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The Wayne Herald

Thursday, March 26, 2020 144th Year - No. 26

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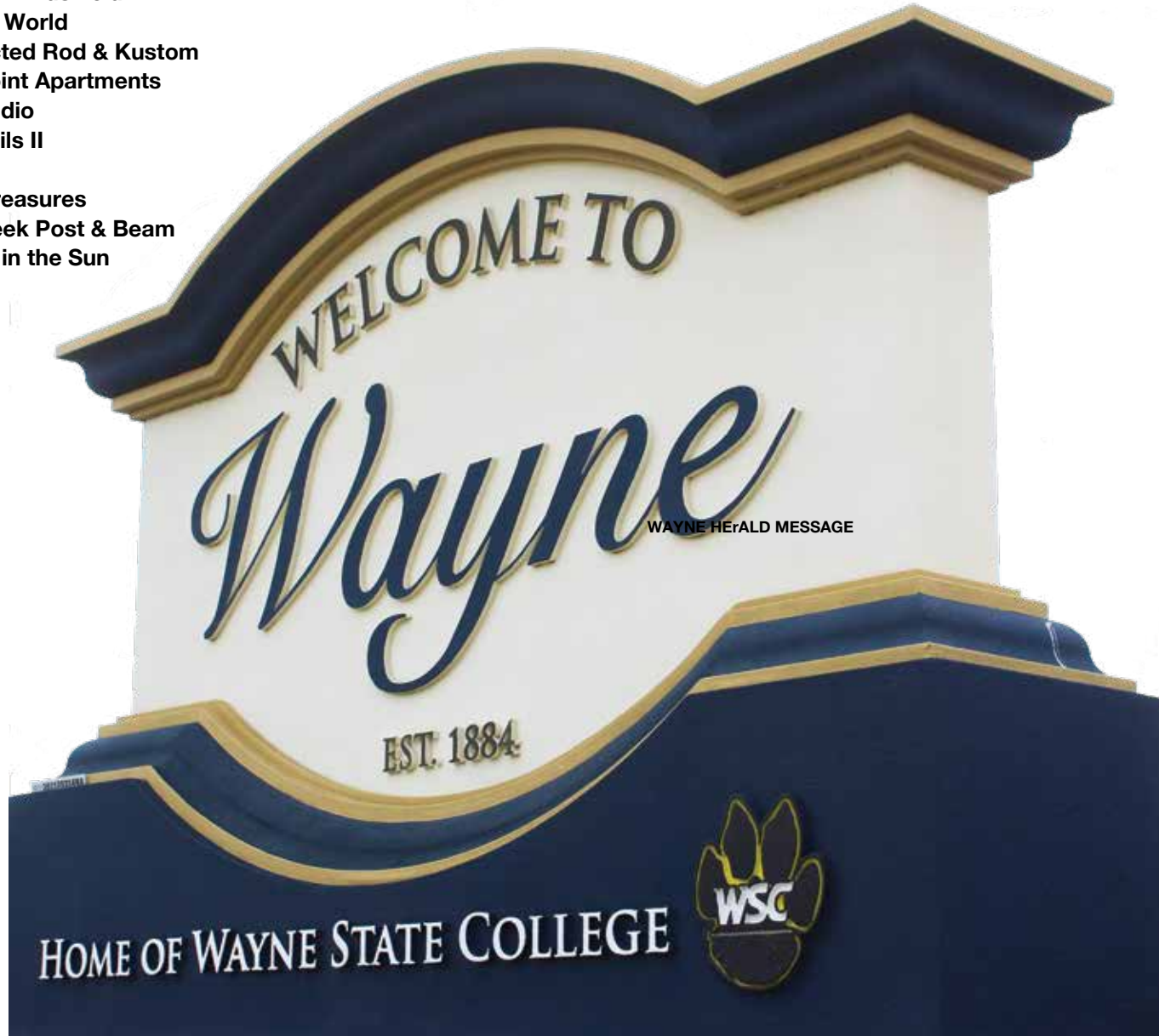
ONE

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Countryview Care & Rehabilitation
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DV Fyre-Tec
Edward Jones Investments-Ken Marra
Edward Jones Investments-Wes Pinkerman
Ekeko Blends and Goods
Elkhorn Agency
Elkhorn Valley Bank & Trust
Ellis Home Service
ESU #1-Tower School
Exhaust Pros Total Car Care
F&M Bank
Faith Region Physician Services-Wayne Family Medicine
Family First Dental
Farm Bureau Financial Services
Farmers State Bank
Fiesta Brava
Final Touch
First Baptist Church
First National Bank of Omaha

First Source Title & Escrow Co.
Fishers of Kids Preschool
Flower Cellar
Wayne Food Pantry
Fredrickson Oil
G's Quick Stop
Gamble Landscaping
Gemstone Bridge Bead & Gem
Geno's Steakhouse & The Market at Geno's
George Phelps CFP, CLU, ChFC
Gerhold Concrete
Gill Hauling
Godfather's Pizza
Grant Miller Construction
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Horizon Construction & Rental
Huskerland Communications, LLC
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Hytrek Lawn Services
IKT Boutique
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Johnnie Byrd Brewing Company
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Lindner Construction
LMB Visual Creations
Lockers Mini Storage
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Luna's Mexican Restaurant & Market
Lutt Oil & Service
Lutt Trucking
Magic Wok
Magnuson Hopkins EyeCare, PC
Main Street Garage
Majestic Theatre
Max Bar & Grill
McDonalds
Meadowview Estates
Micah's Closet
Mid City Salon
Mid States School Bus
Midwest Land Company

Sebade Construction
Seed Source
Select Appliance
Serenity School of Massage Therapy
Sharp Construction
Spann Auto
Sports Club Motel
St. Mary's Catholic School
Stadium Sports
Stanley Steemer
State Farm Insurance-Rusty Parker
State National Insurance
State Nebraska Bank & Trust
Subway
Sunnyhill Villa Apartments
Super 8 Motel
Swan's Apparel & Swan's For Men
Tacos & More
Tangles
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The 4th Jug/Jug's Pizza
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Pieper Law Office
Pizza Hut
Poutre Properties
Power Wash USA
Precision Agronomy
Pro Center Hearing
Progressive Property Inspections
Property Exchange Partners
Providence Community Pharmacy
Providence Medical Center & Foundation
Quality Auto Sales
Quality Foods
Quality One Graphics & Signs
R & W Construction
Rain Tree
Rainbow Windshield
Rainbow World
Rezurrected Rod & Kustom
Ridge Point Apartments
Ron's Radio
Royal Nails II
Runza
Rustic Treasures
Sand Creek Post & Beam
Seasons in the Sun

Wayne Dance Company
Wayne East Prime Stop
Wayne Eye Care
Wayne Greenhouse
Wayne Herald/Morning Shopper
Wayne Lawn & Leisure
Wayne Mini-Stor
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Allen Community Center
Allen Consolidated Schools
C & S Seeds
Collision & Kustoms
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Dixon County
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Isom Love-A-Lop Farm
Mary Jean's House of Beauty
Northeast Housing Initiative
Pioneer Seed
Rod's Repair
Security Bank
State Farm Insurance-Annette Pritchard
Two Dam Buffalo
Upholstery Designs by Michelle
Village of Allen



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The Wayne Herald and Morning Shopper is proud to serve Wayne and the surrounding communities for the last 135 years. Though times are tough, we're here with you.

Wayne Countryview

From Page 3A

they're adjusting now," Liz Sharer, director of admissions at Wayne Countryview said.

For residents who are no longer able to get out regularly, and then were unable to accept visitors, getting creative has been the key to staying connected. Instead of welcoming a loved one into their room, residents are now speaking to friends and families over the telephone while staying at their windows, protecting both parties, but allowing them to see each other.

Technology has also been a big help for those whose visitors can't physically meet in the same place.

"We've had a lot of people call the facility and ask for their loved one. Otherwise, we've been reaching out to (family that visit often) and we'll FaceTime with them," Sharer said. To keep residents in good spirits, Wayne Countryview staff have held

special events like hallway bingo, that allow residents to stay in their rooms, but participate in activities. They've even brought in ice cream treats from local fast food restaurants. Another activity is planned for Tuesday, March 31.

"We are scheduling a Parade of Waves," Sharer said. "We're hoping the community will get out of their house and make signs or honk the horn and hopefully it'll be nice enough that we can take people outside and they can watch. Otherwise, they'll just be looking from the window."

The parade around the Countryview building will begin at 1 p.m.

Sharer said if members of the community are looking to spread a little positivity, sending cards and letters to Wayne Countryview residents is a great way to do so. Call (402) 375-1922 for more information.

SNB accepting donations on behalf of Wayne Food Pantry

State Nebraska Bank & Trust has announced the bank is now accepting financial donations on behalf of the Wayne Food Pantry. Checks or cash may be dropped off at the bank's drive thru at 122 Main Street in Wayne. State Nebraska Bank & Trust will match up to \$1,000 in donations to help support the Wayne Food Pantry during this critical time.

Contact State Nebraska Bank & Trust at (402) 375-1130 for questions.

Providence Medical Center ready for COVID-19 when, if it comes to Wayne

Providence Medical Center CEO Jim Frank said the hospital is ready if staff start to see COVID-19 patients coming through the door, but thankfully, so far, there are no confirmed cases at PMC.

While there are no cases, PMC is fully prepared to deal with COVID-19, according to Nicole Haglund, vice president of Nursing Services at PMC.

"I would just like to reassure everybody that we are prepared for these situations on any given day," Haglund said. "I know there's a lot of stress and a lot of hype about it right now because it's kind of the new thing out there, but preparedness is something that a hospital always does."

Preparation can often mean prevention and PMC is actively trying to prevent the spread of COVID-19 by implementing several visitor changes.

Visitors are limited to one per patient and are subjected to screening prior to being admitted. The hospital's main entrance is locked and visitors are being asked to ring the doorbell there to begin the screening process. Symptom-free visitors can only enter the building between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Patients with appointments will be called for screening the day before their appointment and will be asked screening questions when they arrive the day of their appointment. With policy changing quickly, as is the COVID-19 situation in general, Frank said the hospital is adapting well.

"With the exception of the outside public coming in, it's been pretty close to business as usual for us," Frank said. "We have to function (because) people need health care."

Patients and visitors alike are encouraged to call PMC before coming up to the building whether it's to visit or to pay a bill or pick up medical records.

"When (people) call in to the hospital we'll do our best to answer their questions and help get them with the support services that they may need," Haglund said. "We are encouraging them over the phone as well, to practice social distancing, try to treat yourself at home, with fever reducers, cough medicine that type of stuff, and unless it is a true emergency, try to take care of yourself at home."

Both Haglund and Frank encourage the public to use good hand hygiene and choose to listen to facts instead of giving in to fear.

"We're here, we're ready and we're going to take great care of (our patients) no matter what their medical need is," Frank said.

PMC has implemented the following policies:

Hospital and visitor policies
Our main entrance (Entrance Door 5) will always be locked.

If you are sick
If you have any of the following symptoms, please refrain from visiting the hospital. If you are a patient with these symptoms, please be sure to alert the hospital of your symptoms immediately upon your arrival.

- Cough
- Fever of 100 degrees or higher
- Sore Throat
- Headache
- Body Aches
- Sneezing
- Watery Eyes or Nose

Visitors
Please push the doorbell at the main entrance (Entrance Door 5) to be given access to the hospital. Expect to wait a short time and receive a health screen before being allowed to enter.

• Symptom free patient visitors may only enter the building between the hours of 7 a.m.-7 p.m.

• We are limiting patient visitors to one immediate family member at a time.

Minor exceptions will be made for those loved ones visiting patients who are at end-of-life, in hospice, or in critical condition at the discretion of the facility.

Patients coming to Labor & Delivery are encouraged to arrive with their symptom-free designated support person.

Patients with appointments

Therapy patients, respiratory rehab., and cardiac rehab. patients: please enter through the Wellness Center doors (Entrance Door 3) where you will be met by our staff who will grant access to the therapy department after you complete a health screen.

Outpatient clinic patients: please enter through the outpatient entrance (Entrance Door 7) for your appointments. Expect to complete a health screen prior to your appointment.



Everyone who comes to PMC is now taken through screening protocols to protect patients and staff from possible COVID-19 exposure.

ment.

Emergency services
Patients will continue to enter the Emergency Department doors on the North side of the building through Door 20.

Bill pay options

1. Mail in your bill or you can leave your bill in the drop box inside the main entrance of the hospital. This entrance is marked as Door 5.

2. We encourage you to make a payment online. Go to our website at providencemedical.com and click on Online Quick Pay under patient resources. From there you will be taken through the steps to pay your bill online.

3. If you have a question or want to discuss your bill with someone, you can call the hospital at (402) 375-3800 and ask for the billing department.

Please be aware that these policies may change suddenly as the situation evolves.

General precautions to prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses

Everyday preventive actions are always recommended to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses.

• Avoid close contact with those who are ill.

• When ill, limit contact with others as much as possible.

• Stay home if you are ill.

• Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs.

• Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap is not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub with at least 60 percent alcohol.

Reporting travel

To report travel to a higher-risk country in the past 14 days or if you have a potential exposure to a COVID-19 case, please complete the Department of Health and Human Resources survey found at cip-dhhs.ne.gov/redcap/surveys/?s=JKHEPR4DPR.

Providence Community Pharmacy Celebrates One Year!

Enjoy 10% discount on all over-the-counter products for the entire month of April.

We are always accepting new patients. If you'd like to make a change, we can make the transition easy for you. Just stop in or give us a call.

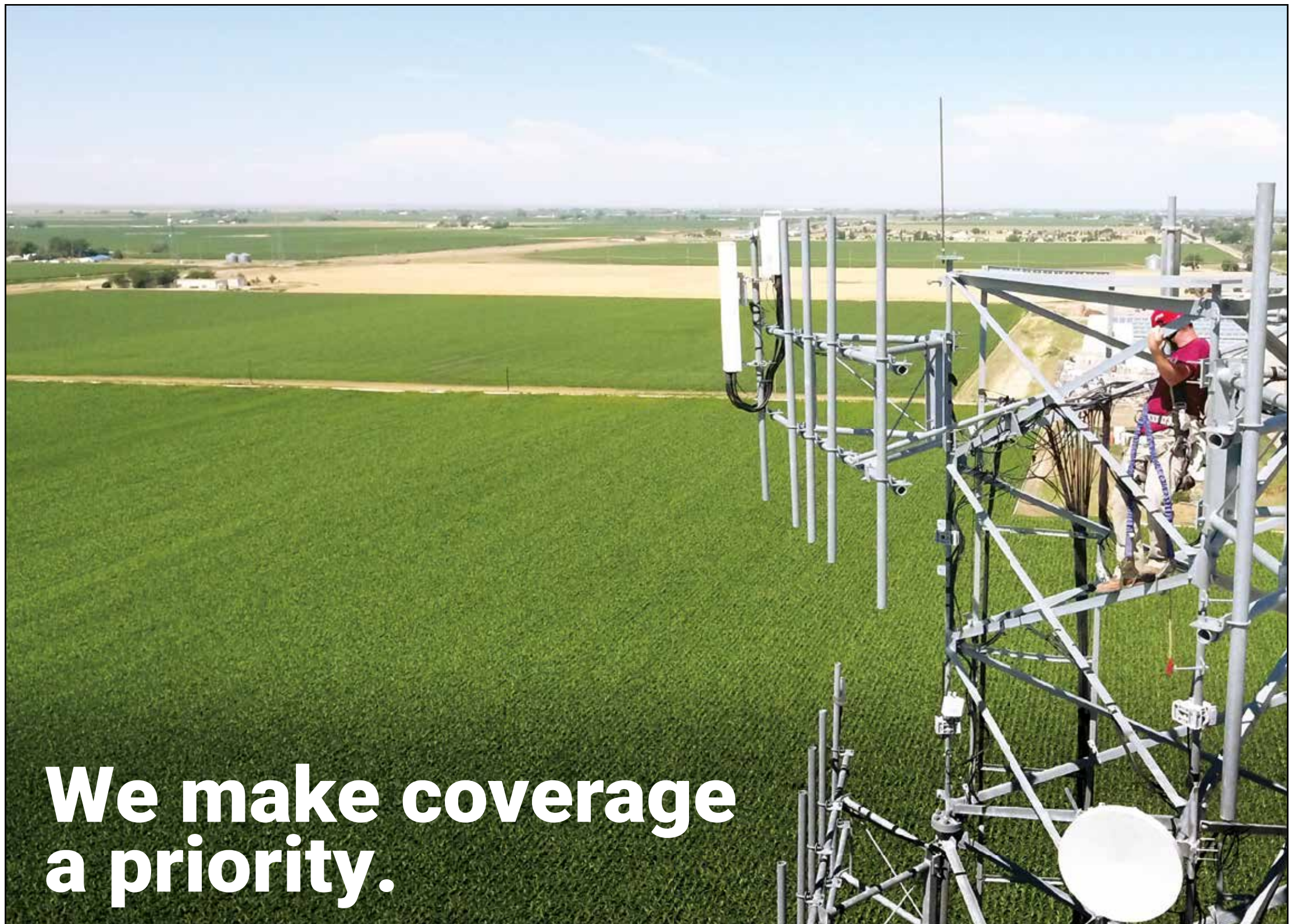
Thank you so much for your support this last year!



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(Photo by Tracy Daniels)

Bear Country

Area children were able to get outside and go on a "bear hunt." Many homes had teddy bears placed either in windows, or like above, in more conspicuous places. Kids young and old went around neighborhoods seeing how many they could spot.

New season of 'Backyard Farmer' blooms April 2 on NET

The popular lawn and garden series "Backyard Farmer" is back with a new season beginning at 7 p.m. CT, Thursday, April 2, on NET, Nebraska's PBS and NPR Stations. Every year from spring to fall, host Kim Todd, Nebraska Extension landscape horticulture specialist, and a panel of Nebraska Extension experts, help viewers answer questions about insect pests and disease, turf, and fruits and vegetables, as well as landscape design and general horticulture topics. Several features being planned this season will focus on climate change, how to select a reputable lawn care company, unusual vegetables for the garden, construction impacts on soil and how to correct it, controlling mice indoors and outdoors, and turf grubs. Viewers will also get weekly updates from the Backyard Farmer garden. Viewers can still phone in their lawn and garden questions to the live program as well as send questions and photos via e-mail or Facebook messages. To submit a question or photo for the experts, viewers can email byf@unl.edu or visit the Facebook fan page at facebook.com/backyardfarmernebraska.

The Prairie Doc

History has its eyes on us

History has its eyes on you. That is a quote from the popular musical Hamilton, but as we are dealing with a global pandemic it also applies to all of us. The year 2020 is going to be remembered someday in history books. How it will be remembered is in part, up to us. Will this year go down in history as a time of great selfishness - with people hoarding masses of toilet paper and masks? Will this year go down as a time when we all came together to help our neighbors through this scary and uncertain time?



The Prairie Doc
By Jill Kruse, DO

There are heartwarming stories of people in Italy singing from their windows at night. All these voices raised up together to bring hope and a small spark of joy. Even though they are separated physically by the quarantine, they unite in spirit and in song. In the United States there have been reports of neighborhoods that are connecting on social media to see who on their block needs resources. They assign "team leads" to check in with each family to see if they need anything. The "team lead" arranges for someone in the neighborhood to deliver groceries and medications to the doorsteps of the elderly or those

quarantined. Families are home eating together each night. Activities have been cancelled and the normal day to day busyness has gone away. At my own home, board games are being pulled out of the closet, books are being read more, and family movie night is a regular occurrence. There is no rushing to get out the door to this activity or that event.

In the midst of the fear and the uncertainty, I am trying to savor the quiet moments at home with those I love most. Now is the time to re-connect with family and friends that you "didn't have time" to talk with. Now is the time to send that text or email. Don't hesitate to make that phone call or Facetime someone who is important, but previously was not high on your list of things "to do". This past week I have had more phone calls and text messages from friends and family than I can ever recall before. That has been a gift. Every day we write history. Today we get to decide what people will remember about this year. Let's do everything we can to show how we can come together to save lives and overcome this disease. Jill Kruse, DO is part of The Prairie Doc team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc library, visit prairiedoc.org and follow Prairie Doc on Facebook, featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc a medical Q&A show streamed most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

Fewer drunk driving arrests thanks to COVID-19 guidance

Troopers with the Nebraska State Patrol (NSP) removed four impaired drivers from the road during a special enforcement operation surrounding St. Patrick's Day. The four arrests represent the fewest during a St. Patrick's Day enforcement effort in at least 15 years. "While we always hope that nobody drives impaired, this reduction in DUI arrests points to how well the public has responded

to health guidance related to COVID-19," said Colonel John Bolduc, Superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol. "We'd like to thank restaurants and bars across Nebraska for doing their part during this difficult time." Throughout the last decade, NSP has averaged roughly 16 DUI arrests on St. Patrick's Day. Yesterday's enforcement effort was made possible thanks in part to a grant

for \$7,552 from the Nebraska Department of Transportation - Highway Safety Office. "During this time of uncertainty, Nebraskans can be assured that troopers are still working statewide to provide excellent law enforcement service," said Colonel Bolduc. "While troopers stand ready to help, we strongly encourage Nebraskans to follow guidelines issued by health experts to limit the spread of COVID-19."

Nebraska Farm Bureau shares COVID-19 relief package priority list with Nebraska's congressional delegation

Nebraska Farm Bureau (NEFB) is working closely with the Nebraska congressional delegation to address concerns related to how COVID-19 has impacted commodity/cattle markets, supply chain concerns, and the ability to get H-2A workers in agriculture. "Unfortunately, market uncertainty has shook farm commodity markets at a time when those of us in production agriculture have experienced a multi-year decrease in overall farm income. From live cattle (down 25 percent), hogs (down 22 percent), soybeans (down 14 percent), corn (down 13 percent), and wheat (down 12 percent) to ethanol margins currently at negative 25 cents, from top to bottom, commodities are experiencing significant downward pressure," Nebraska Farm Bureau President Steve Nelson said. "With these downward trends, we continue to hear concerns being expressed about potential

market manipulation particularly amongst our cow/calf producing members. Farm Bureau has shared that concern with the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service as well as the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) over the past several days," he said. Nebraska Farm Bureau is asking Congress to provide some level of stabilization payments to farmers and ranchers who have watched commodity markets drop. "We'd also ask these payments be expanded to include cattle producers as they continue to bear much of the brunt of this market downturn. We also ask that Nebraska's delegation keep in touch with the USDA, as well as the CFTC and ask that they continue to monitor the current market situation," Nelson said. While stores around the country continue to see temporarily empty shelves, retailers remain confident

supplies of a vast majority of food items remain available. But there are still temporary supply shortages and there are concerns about long-term shortages as COVID-19 continues. NEFB is working to ensure that all our nation's food processing facilities remain operational during this difficult time. "As farmers prepare for this year's planting season and cattle producers continue to work through calving, every effort should be made to ensure supplies of fertilizer, seed, crop protection products, feed, and animal health products remain readily available. While many have already purchased many of these items, we must ensure the supply of these product are available when needed," Nelson said. Another concern lies in the ethanol industry as ethanol producers

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We will continue to have in-store specials as inventory allows. In the meantime, we appreciate your patronage and support as we all get through the current COVID-19 crisis.

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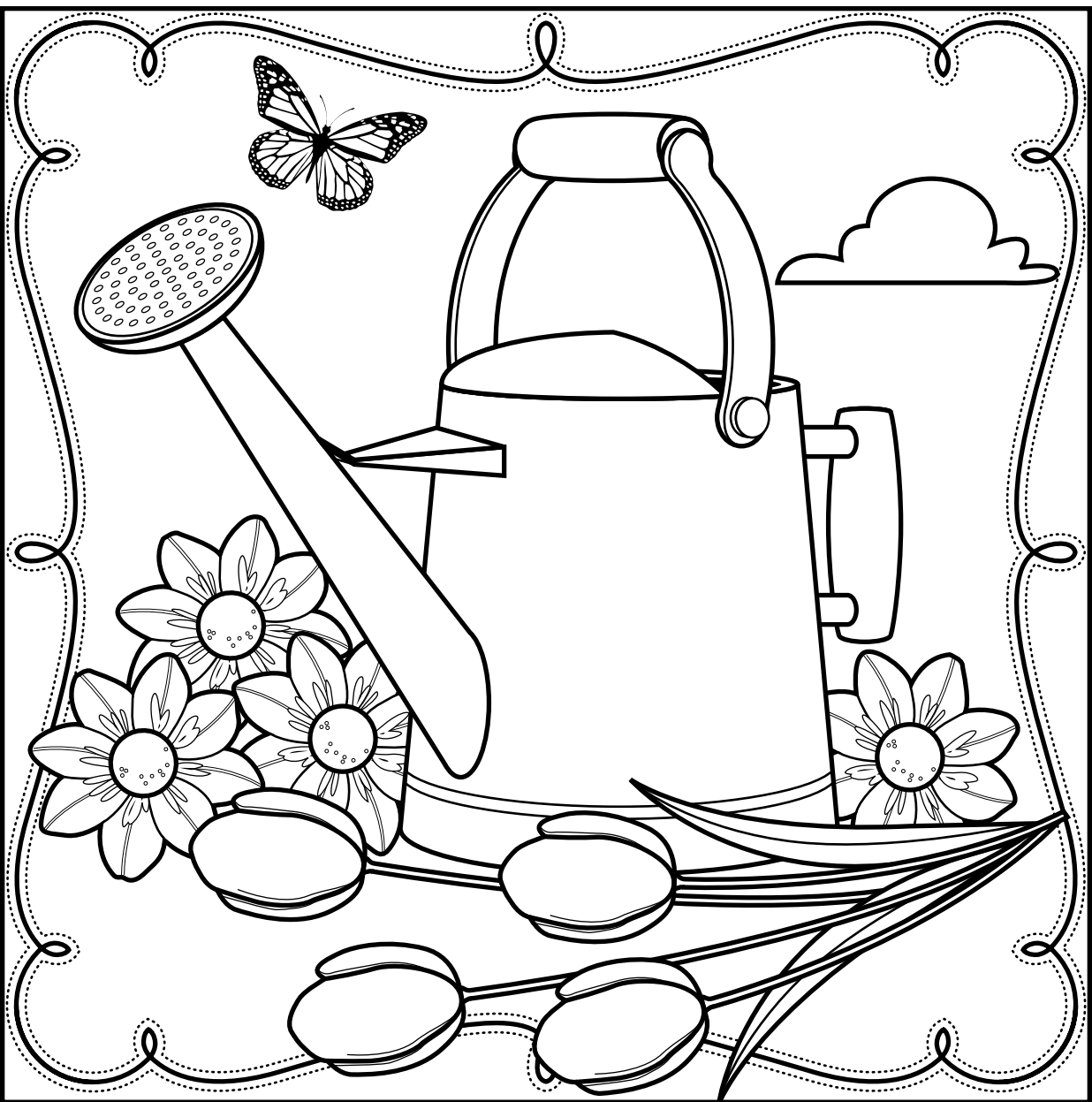
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See Farm Bureau, Page 2B



City of Wakefield makes changes amid COVID-19 pandemic

The City of Wakefield held an emergency city council meeting on March 19 at the Wakefield Civic Center. The only item on the agenda was action on measures to mitigate COVID-19.

Discussion included whether to keep Gardner Public Library open, how to get supplies to home-bound people.

Discussion took place about what to do at the library based on a suggestion from council member Scott Hansen. While other area libraries were closing, at the time of the meeting, Wakefield's remained open but limited to 10 patrons at a time.

"Probably the safe thing is just to shut it down," council member Ross Hansen said.

There was also discussion about having younger people delivering Meals on Wheels to help protect

vulnerable populations. Council member Val Bard said she would reach out to Wakefield's ministerium about how to help people who can't go out with acquiring supplies like personal hygiene products.

Passed unanimously during the meeting was Wakefield's official City response to COVID-19 as follows:

- 1) The mayor could declare a state of emergency that would allow the city, if necessary, to access funds, implement mutual aid and request assistance from the governor's emergency fund.
- 2) The City office is to close to the public but remain open until further notice, starting March 23.
- 3) City staff will maintain and continue to answer phones during regular business hours.
- 4) After hours phone service will still be available by calling (402)

287-2080.

- 5) Utility bills may be placed into the drop box, paid online or set up for auto pay.
- 6) The city council may hold emergency meetings and take actions as per the governor's executive order no. 20-03, by videoconferencing or by telephone as required.
- 7) The use of city parks, ballfields games and practices are prohibited until further notice.
- 8) City building permit inspections will be limited.
- 9) Additional measures may be put into place at any time based on national and local health official recommendations
- 10) The city council closed the library to patrons inside the library, with employees continuing to work and provide resources as requested by phone or appointments effective March 23.

Drive-up free WiFi available in NNTC communities

Officials with Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company (NNTC) recognize the importance of internet to do school-work from home with school closures due to COVID-19. Because of that, the internet company will offer free WiFi hotspots at its central office locations throughout the communities the company serves. Free WiFi will be available 24/7 for at least 60 days. This is available for anyone, even non-customers. To access, search NNTC_Pandemic-FreeWiFi. Drive close to any of NNTC's central offices at the following locations in northeast Nebraska:

- 1.) Allen - 212 S. Clark St.
- 2.) Bartlett - 531 Randolph St.
- 3.) Bristow - 202 1/2 Park St.
- 4.) Butte - 510 Thayer St.
- 5.) Clarks - 106 W. Amity St.
- 6.) Clearwater - 306 Nebr. St.
- 7.) Coleridge - 114 N. Main St.
- 8.) Craig - 196 N. Main St.
- 9.) Decatur - 430 W. 7th St.
- 10.) Dixon - 208 3rd St.
- 11.) Jackson - 116 N. Pigeon St.
- 12.) Long Pine - 156 W. 4th St.
- 13.) Martinsburg - 5204 Main St.
- 14.) Newcastle - 205 Louis St.
- 15.) Obert - 213 Hwy 12
- 16.) Prague - 301 W. Center Ave.
- 17.) Spencer - 107 W. Evans St.
- 18.) Staplehurst - 222 N. 5th St.
- 19.) Stuart - 105 E. 2nd St.
- 20.) Ulysses - 420 C St.

21.) Weston - 350 Elm St.

22.) Winside - 203 Vroman St.

Schooling from home

For households that have a student at home, college or otherwise, because of coronavirus, NNTC is offering their customers who have a 1 GB credit, per closed school day, per student. Visit the company's website, nntc.net, click on "Customer Forms" and then on the "Closed School due to COVID-19 Form." Proof of the student's identity and school will be needed.

NNTC to take part in FCC's "Keep America Connected Pledge"

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company will take part in the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) "Keep America Connected Pledge" during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company pledges for the next 60 days to: (1) not terminate service to any residential or small business customers because of their inability to pay their bills due to the disruptions caused by the coronavirus pandemic; (2) waive any late fees that any residential or small business customers incur because of their economic circumstances related to the coronavirus pandemic; and (3) open its WiFi hotspots to any American who needs them.

Assistance for low-income households

With schools pushing for online coursework, the need for assistance for phone and internet at

home is becoming greater. The FCC's Lifeline program aims to help low-income households pay for their telephone and broadband service charges by providing a monthly subsidy. Households can see if they qualify by going to nntc.net, hover over "Phones" on the main menu and then click "Lifeline Assistance Program."

Entering homes and businesses

The nature of business at Northeast Nebraska Telephone Company requires staff to enter homes and businesses. The company now has new protocols in place, which not only protect technicians but also protects customers.

Until further notice, when NNTC customer service representatives take an order which requires a tech visit, they will be asking questions about the health and travel of the people living in the home.

Technicians will once again ask questions regarding health before entering a home or business. Technicians will also practice social distancing and remain six feet away from anyone in the home or business. Technicians also have the authority to not enter a home or business if they're not comfortable doing so.

Stay up to date

With COVID-19 restrictions happening daily, NNTC urges customers to visit their website, nntc.net and NNTC's social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) for the most up to date information.

EASTER WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

F	A	I	T	H	A	V	M	M	S	T	A	E	R	T	J	I	A	E	G	
M	D	B	L	D	I	S	P	A	B	A	S	K	E	T	N	U	P	T	D	
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Y	G	L	M	R	T	U	O	E	M	A	A	U	P	V	N	O	W	L	L	L
J	S	G	S	D	N	M	L	W	H	Y	C	A	P	I	N	T	W	A	A	A
S	L	I	D	O	F	F	A	D	P	L	M	U	O	E	L	V	E	O	B	B
P	C	P	C	V	K	N	G	I	E	C	P	R	T	K	Y	T	Y	B	D	D

WORDS

- APOSTLES
- BASKET
- BONNET
- BUNNY
- CANDY
- CARROT
- CELEBRATE
- CHICK
- CHOCOLATE
- CHRISTIAN
- CHURCH
- CROSS
- DAFFODILS
- DUCKLINGS
- EASTER
- EGGS
- FAITH
- FAMILY
- HIDDEN
- JELLYBEANS
- JESUS
- LAMB
- LENT
- MARSHMALLOW
- MIRACLE
- PEEP
- PRAYER
- RABBIT
- RESURRECTION
- RISEN
- SAVIOR
- SPRING
- SUNDAY
- TOMB
- TREATS
- WORSHIP

You're Not Alone

Together, we can stop the spread of COVID-19


We will overcome this health crisis together, neighbors helping neighbors and caring first for those most in need. It's this spirit that has always defined who we are as a community.

The more you can remain at home, the better chance we have to serve those who need help most. Stay in. Avoid the spread. And we'll be here helping our neighbors who are most vulnerable. As different as life may feel right now, one thing will always remain the same: our commitment to provide this community with the quality care you've always trusted.

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms you should **immediately self-quarantine.**

- Fever of 100.4° or more
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

If you have increased respiratory distress or are symptomatic and considered high-risk **call your medical provider.**



402-385-3033

For updates on COVID-19
PenderCommunityHospital.com
or www.cdc.gov

Farm Bureau

From Page 1B

have seen already thin margins disappear, slightly rebound, and then disappear again over the past week. This business is also vital to our state's cattle industry as ethanol byproducts have become a near constant addition to feed rations. The shuttering of ethanol plants could have far reaching consequences for rural communities across the state.

"NEFB is asking Congress to work with USDA to ensure food production plants remain operational and provide any regulatory relief that might be needed should problems arise. While we absolutely appreciate the exemptions granted to livestock and crop haulers from federal Hours of Service regulations, the hauling of products such as fertilizer and livestock supplies should also be added to that list," Nelson said.

NEFB is also worried about the availability of H-2A farm workers.

With the recent announcement by the State Department to suspend routine immigrant and nonimmigrant visa services at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City and all U.S. consulates in Mexico until further notice, this is a concern for farmers and ranchers. Nebraska may not be as reliant as some states on the H-2A program, but farmers and ranchers across our country rely on this program to meet their labor needs. According to data compiled by the American Farm Bureau Federation, over 90 percent of the just under 300,000 H-2A workers in the United States came from Mexico. H-2A workers play a critical role in making sure farmers and ranchers get their products to the supply chain and to the grocery store.

"We would ask our Nebraska delegation to work with the administration to find an appropriate mechanism, either through an emergency waiver or some other means, to ensure that H-2A work-

ers may continue to safely come to America's farms and ranches," Nelson said.

The toll COVID-19 is taking on our nation's health care system, small businesses, and overall economy has been profound. NEFB hopes by working with Nebraska delegation and taking aforementioned actions in order to limit the impacts on our nation's food supply will directly help Nebraska farm and ranch families.

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 58,000 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.

Gov. Ricketts announces extended tax deadline, overviews the State's continuity plans

Governor Pete Ricketts announced that Nebraskans will have until July 15, 2020 to pay state income taxes. For Nebraskans impacted by COVID-19, this change will give them additional flexibility. Nebraskans who are not impacted by the virus should consider filing by the traditional April 15 date.

Jason Jackson, Director of the Nebraska Department of Administrative Services, joined the Governor to provide an update on the State's continuity plans. When possible, the State is allow-

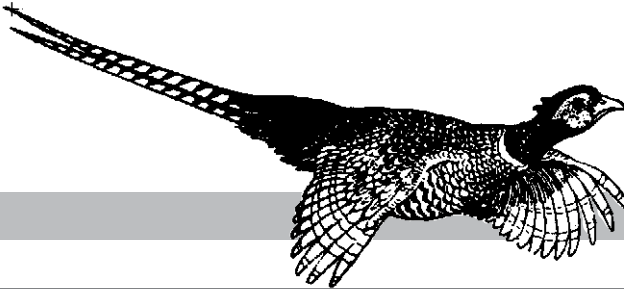
ing teammates greater flexibility to work remotely during the pandemic, while ensuring that Nebraskans continue to receive excellent service from all agencies.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and actions taken by national health authorities to limit the spread of the disease, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) recently granted federal income tax relief to taxpayers. The IRS has automatically extended the tax filing and payment deadlines for federal income taxes from April 15, 2020 to July 15, 2020. The State

of Nebraska is providing this same income tax relief to state income taxpayers. The tax filing deadline will automatically be extended to July 15, 2020 for state income tax payments and estimated payments that were originally due on April 15, 2020. Nebraskans who are able to pay earlier are encouraged to do so to help the State manage its cash flow.

For Nebraskans affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in ways that impair their ability to comply with their state tax obligations for taxes administered by the Nebraska Department of Revenue, the Tax Commissioner may grant penalty or interest relief depending on individual circumstances. To request relief, please complete and mail a Request for Abatement of Penalty, Form 21, or Request for Abatement of Interest, Form 21A, with an explanation of how you were impacted.

Find COVID-19 information, cancellations, postponements and closings on
mywaynenews.com/covid-19



MIKE'S MIC

Still at it - home makeover addition

By MIKE RENNING mikesportshome@yahoo.com

Without sounding redundant, with all that is going on in the world, let's just say I have spent a lot more time at home lately.

We discussed Pinterest and everything it included at my house the last time we spoke - but with me at home so much more, it continues.

I'm starting to realize why we drove around at night so much as teenagers because we thought we were smart enough to make good decisions, experience social interaction...and to get the heck out of the house.

Now, I'm not saying I felt imprisoned or anything, but my Wonderful Little Lady had a list longer than my attention-span could handle of things she wanted done to complete our home "makeover".

Now, before you start snickering, giggling or full-out laughing, I realize my attention span hovers somewhere between what did we have for dinner and it's time for dessert, but really.

Kudos to the Darling Wife for writing the list down and making me cross-off the things I have accomplished...or letting me see what I had not.

I believe when we last chatted she had moved from the dining room to the bedroom with her house "makeover", but I had found my old race car set.

Well, the race car set doesn't work anymore, or at least the cars don't. If you stick a bobby pin in the slots of the track, it is obvious the track still works.

It's like the old "Operation" game on steroids - you get a buzz.

So, I checked around and new cars are around \$20. Good heavens I paid \$14.99 for the whole set - 30 years ago.

OK, back to my complaining. The first thing on my list was replacing a ceiling fan in the bedroom. Some years ago, she had purchased the "last fan we would ever need in there".

Well, a couple of weeks ago, the lighting part of the fan blew out - which I knew it would - they all do.

The last time I did it, I had a couple of young, strong sons living at our house and now I am down to, well, just me...and the Darling Wife.

Now this Little Lady knows a lot about working hard and about how things should "look".

It's not like she was sitting on the couch while I was completing her list, her list was much bigger, she just didn't bit...er complain about - it was her list(s) for crying out loud. And I know about electricity.

My Father-in-Law taught me about electricity the first time we remodeled the house.

He told me from the start of my "apprenticeship", 220 will kill you, 110 will get your attention.

I have been blown off a ladder, a step stool, a bed and buzzed by nearly every appliance in the house.

The time I got blown off the ladder, my Father-in-Law/electric mentor was standing over me when I came to - he said "I bet you won't do that again."

That is where I obtained my elec-



tricity skills.

He did rewire the entire house and put in breakers which will prevent some of that, but I'm pretty sure he did that more for the safety of the four Grandkids and daughter living in the place.

There were some anxious moments putting up the ceiling fan.

The Darling Wife had already moved our bed (as we DISCUSSED last time), so I didn't have a clear shot on the ladder.

I had one foot on the ladder and one foot on the bed. Banana peel/grave).

Although this sounds like a recipe for disaster, especially for me, I didn't fall once. (There you go Mikenzie).

However, the Darling Wife purchased a new "soft-rug" for beside the bed - said she liked the way it felt on her feet in the morning and she had already "installed it".

It has eight-inch (possibly an embellishment) shag carpet or nap as the experts say - which is exactly what Jake and Yippee do on the thing.

Electricity is off, curtains are open on a cloudy day, where do you imagine every screw I dropped landed?

You guessed it, right in the middle of the rug-jungle below the bed.

I spent six hours (possibly another embellishment) looking for screws, it was so hard to keep the screws in my hand and see the tiny little hole the screw was headed towards.

I only had two hands, the Darling Wife was gone and one hand was gripping the ladder as I don't have Life-Alert.

The Darling Wife comes home and notices my, let's call it frustration.

I bit...relented my trials to her and she made it all better.

"Why didn't you just put a blanket on top of the rug," she said.

Later that night she found three screws in the rug - they must have come with the rug.

I did finish my list...and I still love the Darling Wife - almost always.

Capitol View

May you live in interesting times

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

Somewhere years ago, I ran across an alleged Chinese proverb that read: "May you live in interesting times." I think we're there.

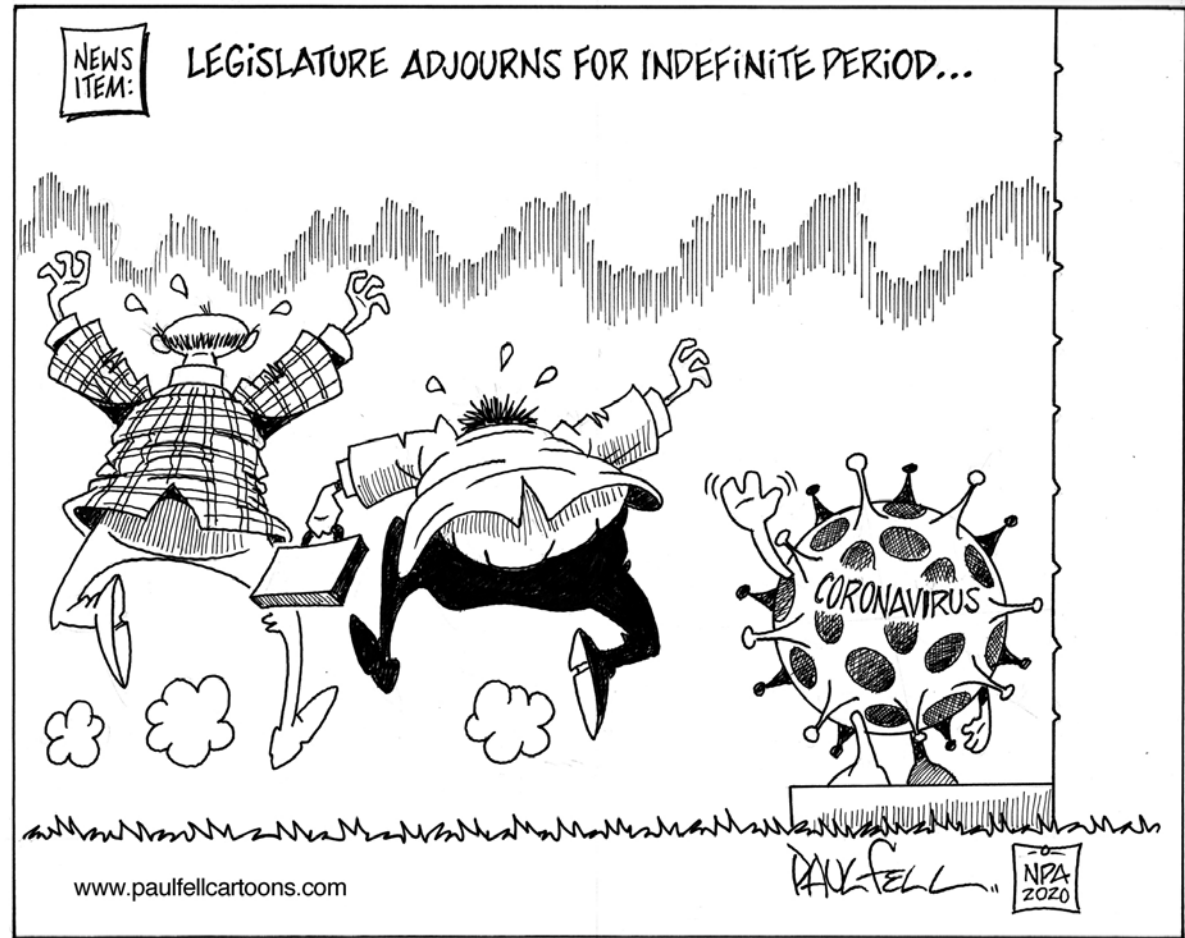
In an unprecedented move, the Speaker of the Legislature has placed the 106th Legislature on an indefinite adjournment until further notice. The announcement came March 16th, 24 hours before the 41st day of the 60-day session was to convene following a traditional four-day weekend. Such weekends often coincide with things like statewide basketball tournaments. Or blizzards.

The Nebraska Boys High School Basketball tournament was also one-of-a-kind historic, played before coaches and close family members at Lincoln venues without fans and cheerleaders and pep bands.

Speaker Jim Scheer of Norfolk said "We have made this decision primarily for the health and safety of the state and to protect the health of the members [of the Legislature]. The governor encouraged this weekend that public gatherings of more than 50 individuals should be postponed, a recommendation also made by the CDC." Scheer said he had consulted Executive Board Chairman Sen. Mike Hilgers of Lincoln after speaking with public health officials, Governor Pete Ricketts and some senators.

It's just another spin-off of the COVID-19, coronavirus Pandemic that is gripping the world at this writing with no real relief in sight. Omaha has recorded a number of cases of the illness with community spread -- cases that are not tied to travel or connected to a person who has traveled.

Elsewhere in the Capital City, ma-



ny churches have suspended their Sunday morning worship and weekly meetings, small group studies, youth group activities, etc. The Lied Center for Performing Arts on the University of Nebraska-Lincoln campus is looking at events on a case-by-case basis. Performers who were scheduled to play the Pinnacle Bank Arena have postponed shows to a later date.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Nebraska Wesleyan University, Doane University, Southeast Community College and others have shut down in favor of on-line classes. Lincoln Public Schools are closed as teachers learn how to conduct school

on-line for Second Graders and up using laptop computers.

Lincoln Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird has declared a local emergency and a broad slate of operational changes that will alter the lives of thousands of residents. The declaration allows the city to receive potential state and federal reimbursement for crisis-related expenses and to access emergency reserve funds. The city will close all senior centers but work to ensure that senior meals will still be delivered.

The Parks and Recreation Department is suspending its before-and-after school programs, which serve

about 400 children, until Lincoln Public Schools reopens. It's also canceling all of its programming and classes at recreation centers.

As for the Legislature, remember they are required only to pass a budget before the next fiscal year, which starts in July. Budget debate commenced before they adjourned and passage can be accomplished in the remaining 20 days.

Of course, that leaves the big issues yet unresolved. Remember, several of those could be impacted by initiative petition measures that could appear on the November ballot.

Interesting times to say the least.

Legislative Update

Albrecht credits District 17's COVID-19 response

This last 10 days has presented the residents, government officials, health care providers, first responders, individuals and businesses of all types with challenges never experienced before. I am proud to report that during this time I have witnessed the strength and character of Nebraskans who have pulled together to work collectively and creatively to meet the challenges and to serve Nebraskans with excellence.

It takes a community of leadership to help residents stay informed, stay safe and band together to work for the good of all. My experience throughout this crisis has been that, everywhere we look, community leaders are "all in" to help ensure the best possible outcome for all Nebraskans.

Governor Ricketts has led the way, as he works hard with top state and national health officials, and with the Trump administration to provide not only a safer Nebraska as we encounter the realities of the health crisis, but also to develop pathways leading back to economic health as we work through this pandemic.

Since declaring a State of Emergency for Nebraska on March 13, due to the threat of the coronavirus also known as COVID-19, Governor Ricketts has issued a series of executive orders to aid Nebraskans during the crisis. His executive orders have provided emergency relief, banned out-of-state travel to slow the spread of the virus, expanded or loosened restrictions on access to unemployment benefits, provided specific relief to restaurants and bars, and enabled boards and commissions to have more flexible public meeting requirements. Copies of the Governor's executive orders can be seen at govdocs.nebraska.gov/docs/pilot/pubs/eoindex.html.

My week included meetings, telephone conferences and on-site observations with a variety of community leaders in District 17 and statewide.

As I begin to recap, I want to extend my sincere compliments to our local newspapers and radio stations in District 17 for the coverage that has made sure information is being disseminated across the District in a timely fashion. Second to none, they, along with other media outlets across the state, have taken leader-

ship in responsible and forthright reporting.

I joined about 550 faith leaders from across the state on a conference call with Governor Ricketts last week to discuss how faith leaders can creatively engage their congregations in social distancing and emphasizing that it does not mean social isolation. Ideas on how to reach out to parishioners through social media and how to help other churches do the same were discussed. The Governor also acknowledged that faith leaders have a superior position to know the needs of their congregants in ways the government cannot, and encouraged finding ways to meet those needs, whether it be gift cards or small cooperative child care networks to help parents get to work.

I remain in daily contact with the emergency managers in each of the three counties in District 17. They are working together with our health departments, first responders, law enforcement, state emergency management and health care providers to help ensure the safety and well-being of District 17 residents. They are quick to act and share about the needs and solutions in the community.

Contact with the Dakota County Health Department and Northeast Nebraska Health Department has also become part of my daily activities. I visited Pender Community Hospital last week to observe and learn about the facility, testing procedures and equipment available in that part of the District.

My office put together 90 packets for District 17 entities and organizations to ensure they have the most updated resource information from state and local officials, including resources from the State Chamber information for the business community.

I met with police officers, investigators, and 911 staff in Dakota County. I also visited with about 10 local leaders involved as first responders, school board members, city leaders and others about what is taking place at the state and local levels. The exchange of information highlighted once again, the committed and capable personnel working together in District 17.

I was fortunate to visit with doctors, physicians assistants and hospital administrators at Pender Community Hospital, as well.



Legislative Update By Joni Albrecht State Senator, District 17

There, I observed emergency layout of facilities and discussed coordination between hospitals, first responders, mayors, county supervisors and city council members.

I met with Commissioner John Albin and others from the Nebraska Department of Labor who filled me in on the measures in place to help the financial hardship faced by residents who have had to self-isolate or who are unable to work due to the virus.

My administrative assistant and I will be in Wayne County on Thursday and Friday of this week observing and sharing information there as well.

Finally, the legislature reconvened on March 23 and again on Wednesday for the sole purpose of passing the Governor's emergency appropriations request. The bill will transfer \$58.6 million from the emergency fund for specific uses identified by the Governor to deal with the impact and operations associated with the coronavirus. The Governor has spoken with each Senator and outlined the state's needs to deal with the crisis. The Governor identified the following emergency needs/uses for the funds:

•DHHS Public Health for Personal Protective Equipment to local health departments' response efforts.

•DHHS staffing for surge and sustained staffing needs in support services and emergency preparedness throughout the state.

•Surge staffing for veterans hospitals & DHHS care facilities.

•UNMC funding for lab testing and analysis.

•Lab equipment, software, programming and personnel.

•UV light boxes for tertiary cleaning of N95 respirators.

•Inter-operational platform for statewide communication, tracking, and resource sharing across emergency management systems, first responders, healthcare providers and state entities.

In addition, there will be an amendment offered to release another \$25 million in ready reserve so that should the Governor determine more funds are needed to aid Nebraska residents, such as while awaiting federal funds, the funds will be accessible without the time constraints of further action by the legislature. Any unused funds will be returned to the emergency fund within a specified period of time.

All in all, my contacts and meetings throughout this challenging time have increased the level of confidence I have always had in the strength of community in District 17 and throughout the state of Nebraska. The emergency managers and health departments are doing a great job and it is important to do what they recommend to help Nebraska "flatten the curve" and to continue being part of #NebraskaStrong.

If you have the opportunity and are able to do so, please step up and donate blood in your local areas. There is a shortage that needs to be made up to meet the demands for blood during this pandemic. Thank you all for your continued concern and attention to this matter. Keep safe and keep healthy. Practice basic hygiene steps as outlined by the CDC and local health agencies.

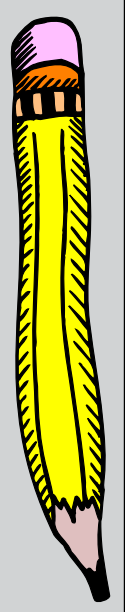
As always, it is of great importance that I hear from my constituents to effectively do my job as your voice in the Legislature. I encourage you to contact me and I look forward to hearing from you. You can reach me by phone at (402) 471-2716 or by email at jalbrecht@leg.ne.gov

Letters Welcome

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

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

The Wayne Herald editorial staff writes all headlines.



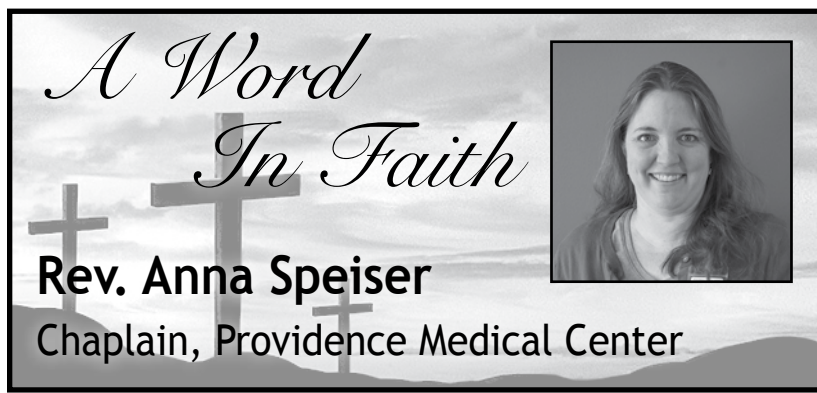
God is faithful — always

Psalm 100, verse 5 says: "For the Lord is good; God's steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations."

For many of us, these past few weeks has caused us to realize how very interconnected we really are, and the ways each of our own choices can affect those around us.

I think something similar can happen with our faith lives. Sometimes our faith lives can feel very personal, very individual. But the truth is, our faith lives are much more communal than we might initially realize. They are built through conversation and connection with others, across generations- a community of faith.

One of the blessings of my work as a hospital chaplain is getting to be with people and hear their stories. I'm often in the midst of difficult situations, crisis situations, and yet time and time again I get to hear from people that looking back on their life, what got them through was God's faithfulness. And as I get to hear how God has been faithful to others throughout their lives, it



helps me to think about the ways that God has been faithful in my life. The ways that God's love has been steadfast and enduring. Sometimes in ways I would have never been able to name or see at the time, but looking back, I'm able to say, "Yes, there was God's hand in that."

One of the reasons I chose a verse from Psalm 100 is because of my own childhood. When I was a kid, my dad would memorize

psalms with me, and we'd recite them at bedtime. I thought it was fun and cozy at the time, but now, those psalms have grown to be real touchstones in my life, like familiar friends that I can turn to in times of difficulty. Psalm 100 is one of those psalms I memorized with my dad.

So this week, even with all the unprecedented challenges we currently face, I'd encourage you to listen to others, to hear their stories and listen for the ways God has

been faithful in their lives. Although we cannot be physically together, perhaps the phone or technology might allow you to connect. And I'd encourage you to share your story. Maybe you have a verse, or psalm, or a story that has been important in your life. Share it with a young person, share it with someone else. Like my dad teaching me the psalms, you never know when you might be giving a gift to last a whole life long.

And so, let's end in a word of prayer:

Holy God, your promise of steadfast love is our refuge and our strength. Fill us with the confidence of your promise each day of our lives, and then fill us with the strength to show that love onto others. In your name we pray, Amen.

Word in Faith is a collaboration of Wayne Association of Congregations and Ministers (WACAM), an organization partially funded by the Wayne United Way.

DETENGA LA PROPAGACIÓN DE LOS MICROBIOS

Ayude a prevenir la propagación de enfermedades respiratorias como el COVID-19

- Evite el contacto cercano con las personas enfermas.
- Cúbrase la nariz y la boca con un pañuelo desechable al toser o estornudar y luego bótelos a la basura.
- Evite tocarse los ojos, la nariz y la boca.
- Limpie y desinfecte los objetos y las superficies que se tocan frecuentemente.
- Quédese en casa si está enfermo, excepto para buscar atención médica.
- Lávese las manos frecuentemente con agua y jabón por al menos 20 segundos.

cdc.gov/COVID19-es

Women of the WELCA hold meeting

Our Savior Lutheran Women of WELCA met March 11.

President Sue Olson opened the meeting with the group reciting the WELCA Purpose together. She gave announcements and turned the meeting over to Phyllis Rahn, who gave a program about the 12 disciples.

She shared pictures of what a photographer Sune Richards painted with a camera. Sune chose Jesus' disciples using people from everyday walks of life - accountant, artist, student actor and salesman as models. It took her seven years to complete. Often people will be moved to say "Why that's the way the disciples should look!"

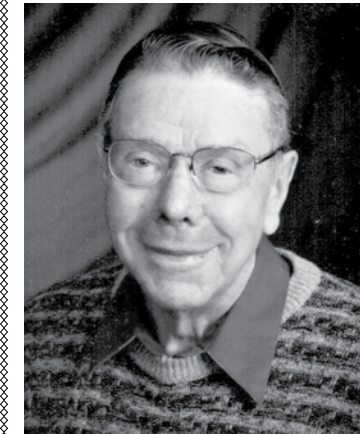
Mrs. Rahn then shared information about the personalities of the disciples starting with Nathanael (IMAGINATION). One of the first six men chosen as a disciple by Jesus. Judas (LIFE). Betrayed Jesus. Philip (POWER). Healed the sick and cast out demons. Andrew (STRENGTH). The strength he showed was character. Matthew (WILL). He was tax collector, well educated and wealthy. James (WISDOM). He was one of three part of the inner circle. James the Less (ORDER). The first bishop of Jerusalem and highly respected. Thomas (UNDERSTANDING). Known as the doubting one who came to believe. Died kneeling in prayer. Simon (ZEAL). He represented the fiery zealot with a cause. John (LOVE). He was the one who stayed at the foot of the cross comforting Mary, Mother of Jesus. Jude (RENUNCIATION). He warns against false Gods of a material world. Peter (FAITH). Peter denied Jesus three times. He suffered great remorse. Yet he renounced the world and Jesus chose him to lead disciples.

JESUS — He and his disciples were real, honest-to-goodness, flesh and blood, breathing eating men as well as spiritual giants. Their divinity was expressed through their humanity. In fact, if Jesus were not man, there is little hope that any of us could follow Him - and He never seemed to have any doubt that we can follow Him.

Mrs. Rahn then concluded with a prayer through the song "Amazing Grace." John Newton wrote the song and noted in his last days this thought, "That I am a great sinner and that Christ is a great Savior. What amazing grace."

The afternoon concluded with a light lunch served by Lynette Lentz.

The family of Fritz Temme requests a CARD SHOWER in honor of his 90th birthday March 29



Cards may be sent to Fritz at 618 Fairacres Rd Wayne, NE 68787

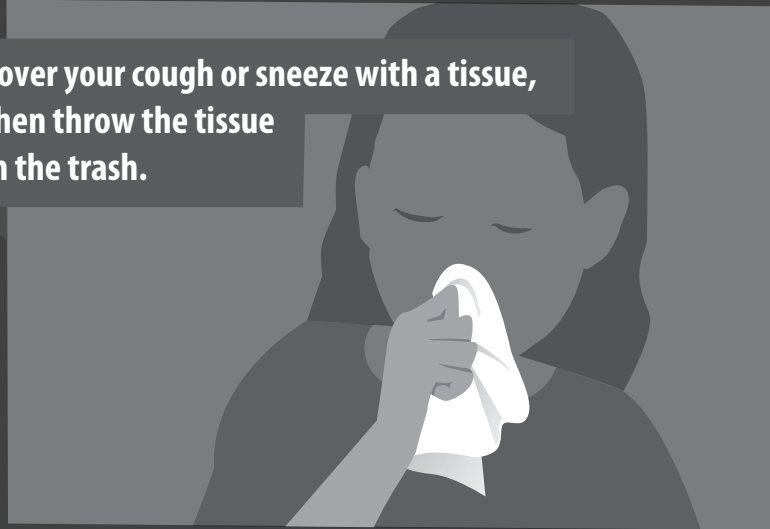
STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19.

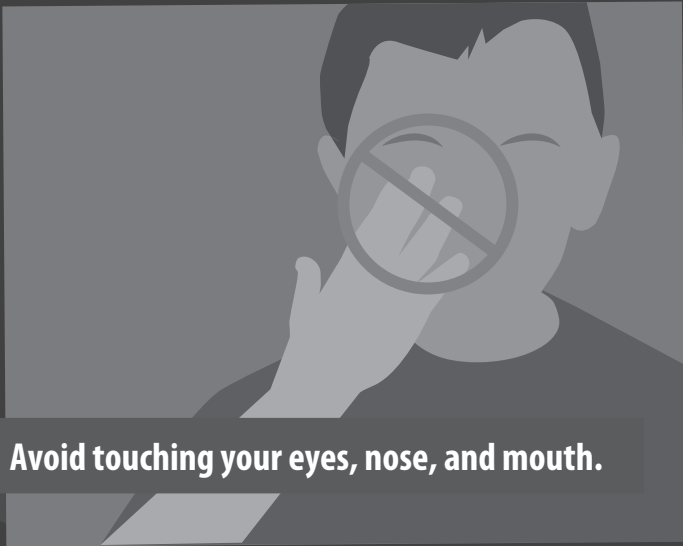
Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



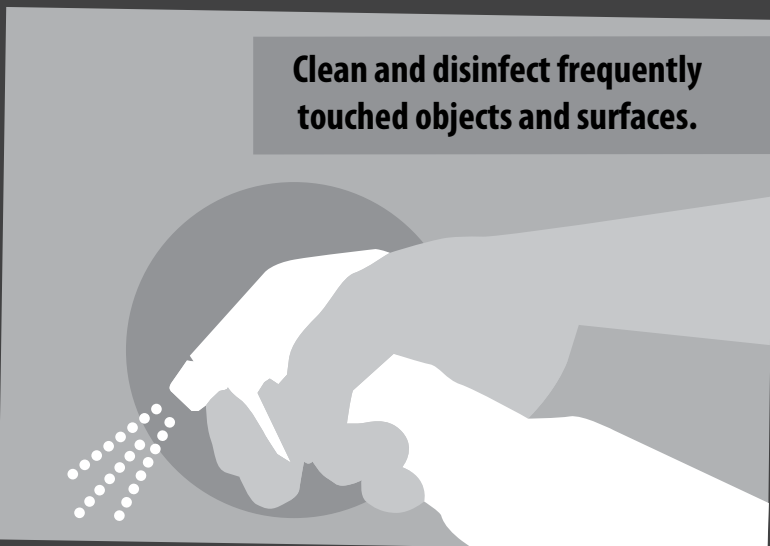
Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.



Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care.



Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.



cdc.gov/COVID19

314915-A March 16, 2020 1:02 PM



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1200 Providence Road
Wayne, NE 68787
www.providencemedical.com



Northeast Nebraska
Public Health Department
215 N Pearl Street • Wayne, NE 68787
Phone: 402/375-2200 • Fax: 402/375-2201
www.nnphd.org

CARING FOR YOUR HEALTH & WELLNESS
If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, please call the clinic PRIOR to coming in.

frpsclinics.org LAUREL WAKEFIELD WAYNE WISNER
(402) 256-3042 (402) 287-2267 (402) 375-2500 (402) 529-3218



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Pender, NE
402-385-3083

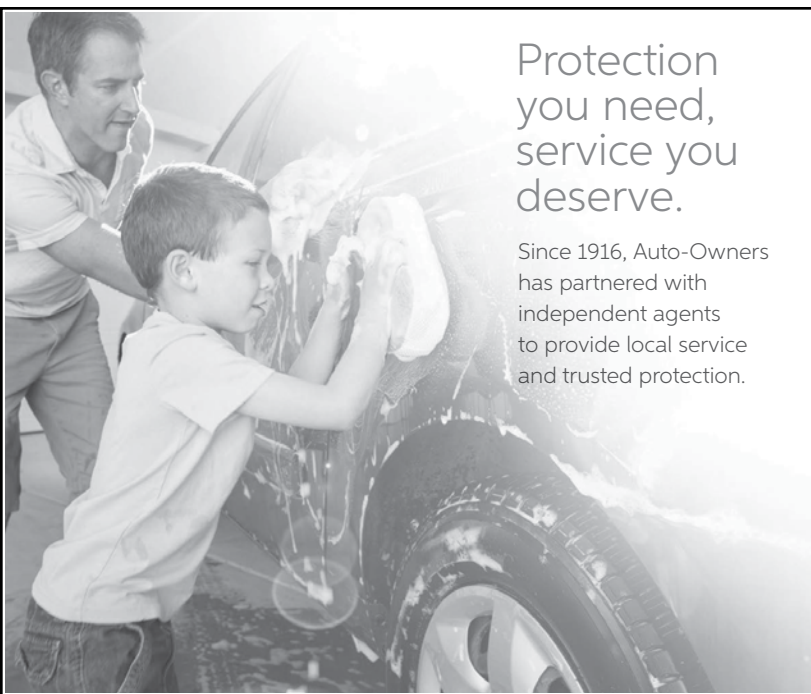


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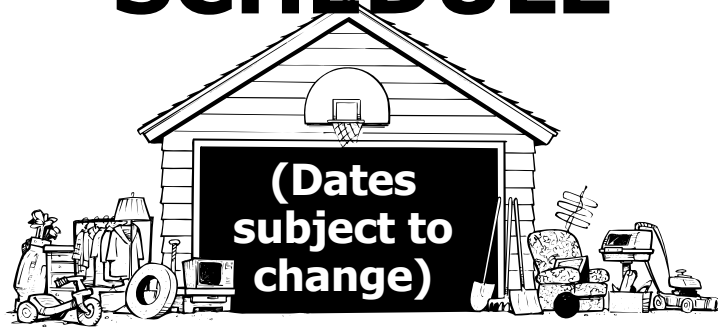
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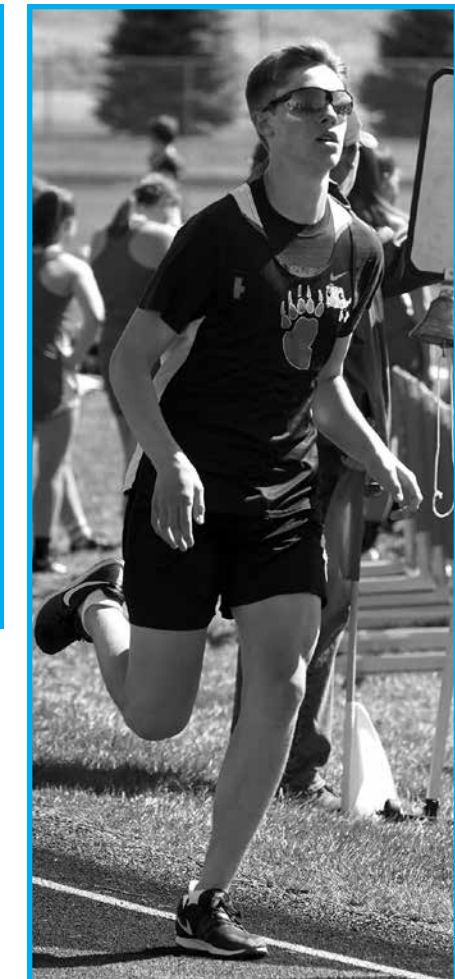
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Spring Sports



- Wayne • Allen
- Laurel-Concord-Coleridge
- Wakefield • Winside

Wayne Boys Track



Wayne Boys Varsity and Junior Varsity Track

April 7	Wayne Invitational	April 28	at Pierce Invitational
April 14	Wayne Invitational	April 30	Northeast Classic
April 16	at Elkhorn Invitational	May 2	Conference at Battle Creek
April 18	at Wisner-Pilger Inv.	May 7	at Battle Creek Inv.
April 23	at Schuyler Invitational or at Ponca Invitational	May 14	Districts at Pierce
		May 22-23	State at Omaha

Best of luck to golf, track & baseball teams this season!

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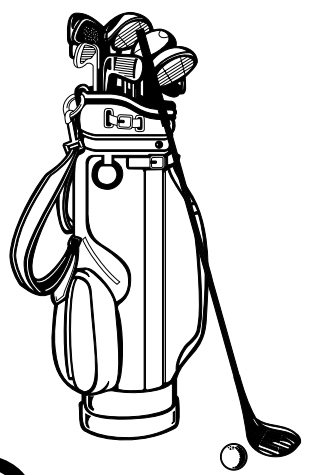
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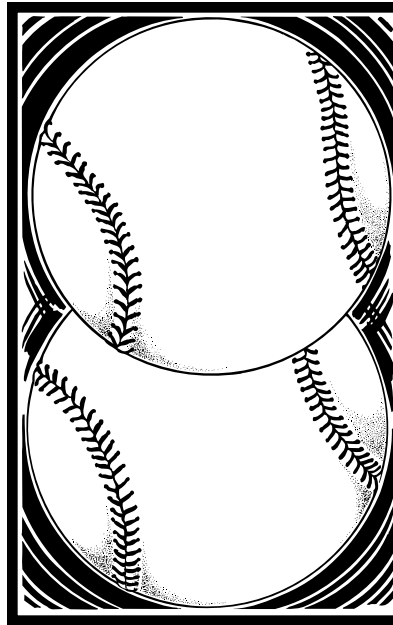
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Wayne Girls Varsity Track

March 26	Columbus Scotus Relays	April 25	Northeast Classic
April 2	Blue Devil Invitational	April 27	Mid State Conference
April 6	Wisner-Pilger Invitational		(Hartington)
April 9	Wayne Invitational	May 2	Battle Creek Invitational
April 11	Elkhorn Invitational	May 9	B-4 Districts at Columbus
April 18	Schuyler Invitational	May 17-18	State at Omaha
April 23	Pierce Invitational		

Wayne Girls Track



Good Luck Blue Devils!

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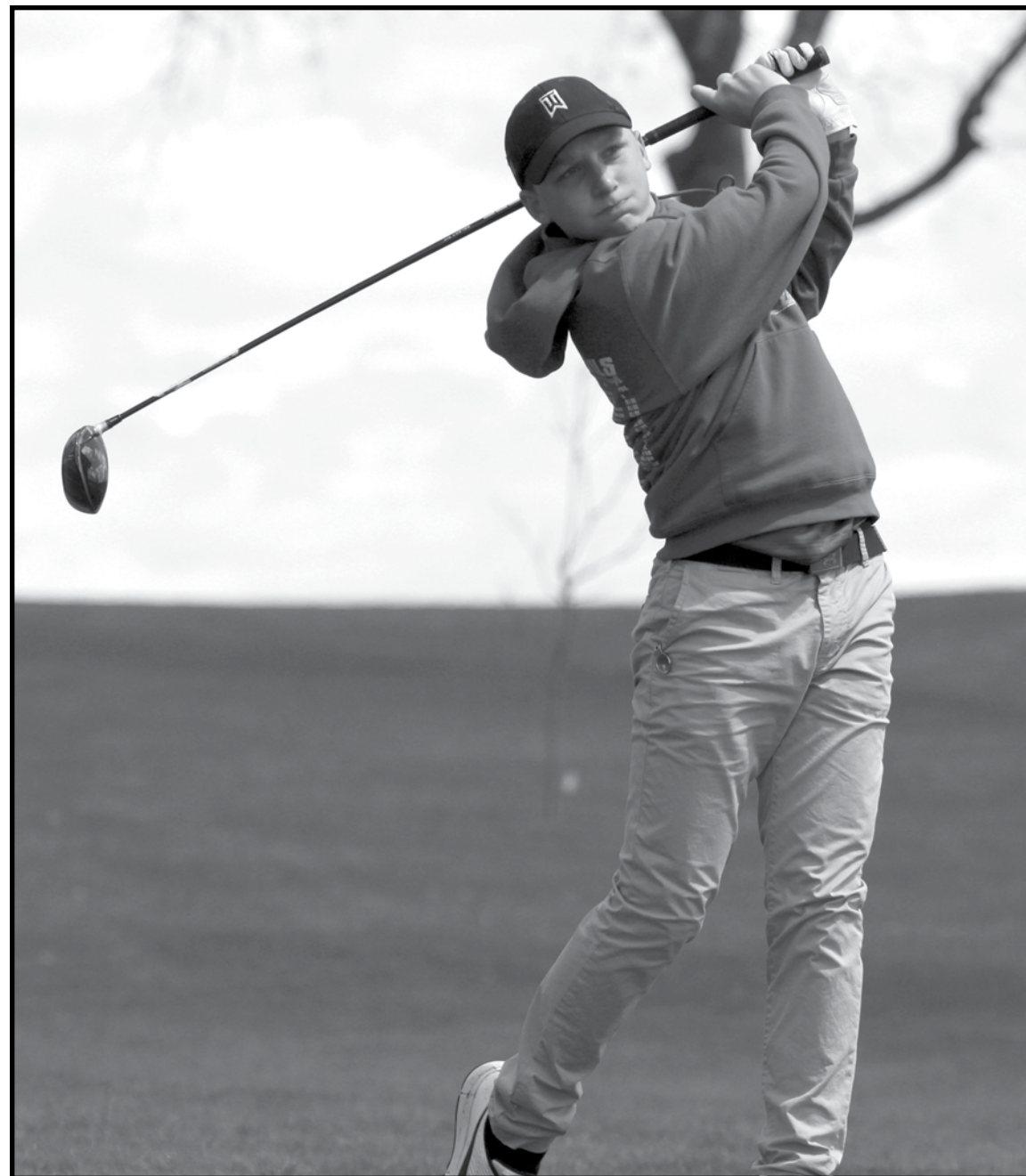
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Wayne Boys Golf



Wayne Golf

April 1	at West Point-Beemer Inv.	April 30	at Lakeview Invitational
April 6	at Oakland Tri.	May 2	at Oakland-Craig Inv.
April 7	at West Point-Beemer Tri.	May 7	Wayne Metteer Inv.
April 16	at LCC Invitational	May 8	at Wakefield Inv.
April 18	at Boone Central Inv.	May 11	at Randolph Inv.
April 21	at Blair Invitational	May 18	B-2 District at Wayne CC
April 25	Mid State Conf. (Albion)	May 26-27	State at Columbus

Winside Girls Track



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Winside Boys Track



Wayne Baseball



Wayne Baseball

March 21	at Bennington Tri.	April 16	Platteview
March 23	at Arlington	April 18	at Central City/Fullerton
March 24	Fort Calhoun	April 21	at Twin River
March 26	at TC Thunder (Bancroft)	April 23	at Omaha South
March 27	Wahoo/Neumann/L. Luth.	April 27	at Norfolk
March 31	Douglas County West	April 28	at GACC/S-S
April 2	Crete	April 30	Adams Central
April 6	GACC/S-S	May 2	at Yutan/Mead/A-G
April 7	South Sioux City	May 4	Arlington
April 11	Blair	May 8-12	Districts at TBA
April 14	TC Thunder	May 16-21	State at Lincoln

Good Luck Wildcats

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Best of Luck this season
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John Carollo, *Manager*

We hope you all have a GREAT SEASON!



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Good Luck Area Athletes!



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Good Luck Area Teams!

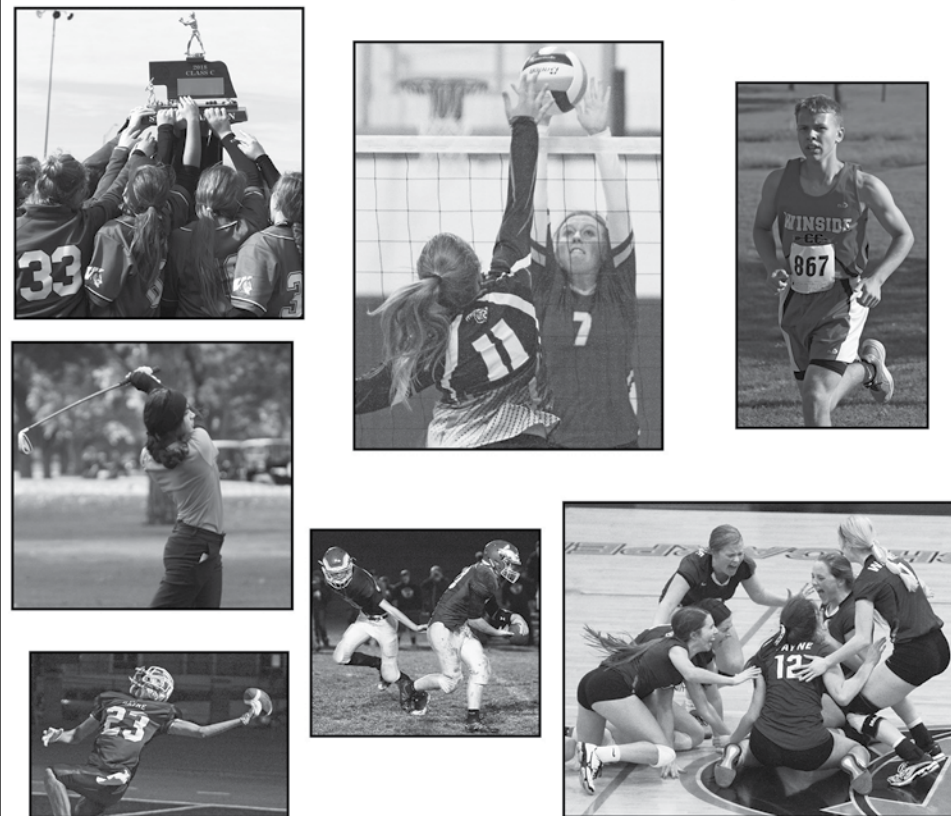
Have a Great Season Area Athletes!



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this season!



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Wakefield / Allen Golf



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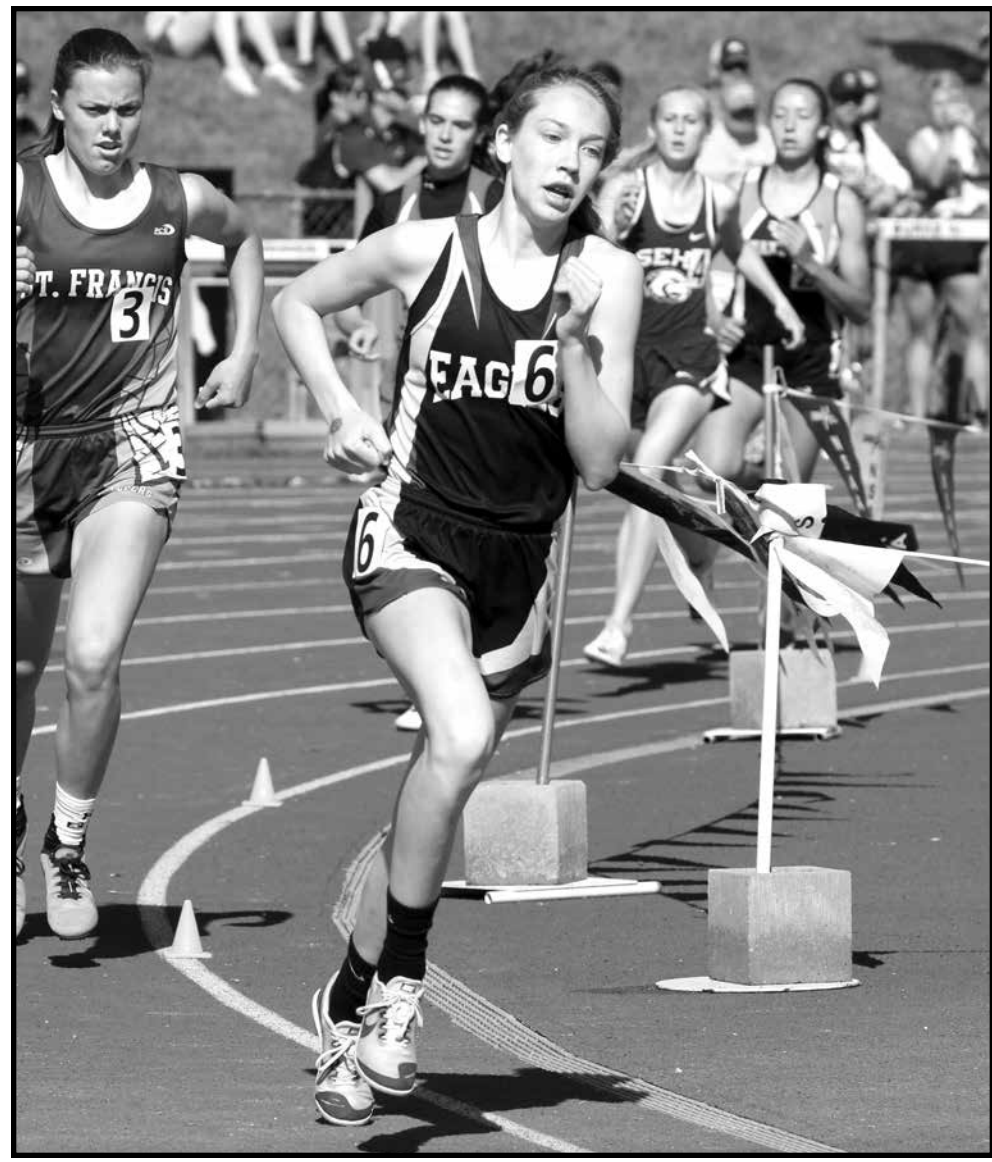


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Wakefield Golf

April 9	at Oakland Tri. (BRLD, Pender)
April 16	at LCC Invitational
April 20	at Ponca Invitational
April 23	at Lutheran High NE Inv.
April 25	at Pender Invitational
April 28	at Hartington Inv.
April 30	Home Quadrangular
May 4	Lewis & Clark Conf. (Creighton)
May 8	Wakefield Invitational
May 18	C-3 District at Battle Creek
May 22-23	State at Omaha

Allen Boys / Girls Track



Allen Boys and Girls Track

April 7	at Hartington Inv.
April 16	at Homer Invitational
April 21	at LCC Invitational
April 28	at Ponca Invitational
April 30	at Northeast Classic
May 2	L&C Conference (Winnebago)
May 7	at Winside Inv. (Laurel)
May 13	D-3 District at Humphrey
May 22-23	State at Omaha

Good Luck This Spring!

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Laurel-Concord-Coleridge Boys Track



Laurel-Concord/Coleridge High School and Junior High Boys Track

- April 6 Knox County Inv. (Creighton)
- April 14 at Wayne Invitational
- April 16 at Homer Invitational
- April 21 LCC Invitational
- April 30 Northeast Classic
- May 2 L&C Conference (Winnebago)
- May 7 at Winside Inv. (Laurel)
- May 14 C-4 District at Ponca
- May 22-23 State at Omaha

Wakefield Girls Track



Wakefield Girls High School Track

- April 7 at Wayne Invitational
- April 14 at Lyons-Decatur Inv.
- April 21 at Wisner-Pilger Inv.
- April 23 at Wausa Invitational (Pierce)
- April 28 at Wisner-Pilger Inv.
- April 30 Northeast Classic
- May 2 L&C Conference (Winnebago)
- May 7 at Norfolk Catholic Inv.
- May 14 C-4 District at Ponca
- May 22-23 State at Omaha



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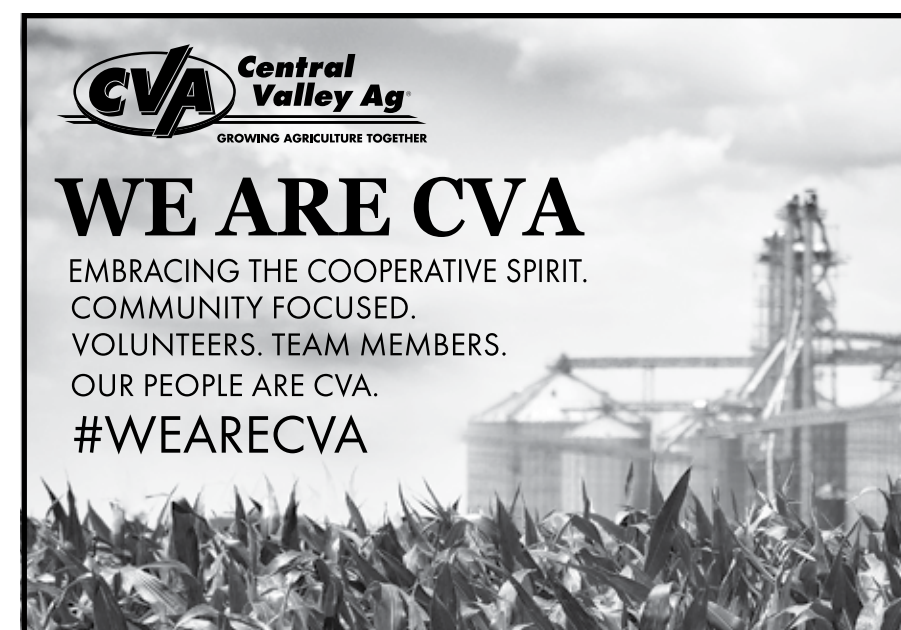
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Wakefield Boys Track



Wakefield Boys Track

April 7	at Wayne Invitational
April 14	at Lyons-Decatur Inv.
April 21	at Wisner-Pilger Inv.
April 23	at Wausa Invitational (Pierce)
April 28	at Wisner-Pilger Inv.
April 30	Northeast Classic
May 2	L&C Conference (Winnebago)
May 7	at Norfolk Catholic Inv.
May 14	C-4 District at Ponca
May 22-23	State at Omaha

Laurel-Concord-Coleridge Girls Track



Laurel-Concord/Coleridge High School and Junior High Girls Track

April 6	Knox County Inv. (Creighton)
April 14	at Wayne Invitational
April 16	at Homer Invitational
April 21	LCC Invitational
April 30	Northeast Classic
May 2	L&C Conference (Winnebago)
May 7	at Winside Inv. (Laurel)
May 14	C-4 District at Ponca
May 22-23	State at Omaha



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Laurel-Concord-Coleridge Golf



Laurel-Concord-Coleridge Golf

April 13	at Randolph Tri.
April 16	LCC Invitational
April 18	at Plainview Inv.
April 28	at Hartington Inv.
April 29	at Ponca Tri.
May 2	at Pierce Invitational
May 4	L&C Conference (Creighton)
May 7	at Wayne Metteer Inv.
May 8	at Wakefield Inv.
May 11	at Randolph Inv.
May 18	D-3 District at Plainview
May 22-23	State at Omaha



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Good Luck!
Have a good season!



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CELEBRATING NATIONAL AGRICULTURE MONTH



Celebrate Nebraska Agriculture during National Ag Week

By Steve Wellman, Director
Nebraska Department
of Agriculture

National Ag Week is happening March 22-28. Since agriculture is Nebraska's number one industry, Ag Week is a good time to have a conversation about agriculture and recognize and thank the people behind the food, feed and fuel we depend on every day.

When agriculture does well, our state does well. Even after last year's challenges with blizzards, flooding, low prices, etc., Nebraskans pulled together. The dedication, resourcefulness and resiliency of Nebraska ag producers helped keep the state's ag industry strong. These top national rankings from the U.S. Department of Agriculture show what a strong Nebraska ag industry looks like.

Nebraska is first in the nation in beef and veal exports (2018), first in Great Northern bean production (2018) and first in popcorn production (2017). We are second in the nation for: all cattle and calves (Jan. 1, 2020); all cattle on feed (Jan. 1, 2020); com-



mercial red meat production (2019); and ethanol production (Jan. 2019).

Nebraska also has a reliable supply of corn (third in the nation—2019) and soybeans (fourth in the nation—2019) for livestock feed and renewable fuels. All of these rankings and more make Nebraska agriculture worth celebrating.

To highlight how important agriculture is to our economy, just look at the numbers. Nebraska's ag industry adds more than \$21 billion a year to the state's economy (2018). Ag exports, \$6.8 billion of that number, are only part of the story. Every dollar in ag exports generates \$1.28 in economic activities such as transportation, finance, warehousing and production.

Even with all of Nebraska's top national rankings in agriculture, there is room to grow and many ways to do it. For example, Nebraska agriculture continues to grow and add value by expanding livestock production, attracting investments and business expansions, and growing international trade.

International trade is particularly encouraging

as Nebraska supports several trade missions and hosts many international groups every year. Last year, the Department of Agriculture team promoted Nebraska's world-class crops and livestock during several trade missions led by Gov. Pete Ricketts including trips to Mexico, Vietnam, Japan and Germany.

Since Nebraska farmers and ranchers produce more food than we use, we need to continue to help expand our domestic and international markets for their products. Nebraska farmers and ranchers continue to increase their production while conserving our natural resources. Their safe, high quality food products fill our plates and fuel tanks here and around the world. We've started 2020 with good news about trade including the passage of USMCA (U.S.-Mexico-Canada agreement) and a phase-one trade deal with China.

International trade is also a good opportunity to share the story of Nebraska agriculture. A story that needs to be told on the home front, as well. I can share that story, as I've been involved with agriculture my whole life. Since one in four jobs in Nebraska are related to agriculture, others are stepping up and talking about Nebraska agriculture, too.

See CELEBRATE, page 2A

Nebraska ag land values increase for first time since 2014

Nebraska agricultural land values increased three percent over the last year to a statewide average of \$2,650 per acre, according to preliminary results from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Farm Real Estate Market Survey. This marks the first year-to-year increase since land values in the state peaked at \$3,315 per acre

in 2014. Survey participants reported that economic forces providing stability in the market included the limited supply of land for sale, strong demand for purchases, and disaster-assistance payments over the last year. Estimated dryland cropland values in the state rose between three

and four percent, while the values of gravity- and center-pivot-irrigated cropland rose two and three percent, respectively. However, the northwest and southwest districts saw declines between two and five percent for the two land classes.

Grazing land and hayland value estimates also rose between two and five percent over the last year, with slight declines in two districts. Major cow-calf pair regions, including the

northwest, north and central districts, led the increase in market values, with growth between six and eight percent.

The survey also revealed a high degree of concern between many landlords and tenants when working to agree on an equitable rental rate, generally attributed to landlords facing high property taxes and producers facing low commodity prices.

The Farm Real Estate Market Survey is an annual survey of land professionals, including appraisers, farm and ranch managers, and agricultural bankers. Results from the survey are divided by land class and agricultural statistic districts. Land values and rental rates presented in the report are averages of survey participants' responses by district. Actual land values and rental rates may vary depending upon the quality of the parcel and local market for an area. Preliminary land values and rental rates are subject to change as additional surveys are returned.

The preliminary report was released in the Department of Agricultural Economics' weekly Cornhusker Economics newsletter. Final results from the survey are expected to be published in early June.

NDMC director Svoboda invited by UN to join two key groups

Over the course of the National Drought Mitigation Center's 25-year existence, drought planning has gone mainstream in the U.S.

All but three states now have drought plans on file, as do most developed countries across the globe. But many developing countries still lack comprehensive drought plans, leaving citizens vulnerable to major setbacks like famine and displacement. The United Nations created the U.N. Convention to Combat Desertification Drought Initiative in part to provide drought planning expertise for officials who are creating plans for their home countries, and NDMC director Mark Svoboda was recently selected as one of 15 independent experts and leaders to join a 30-person team on a key working group for a two-year term.

The UNCCD mandate states that the Intergovernmental Working Group that Svoboda will serve on "supports over 70 countries in designing comprehensive national plans of action ready to be activated well before the drought strikes." The group is comprised of 15 regional representatives from the participating UNCCD countries and 15 experts who, including Svoboda, were chosen at-large. Svoboda said



Mark Svoboda

the group's main goal is to examine what tools countries are utilizing as they develop or update their drought policies, and inform those 70-plus countries on sound policy dealing with drought under a changing climate.

"Drought, of all the hazards, might be the most analogous to climate change when you think about a big spatial footprint that affects millions of people, potentially covers millions of hectares or acres and has a potentially

very long temporal footprint as well," Svoboda said.

The UNCCD website currently features a drought planning toolbox modeled after the three pillars of drought preparedness (monitoring and early warning, vulnerability and risk assessment, and risk mitigation measures) that have been advanced by NDMC founding director Don Wilhite. Svoboda said that the working group will collaborate and discuss mitigation practices that can reduce costs and impacts to people, property and livelihoods. Those best practices will be shared during the biennial Conference of the

Parties scheduled to take place in November 2021. The location has not been announced.

Along with serving on the Drought Initiative working group, Svoboda was also recently chosen to be a lead author for an upcoming special release of the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Global Assessment Report (GAR) that will be dedicated solely to drought.

The 2019 report featured a special section on drought, in which its authors wrote that climate change will likely make droughts more destructive,

See GROUPS, page 4B

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Corn Board supports teachers, supports youth

One of the Nebraska Corn Board's (NCB) four main pillars is education, and the board works to develop and implement educational programs with an impact. Over its 42-year history, NCB has helped people of all ages and backgrounds better understand the state's corn industry. As fewer people are growing up and residing in rural areas, a larger gap exists between consumer and producer, which is why NCB identified youth as an important audience to reach through its education efforts.

Earlier this year, NCB approved three new education initiatives to support teachers and students across Nebraska. Through each initiative, NCB will partner with other groups to expand reach, avoid duplication and promote implementation into actual classroom settings.

The "Nebraska Soil Summer Institute" is a partnership between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), Lincoln Public Schools and NCB. Through this pilot program, high school science teachers will take

part in a two-week summer workshop. Throughout the two weeks, the teachers will get an in-depth training in soil science concepts, hands-on experiments and learning activities. Teacher participants will then develop curriculum for their science classrooms that meet state science standards and can be utilized by other teachers.

"Soil science integrates multiple disciplines such as biology, chemistry and physics," said Dr. Martha Mamo, head of UNL's Department of Agronomy and Horticulture. "By training science teachers in soil science, we support science education and strengthen agricultural education across the state."

"Learn, Then Do" is a collaborative effort between the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation (NFBF), LPS and NCB. This program began as part of a grant from the national Ag in the Classroom program. Through this program, 20 high school science teachers will take part in a three-day workshop. As part of the program, the teachers will take part in various lessons and field trips to better understand how agriculture can be incorporated into their science courses. Teachers will then work with a national curriculum expert to develop lessons that meet Nebraska's state science standards.

"Recently, Nebraska modified its state science standards, which are now modeled after and closely align with the Next Generation Science Standards, or NGSS," said Megahn Schafer, executive director of NFBF. "This puts us in a unique position because there isn't that much curricu-

lum available at this time that meets NGSS standards. By being on the forefront and developing this content now, we can reach teachers who are looking for these materials, and they're all based on agricultural concepts. We're thankful for the support from the Nebraska Corn Board who recognize the importance of exposing teachers and students to agriculture."

The final project, "Making the Connection: An Agricultural Literacy Conference," is a partnership between NFBF and NCB. This conference will bring together a variety of Nebraska educators who are wanting to incorporate agriculture into their programs. Participants could include teachers, Nebraska Extension educators and youth leaders. One key goal of the program is to demonstrate the partnerships between Nebraska commodity organizations, UNL, Nebraska Extension and NFBF, and show how high-quality resources and activities from multiple sources can be used to build a meaningful agricultural literacy program.

"We know we are stronger together," said Brandon Hunnicutt, vice chair of NCB and farmer from Giltner. "By partnering with groups like the Nebraska Farm Bureau Foundation, Lincoln Public Schools and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, our goal is to reach teachers and students across the state with meaningful agricultural curriculum. We know this is the start of something great. Something we can continue to build upon and make stronger."

Celebrate

(continued from page 6A)

Thank you for letting me use National Ag Week as an opportunity to shine a spotlight on Nebraska agriculture. During this week and always, remember to thank the farmers, ranchers and ag industry for providing us with the food, feed and fuel that we use each and every day.

Agriculture touches everyone's lives and connects all of us somehow. That's why sharing information about agriculture is so important. It helps people understand that agriculture is more than farming. It takes a whole industry of people to grow your food and get it to your table.

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National Agriculture Day, March 24

We salute the dedicated men and women of the agriculture industry, who play such an important role in keeping our nation's economy strong. Their commitment to producing a thriving variety of crops and livestock requires long hours, risk and hard work. For all of their contributions and for all the fruits of their labor, we thank

America's farmers for bringing so much to the table.

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Specialty crop growers, pesticide applicators can work together

Specialty crops, like fruits, vegetables, hops and honey, add value and diversity to Nebraska agriculture, the state's number one industry. That's why the Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) encourages growers and outdoor pesticide applicators to work together to protect sensitive commercial specialty crops and pollinators from pesticides. Pesticides include all categories of pest control products such as herbicides, insecticides and fungicides.

"Specialty crops are one way for Nebraska farm and ranch families to diversify and grow their agriculture businesses," said NDA Director Steve Wellman. "In order to protect and support specialty crop producers and agriculture in Nebraska, growers and

pesticide applicators need to communicate with one another throughout the planting and growing season to raise awareness of specialty crops and beehives in the area."

DriftWatch™ and BeeCheck™ are online mapping services from FieldWatch that allow those with commercial specialty crops, organic crops and beehives to report their field locations. Farmers and other pesticide applicators can review the map to see where specialty crops are located. Included in the registry are commercial apiary sites, vineyards, orchards, fruit and vegetable grow sites, nursery and Christmas tree production sites and certified organic and transitional organic crops.

These online mapping services

help satisfy requirements concerning restricted use pesticide (RUP) dicamba products. Pesticide applicators planning to use RUP dicamba products are required to complete online training and locate specialty crops in the area before using RUP dicamba products. Online pesticide applicator training is available through Nebraska Extension.

In Nebraska, 927 growers have registered a total of 2,007 specialty crop and apiary sites on FieldWatch™. Those sites are currently found in 80

of Nebraska's 93 counties, and contain over 105,000 acres of specialty crops.

Registration is voluntary, free, easy to use and secure. Pesticide applicators can view the map, sign up for free email alerts and get the free FieldCheck™ app, or receive direct data feeds or downloads. NDA monitors the FieldWatch™ registries for the state. Information about FieldCheck™, DriftWatch™ and BeeCheck™ can be found at bit.ly/NDAfwinfo, or by calling Craig Romary, NDA Program Specialist, at (402) 471-2351.

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Gov. Ricketts talks with Le Quoc Doanh, Deputy Minister of Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, at a meeting held in the Nebraska State Capitol.

Gov. Ricketts hosts Vietnamese trade delegation

Governor Pete Ricketts recently welcomed a trade delegation from Vietnam to the State Capitol. The delegation included top officials from Vietnam's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development as well as Vietnamese business leaders.

Gov. Ricketts and representatives from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture met with the trade delegation to discuss growing the friendship and trade relationship between the Cornhusker State and Vietnam.

During the delegation's visit, Vietnamese companies signed sev-

eral memorandums of understanding pledging to purchase Nebraska cattle, corn, distiller's dried grain solubles, soybeans, and wheat.

The Vietnamese leaders' visit to Nebraska comes less than six months after Governor Ricketts led a trade mission to Hanoi, Vietnam. In 2018, Nebraska was Vietnam's largest U.S. supplier of soybean meal and dry edible beans. From 2017 to 2019, Nebraska's beef exports to Vietnam grew 168 percent. Total U.S. ag exports to Vietnam increased from \$2.5 billion to \$4.0 billion between 2017 and 2018.

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TAPS program earns \$850K grant to develop ag competitions

The Testing Ag Performance Solutions (TAPS) program has been awarded an \$850,000 Conservation Innovation Grant award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service.

TAPS was one of 19 Conservation Innovation Grant projects awarded this year.

TAPS is an innovative program developed by University of Nebraska-Lincoln research and extension specialists in 2017. The program facilitates a

number of interactive, real-life farm-management competitions that bring together Husker scientists, extension professionals, producers, industry leaders, agriculture students, government regulators, agency personnel and others. Participants are able to test agricultural strategies and technologies during the competition; afterward, they are able to access data from the competitions.

"TAPS is a highly interactive farm-management competition that directly



Testing Ag Performance Solutions participants inspect their subsurface drip-irrigated corn plots during the 2019 Field Day. TAPS has earned an \$850,000 Conservation Innovation Grant award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resource Conservation Service.

engages stakeholders in finding efficient and profitable ways to manage crop production," said Daran Rudnick, TAPS team member.

Since the initial launch of TAPS at the West Central Research and Extension Center in North Platte, the program has expanded to include subsurface drip-irrigated corn and sprinkler-irrigated sorghum competitions, in addition to the sprinkler-irrigated corn competition. In 2019, a new TAPS program in cooperation with Oklahoma State University hosted its first sprinkler-irrigated corn competition at OSU's McCaull Research and Demonstration Farm near Eva, Okla.

The TAPS team will use the grant funding over the next three years to support ongoing development of TAPS competitions in Nebraska and Oklahoma, while expanding knowledge-sharing and engagement by producers, extension educators, technology companies and service providers in other states, including Colorado and Kansas.

"The genius of the TAPS program is the fact that most of the time, it's not extension or companies evaluat-

ing products and telling farmers about them; it's farmers engaged in evaluation," said Jason Warren, director of the OSU TAPS program. "If something doesn't work right, they see it. Then we can work with service providers to make it better."

The Conservation Innovation Grants program is funding the future of agriculture and conservation through grants to organizations and universities that are developing the next generation of tools and technologies to boost conservation on agricultural lands.

"We are funding innovation," said Matthew Lohr, Natural Resource Conservation Service chief. "These projects are tackling some of our most critical challenges head-on and will result in new science-based tools for our toolbox and cutting-edge systems we can use to help farmers and ranchers improve the health of their operations and protect our natural resources for the future."

To learn more about the TAPS program, contact Krystle Rhoades, TAPS Program Manager, West Central Research & Extension Center at (308) 696-6700 or krystle.rhoades@unl.edu

Construction company invests in Northeast Community College's Nexus project

The company that has provided construction management services to Northeast Community College has made a \$50,000 investment to the institution's Nexus project to build new agriculture facilities on the Norfolk campus.

Kingery Construction, headquartered in Lincoln, has contracted with Northeast since 2014 on projects that include Path Hall, Hawks Village, the current student center remodeling and addition, and repair of more than 20 roofs and buildings after a large hail storm in 2014.

According to Rod Berens, president and co-owner of Kingery Construction, "The people we've worked with at Northeast have been great partners and allies."

Kingery Construction was owned and operated by three generations of the Kingery family for nearly 90 years until 2013, when it was purchased by the current owners, Berens and Rick Wintermute.

"Rick and I both have children," Berens explained, "and further education is something we believe is important. We see the real need for the local community college, providing a quality education at an affordable price. That's why we wanted to be a partner in the Nexus project at Northeast."

Berens added, "We have hired many community college graduates for our company, and they have been good, hard-working employees."

"We appreciate the support of Kingery Construction for the Nexus project," said Dr. Tracy Kruse, associate vice president of development and external affairs and executive director of the Northeast Foundation. "They have been a good partner with Northeast on several projects over the past five years and this financial investment will support agriculture students and the local communities where those students will work and live after graduation."

Funding for the \$23 million Agriculture & Water Center for Excellence project is currently being solicited to enhance and expand the agriculture facilities at Northeast Community College. In addition to the college's commitment of \$10 million, Northeast is seeking at least \$13 million in private funds to begin the initial phase of construction, which includes a new veterinary technology clinic and classrooms, a new farm site with a large animal handling facility and other farm structures for livestock operations, a farm office and storage. The new facilities will be located near the Chuck M. Pohlman Agriculture Complex on East Benjamin Avenue in

Norfolk.


In August, the Acklie Charitable Foundation (ACF) announced a \$5 million lead gift to the Nexus project. ACF was founded by the late Duane Acklie and Phyllis Acklie, both Madison County natives and graduates of Norfolk Junior College, a predecessor institution of Northeast

Community College.

For more information on the Nexus Campaign, contact Kruse, at tracyk@northeast.edu, or call (402) 844-7056. Online donations may be made through agwaternebraska.com. Checks may also be mailed to Nexus Campaign, Northeast Community College Foundation, P.O. Box 469, Norfolk, Neb. 68702-0469.



Rick Wintermute (left) and Rod Berens, owners of Kingery Construction, recently made a \$50,000 donation to the Nexus project at Northeast Community College.




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Groups

(continued from page 3B)

pervasive and frequent in the coming years, and acknowledged that previous versions of the report avoided including drought as abundantly as other hazards, in part because of its breadth.

"It has so many drivers and so many effects, which are often indirect," the authors wrote. "This should not be a reason to avoid talking about (droughts) as damaging hazards that affect hundreds of millions of people a year and exact an untold economic toll. Risk will never be simple again. That

is difficult and important to accept for risk scientists, for policymakers and for anyone faced with the task of communicating risk."

The upcoming special report, Svoboda said, will be a key opportunity to spotlight drought and give decision-makers key context about the hazard in relation to other disasters. This drought-centric work will focus in large part on cases from around the world representing advances in drought early warning, systemic risks and resilience among other issues.

"I'm excited by the prospect of this because it really brings the energy and focus that are needed to address drought and the detrimental effects that it has on people, our environment, our economies and health," Svoboda said.

For more about the UNCCD Drought Initiative, go to: unccd.int/actions/drought-initiative

To read the 2019 GAR report's special section on drought, visit: gar.undrr.org/chapters/chapter-6-special-section-drought#Introduction

Future

(continued from page 1B)

water geologists, soil scientists, plant ecologists, entomologists (insect scientists), microbiologists, livestock veterinarians, butchers, meat inspectors, harness makers, machinists, welders, diesel mechanics, and grain elevator operators. In fact, agriculture creates far more highly skilled jobs than there are qualified workers to fill them. The USDA estimates that nearly 60,000 high-skill jobs come open each year in agriculture, yet only 35,000 graduates are available to perform them. For students with an interest in agriculture, there are plentiful opportunities to find rewarding, well-paying work.

FFA is not only helping to grow agriculture, but they are developing engaged citizens. During the floods last year, FFA members stepped up to help their communities. FFA chapters from Verdigre, Osmond and Crofton volunteered to clean up the community of Verdigre. They cleared debris from the football field, power-washed bathrooms, and cleaned mud off of equipment and bleachers. In Columbus, members and alumni of the Lakeview FFA chapter gathered supplies for farmers in need and provided meals to volunteers who had come to the community to aid the flood relief efforts. The FFA motto is "Learning to Do, Doing to Learn, Earning to Live, Living to Serve." In the aftermath of the floods, Nebraska's FFA members proved that they take the last part of this motto to heart.

I invite Nebraskans to support their local FFA chapters, and to be advocates for our future leaders in agriculture and related fields. If you are already involved, I encourage you to attend the FFA annual convention which will be April 1-3 in Lincoln. If you would like to know how to join FFA or start a chapter at your school, please email me at pete.ricketts@nebraska.gov or call (402) 471-2244. Together, we can connect the next generation to great opportunities in our state, and grow Nebraska!

The Wayne Herald
— March 26, 2020

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Leading agriculture into the future

By Governor Pete Ricketts

Nebraskans have been growing crops and raising livestock for centuries on multigenerational family farms

and ranches across the state. While agriculture has always been central to our way of life, agricultural practices are constantly changing. Our ag producers are the most innovative in

the world. We invent and adopt new technologies, find better ways to plant fields and feed livestock, and adjust our operations to meet shifting consumer demands. To continue to bolster our international growth and innovation in agriculture, it's imperative that we connect the energy, creativity, and education of the next generation to great opportunities in the industry.

two years, and it plans to add at least six more this year.

Over the years, FFA has expanded to recruit members who did not grow up in agriculture. This is really critical to bridging the urban-rural divide in our country. Take for example Luke Krabel, a member of the FFA chapter at Adams Central High School and a state vice president for FFA. He gave remarks at the ceremony on behalf of FFA where he shared his story. Luke did not grow up in a farm family. His dad works in construction, and his mom teaches. Even so, Luke developed a passion for agriculture through his involvement in FFA and his summer work as a detasseler. He plans to study civil engineering so that he can assist ag producers with soil and water management. Luke is just one example of the hundreds of young Nebraskans who has gained an appreciation of agriculture, even though their immediate family upbringing was not on a farm or ranch. FFA has been a key program to bring students like Luke into closer contact with agriculture.



Our farmers feed our future

Thanks to our farmers, Nebraska is a leader in agriculture. Their passion for farming helps feed the future of our community. We believe in investing in this future. We've been making ag loans since we opened our doors, and we'll keep doing so for generations to come.

Luke's plans to be a civil engineer are a good reminder that agriculture offers a diversity of career options. While we often associate agriculture with the corn growers and cattlemen who directly produce commodities, the industry has a host of different job opportunities. Careers in agriculture span a wide range of fields—robotics, finance, science, manufacturing, economics, and more. Consider just a small sampling of the hundreds of professions in agriculture: horticulture instructors, irrigation engineers, crop market analysts, ag aviators, ground-

FFA has a rich history in our state. The Nebraska FFA Association started in 1928. It was the sixth state FFA group chartered by the national FFA organization. Nebraska FFA membership continues to rise, with nearly 10,000 members at around 190 chapters this year. Nebraska has one of the fastest growing FFA state associations in the nation in terms of the number of new chapters being added. Nebraska FFA added nine chapters in the last



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See FUTURE, page 4B

Ag seminar serves to thank producers, provide updates

Approximately 50 people were on hand for the annual Ag Appreciation Seminar held late last fall.

Hosted by the Ag Task Force of the Wayne Area Economic Development Office, the event included several



Ag Climatologist Al Dutcher talked about the aspects of predicting weather and its impacts on crop production during the annual Ag Appreciation seminar.



A large crowd took advantage of the opportunity to learn more about several aspects of agriculture during the Ag Seminar.

speakers, lunch and door prizes.

Among the speakers was Al Dutcher, ag climatologist with Nebraska Extension.

Dutcher has been predicting weather for more than 30 years and said there is "tremendous uncertainty" in regard to the winter's forecast. He explained the differences between El Nino conditions and La Nina weather patterns.

Dutcher told his audience that predicting weather patterns was not an exact science, but concluded with the

following statements,

"An elevated flood risks exists for much of the corn belt through next spring; the degree of flood risk will ultimately be determined by precipitation, temperature, frost depth and storm tracks this winter; the atmosphere has shown three modes for storm tracks since the middle of October; moisture is favored much further north than last winter with a lower

See SEMINAR, page 5A

Seminar

(continued from page 4A)

count of southern stream storms and El Nino neutral conditions through 2020, with cooling favored in the second half of the year.

Pam Miller, Chair of the Board of Directors for Siouxland Ethanol, spoke on

the topic "Ethanol – The Best Days are Ahead."

She said in the years since Siouxland Ethanol came into production, there has been increased efficiency, better processing and increased demand for ethanol. She also shared information

on the processing of corn oil and the increase in the yields of this product by one pound per bushel.

The goal of the facility is to produce a high octane, low carbon fuel and find a market of distillers grains, a high protein source for livestock.

Miller said at the present time, 99 percent of the ethanol produced at Siouxland Ethanol is shipped to California.

Jim Jansen, an agricultural economist with the University of Nebraska-

Lincoln discussed with his audience how major economic forces in the state may be influencing the current market value of ag land and cash rental rates across the state.

Wayne FFA students Meghan Spahr and Emily Eilers demonstrated how to go about artificially inseminating a cow. The speech was part of the FFA Career Leadership Development (CDL) program that the two presented during competition prior to the states FFA convention.



Meghan Spahr (left) and Emily Eilers demonstrate how to artificially inseminate a cow during the Ag Seminar.



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