Providence Rd, Ste 102, Wayne for an application or to see apartment. This institution is an equal opportunity provider. Esta institucion es un proveedor de igualdad de oportunidades. 3/28

**ACREAGE FOR FOR RENT:** 4 bedrooms, central air, 2 car garage, Northwest of Wayne. No Pets. Available April 1. Call 402-369-0212. 4/7

## SERVICES

**SMALL ENGINE** repair. General repair. Welding. Stump grinding. ALSO: Several reconditioned snow blowers. Call 402-375-2471 after 6 p.m. tfn

**MORE FOR SALES ON PAGE 8C**

