

March 21-27 is Severe Weather Awareness Week

Gov. Pete Ricketts signed a proclamation declaring March 21-27 as Nebraska Severe Weather Awareness Week, a time to remind Nebraskans that community preparedness can minimize the dangers of the annual severe weather season to the lives and property of Nebraskans.

In Atkinson the sirens will be sounded when the Holt County dispatch sounds the sirens for the county.

"We want all Nebraskans to take some time during Severe Weather

Awareness Week to prepare for spring and summer severe weather," Tuma said. "The devastating impacts of extreme events can be reduced through improved readiness. Make a safety plan, create a preparedness kit and review proper safety precautions. It's just a good practice for those of us who live in areas affected by tornadoes, floods and severe thunderstorms."

For more information on severe weather awareness, or preparing for severe weather, visit: <https://nema.nebraska.gov/>



Utility personnel at work . . .

This photo was captured on Sunday on Highway 20 near the Oregon Trail RV Park. The City of Atkinson was without power and utility crews got to work to get power back.

Photo by Lorraine Lieswald



West Holt holds Kindergarten Round-Up

By Lorraine Lieswald, Atkinson Graphic reporter

It was all about taking the leap to a full time student for the 32 incoming kindergarten pupils who will attend West Holt Public Schools in the fall.

The group attended the school's Kindergarten Round-Up held last Wednesday afternoon from 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.

This class is larger by six students from the previous class and will have more boys. Enrolled in the school's Little Paws Preschool this year were 20 boys and seven girls. There were 12 students in the Pre-K

Class at St. Joseph's School; however some of those will be going to Kindergarten at St. Joseph.

During Kindergarten Round-Up the students were introduced to the kindergarten teachers Mrs. Hale and Mrs. Roemer and toured the classrooms.

In their new classroom the students listened to a story and played an educational game.

The students have prepared themselves for their full-time education and know what to expect and what they will learn.

In a random interview with some of the kindergarten students it was agreed that learning will be fun and

there will be no "horsing around." According to Dane, they will "learn about animals, dragons, giraffes and penguins."

Moxxen knows "kindergarten students will play with Legos and balls and you can't run around!"

You "can't be mean" according to Able and Hector.

"It will be an exciting time and there will be painting," Reece knows.

"The students will get to eat gold fish crackers," Lawsyn said.

Coming to school won't be hard because "they are ready", the class agreed.



Competing at the District Meet for the West Holt Speech Team were front, Hayden Davies, Sierra Schartz, Kamry Neptune, Haley Peek, Taylor Schaaf, and Brianna Rentschler; back row, Luke Olson, Caid McCart, Jackson Butterfield, Nate Wallinger, Madeline Rentschler, Sidney Burkinshaw, and Aubrey Clouse. Photo courtesy Tina Dohrman

West Holt Speech Team is District Champ

By Coach Tina Dohrman

It was an exciting day for District Speech on Tuesday, March 9 for the West Holt Speech Team as many made finals and many of those in finals are state bound.

Eight members will be competing in seven of the nine events at Horizon Middle School in Kearney this Friday,

March 19.

In order to qualify for the state contest, speakers must place in the top half of the medalists; therefore, first through third place medalists qualify for state.

Medalists include Madeline Rentschler 6th and Taylor Schaaf 3rd in entertainment;

Caid McCart 2nd in humorous

prose;

Sidney Burkinshaw 3rd in informative;

Kamry Neptune 4th in persuasive; and 5th in serious prose;

Nate Wallinger 5th and Jackson Butterfield 2nd in extemporaneous;

Ana Alvarez 5th and Haley Peek 2nd in poetry;

Haley Peek and Sierra Schartz 4th

and Hayden Davies and Caid McCart 2nd in duet acting;

and finally, the oral interpretation of drama group of Jackson Butterfield, Hayden Davies, Brianna Rentschler, Taylor Schaaf, and Madeline Rentschler.

The West Holt Speech Team is coached by Tina Dohrman, Vicki Rahn, and Tasha Hamm.

Prom at West Holt

West Holt Public Schools will hold their Prom on Saturday, March 20.

The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the prom dinner.

At 8:30 p.m. the Grand March will be held and the dance will begin at 9:00 p.m.



The Stuart Speech Team was District Runner-Up. Pictured are seated, Alyssa King and Austin Nachtman; middle row, Katilynn Kaup, Taya Schmadere, Grace Alder, and Sydney Estill; back row, Ashlyn Kaup, William Paxton, Emma Alder, Abigail Tubbs, Savannah Kramer, Lacey Paxton, and Chiana Tubbs.

Stuart Speech Team qualifies for State

By Coach Brenda Larabee

Sun shone on Monday, March 8th as the Stuart speech team boarded the bus headed to the D2-3 district meet at Chambers. With a restriction of three spectators per participant, the competition began at 10:00 a.m.

Stuart speakers knew the day would be full of fierce competition and they would need to perform well and have the blessing of the judges in order to advance to the state competition.

At the end of the day, Stuart was crowned district runner-up behind Chambers and qualified 10 events and eight students for the state speech meet in Kearney.

Medalists included: Sixth place Emma Alder in informative

Fifth place Duet of Emma Alder and Grace Alder and the OID of Savannah Kramer, Lacey Paxton, and

William Paxton.

Fourth place medals were earned by Chiana Tubbs in persuasive and Lacey Paxton in humorous prose



As seniors, Alyssa King and Austin Nachtman get to leave their molar mark on the plaque.

Those students placing in the top three earned a trip to the state speech tournament being held Friday, March 19th at Kearney High School.

3rd place medalists were:

Alyssa King - Serious Prose
Grace Alder - Entertainment
OID - Katilynn Kaup, Taya Schmadere, Abigail Tubbs, Sydney Estill

William Paxton - Extemporaneous

2nd place medalists were:

Alyssa King - Poetry
Sydney Estill - Serious Prose
Champions for the day were: Austin Nachtman - Extemporaneous

Taya Schmadere - Persuasive
Abigail Tubbs - Humorous Prose
William Paxton - Entertainment

Other competitors and their events for the day were Alyssa King and Abigail Tubbs in Duet Acting; Ashlyn Kaup in Poetry; and Chiana Tubbs in Informative.

Photos courtesy Stuart Public Schools

NCDHD gives COVID-19 updates

On Thursday, March 11, 2021 North Central District Health Department (NCDHD) was made aware of 11 new COVID-19 cases in the district since last reporting period on March 4, 2021. These included these numbers in these counties: 3 in Antelope, 0 in Boyd, 1 in Brown, 3 in Cherry, 2 in Holt, 0 in Keya Paha, 1 in Knox, 1 in Pierce, and 0 in Rock.

NCDHD still encourages district residents to continue to wear your mask in public places or where social distancing is difficult as well as practice social distancing while out in public.

NCDHD has reported 174 recoveries since last reporting on March 4, 2021. These included these numbers in these counties: Antelope in 14, Boyd in 10, Brown in 15, Cherry in 21, Holt in 19, Keya Paha in 6, Knox

in 64, Pierce in 19, and Rock in 6.

Case count update as of March 11, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.: 4,284 Total Cases (TC), 3,469 Recoveries (R), 72 Deaths (D), and 28 total cases reported in the last 14 days. A reminder that Total Case (TC) numbers are represented first, and of those total cases the number of Recovered (R) persons is represented second, and total case related Deaths (D) is represented third.

Antelope: TC: 553, R: 444, D: 7
Boyd: TC: 185, R: 160, D: 3
Brown: TC 274, R: 259, D: 4
Cherry: TC: 418, R: 355, D: 7
Holt: TC: 850, R: 661, D: 15
Keya Paha: TC: 48, R: 38, D: 0
Knox: TC: 1,107, R: 865, D: 13
Pierce: TC: 698, R: 552, D: 21
Rock: TC: 151, R: 135, D: 2
On Monday, March 15, 2021

NCDHD was made aware of 16 new COVID-19 cases in the district since last reporting period on March 15, 2021. They included these numbers in these counties: 5 in Antelope, 0 in Boyd, 1 in Brown, 3 in Cherry, 2 in Holt, 1 in Keya Paha, 3 in Knox, 1 in Pierce, and 0 in Rock. NCDHD

Case count update as of 03/15/2021 at 3:00 PM: 4,300 Total Cases (TC), 3,469 Recoveries (R), 72 Deaths (D), and 38 total cases reported in the last 14 days. A reminder that Total Case (TC) numbers are represented first, and of those total cases the number of Recovered (R) persons is represented second, and total case related Deaths (D) is represented third.

Antelope: TC: 558, R: 444, D: 7
Boyd: TC: 185, R: 160, D: 3
Brown: TC 275, R: 259, D: 4

Continued on Page 2

COVID-19 (www.cdc.gov)

Symptoms - Fever, difficulty breathing, persistent dry cough, **SAFE PRACTICES**

Wash hands regularly and thoroughly
Keep a safe social distance or quarantine
Cover your cough or sneeze

HOLT COUNTY
CASES 852
RECOVERIES 661
DEATHS 15
(As of 3/15/21)

WHO TO CALL FOR HELP:
West Holt Medical Services
402-925-2811
Greater Sandhills Family Healthcare
402-925-2994,
402-924-3777 or 402-684-2285

Friends and Family

Obituaries

Mary Jo Closson, 82

A funeral Mass for Mary Jo Closson, age 82, of O'Neill, Neb. will be held on Friday, Marcy 19, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Church in O'Neill.

Burial will follow the funeral in the O'Neill Cemetery.

Visitation will be held on Thursday, March 18 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., with a 7:00 p.m. Parish Rosary at Biglin's Mortuary in O'Neill.

Mary Joan Muller was born July 2, 1938 in Knox County the daughter of James and Sarah (Neyens) Muller, Sr., and died on Sunday, March 14, 2021 at her home in O'Neill.

She attended school at St. Ludger Academy in Creighton, graduating in 1957.

She married Russell Closson on August 24, 1957 at St. Ludger Catholic Church in Creighton. To this union, nine children were born, Cheri, Curt, Juli, Marde, Kent, Angie, Rock, Scott, and Cheleigh.

The couple farmed near Lynch, and moved to O'Neill in 1977. She was a homemaker, farm wife, childcare provider, and worked various jobs in Lynch and O'Neill before retiring from North Star in 2019.

She loved her family and was happiest when they were with her. Visits from family were always special and too short.

She was preceded in death by her parents James and Sarah Muller Sr.; husband Russell in 1978; brothers and spouses James and Mary Muller, Clayton Muller, Howard and Jayet Muller, Jake and Agnes Muller, Thomas and DeAnna Muller, Francis Muller; sister-in-law Viola Byers; brother-in-law Roland and Helen Closson; great-grandsons Austin Baca and Joshua Closson.

Mary Jo Closson is survived by her children Cheri Closson of Greeley, Colo., Curt Closson of O'Neill, Juli Ford of Omaha, Marde Closson of Las Vegas, Nev., Kent (Edyth) Closson of Thornton, Colo., Angela (Mario) Montez of Fowler, Colo., Rock (Deb) Closson of O'Neill, Scott (Michelle) Closson of Park Hills, Mo., and Cheleigh (Ben) Sholes of Atkinson; a sister and brother-in-law Marjorie (Ken) Sexton of Edmonton Kent.; 27 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the family for future designation.

Biglin's Mortuary of O'Neill is in charge of arrangements.

Joan F. Murphy, 86

A funeral service for Joan Frances Murphy, age 86, of Stuart, Neb. was held on Tuesday, Marcy 16, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Stuart. Father James Weeder officiated.

Music was by singers Tom LaHood and Cheri Murphy. Deb Kaup was the organist.



Visitation was held on Monday March 15, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Stuart with a 7:00 p.m. Rosary. There was also be a 4:00 p.m. Christian Mother Rosary at the church.

Burial was in St. Boniface Catholic Cemetery at Stuart. Pallbearers were all of her grandchildren.

Joan Frances was born July 30, 1934 to Albert and Clara (Tomjack) Kallhoff on a farm at Ewing, and died on March 11, 2021 at Avera St. Anthony's Hospital in O'Neill.

She graduated from O'Neill Public High School in 1955. Following graduation she was employed at Consumer Public Power.

At a dance one weekend Cornelius "Connie" Murphy took the opportunity to ask her to join him for a stroll at an intermission break, and the courtship began.

In 1953 he was drafted into the Army and upon his return he proposed to her and they were married September 27, 1955 at St. Patrick's Catholic Church in O'Neill.

Raising and nurturing a family came naturally to her, and became her life passion. They were blessed with 10 healthy children.

Her childhood love for singing and dancing came to fruition when one of her many talents was discovered when she accompanied her husband at a Legion Drill Team and Color Guard competition. She became one of the main attractions at the yearly Stuart Legion show, yodeling alongside her guitar accompanist Frank Murphy.

Her other hobbies included tending to and sharing her beautiful garden produce, square dancing, bowling and playing cards. Organizations she belonged to were the Stuart Christian Mothers, Haydettes Extension Club, and Needles and Nails 4-H Club.

She especially loved gardening, it not only provided for her large family, but provided a way to engage her family in the chores. She was active in all aspects on the ranch, and worked tirelessly beside her husband and her family helping with livestock and milking cows. She raised chickens adding to the enjoyment of the children's chores.

She took great pride in her church community at St. Boniface Catholic Church, and served tirelessly assisting with every aspect at the church being an EME, lector, setting up for masses, and preparing church for the different seasons.

She was preceded in death by sisters Darlene Hoskinson, Bernice Summers and Pat Glaser.

Joan Frances Murphy is survived by her husband Connie of Stuart; children Terry Murphy of Stuart, Jeanne Krotter of Spencer, Jerome Murphy and wife Beth of Stuart, Julie Knudson and husband Kelly of Norfolk, Colleen Osborne and husband Roland of Atkinson, Marde Paxton of Stuart, Kevin Murphy and wife Jill of Stuart, Kelly Murphy and wife Beth of Stuart, Connie Jo Novak and husband Steve of Seward, and J.P. Murphy and wife Neely of Kearney; 27 grandchildren; 20 great-children; brother Ron Kallhoff and Linda of O'Neill; and sister Sherri Strong of Norfolk.

Memorials can be made to the Stuart Christian Mothers.

Seger Funeral Home of Atkinson was in charge of arrangements.

News from Senior Center

By Volunteer Manager
Mickey Braun

It seems like spring if finally here with all the rain we are getting will sure make the grass green now. The mowers will be starting up. It has been a very long year and we need some changes in our daily lives.

I know everyone is wondering when the Center will be open again for in-house dining. As of this writing it is not recommended to open by the Agency, until everyone has had their second shots and then a two week waiting period is completed.

We are wondering just how many

Nominate your
Good Neighbor
by sending
the information to:

news@atkinsongraphic.com

will be coming in to eat once we can be open since it has been closed for so long. The delivered meal count is staying about the same as for the curb side that is several somedays then none the next. I guess it depends on the menu for some. If you don't have a menu and are wondering what is to eat for a certain day give us a call. We will be happy to tell you or you can stop in and get a menu for the month.

The thrift part of the Center is now open and we welcome you to come in and shop. We are excepting donated items but no clothing. The items that we are in need of are puzzles, games, kitchen items, small appliances, dishes, silverware, towels, purses, and greeting cards.

The thrift store is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until Noon.

That is all I have for this time. We hope to see you soon.

Knights of Columbus Spring Poultry Party Sunday, March 21 Atkinson KC Hall

Cards and Lunch starting at 11:00 a.m.
Serving sandwiches, soup and pie all day.
Evening Games begin at 6:00 p.m.

Everyone Welcome! Come win a turkey or ham!

Card Shower for
Gloria
Everett
Happy
90th
Birthday
on April 6th

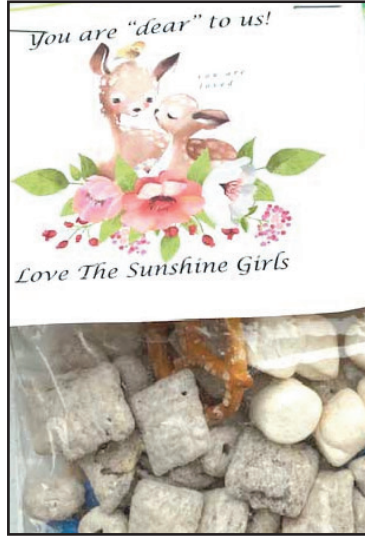
Please Send Cards to:
2002 Aberdeen Drive
Papillion, NE 68133



Deer are out and about . . .

The Sunshine Girls braved the cold damp day to entertain Atkinson and Stuart residents. Pictured above, Penny Keim, Diane Alden and Patti Skrdla were dressed as deer and Sandy Schrunk and her grandson Lincoln were dressed as hunters. The deer were shouting "run, run, run as fast as you can, you can't shoot me I'm a fast quick deer!"

The hunters had nerf guns and tried to shoot at the deer. Atkinson Good Samaritan Society and Prairie Wind residents were given Nerf guns and they were given the chance to shoot a few rounds. One resident captured a deer by grabbing her and not letting go and there were some good shooters as several deer were on the floor. There were many smiles and a lot of laughter. Penny Keim made and donated the treat of a "deer" trail mix.



Girls photo by Lorraine Lieswald
Treat courtesy Diane Alden

Graphic Gleanings

In 1961 . . . Twenty-two Atkinson people, including two women, went to O'Neill and took the Federal Civil Service examination in connection with their application for appointment as postmaster in Atkinson. They were: Mrs. Connie Bennet, Floyd Butterfield, Michael Coday, Maynard Coleman, Earl J. Collins, Dean Funk, Raymer Funk, Robert Gaylor, Ivan J. Gilg, Lewis V. Humphrey, Warren Kelly, Pat Krumm, Gene Livingston,

John Mack, E. C. McKay, Pat Miller, Wm B. Miller, Don Mills, Robert Prescott, C. E. Spence, Mrs. Lew Verzal, and Ray L. Verzal. Three of the group were employed at the post office in Atkinson at that time. C. E. Spence was the acting postmaster since December 31, when A. G. Miller retired. Lewis Humphrey was chief clerk and had been a local post office employee for about 30 years. E. C. McKay was substitute clerk.

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OFFICE HOURS

Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs.
8:00 - 5:00
Fri. 8:00 - 12:00



Atkinson KC's Fish Fry Friday, March 19

Serving from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.



KC Hall in Atkinson

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Atkinson Livestock Market - "The Old Reliable"

Tuesday, March 23rd
Special Breeding Cattle Auction
9:00 a.m. - Slaughter Cattle
12:00 Noon - Breeding Cattle

Larry Reiter, 58 Complete Dispersion, Blk/Few Mix 2nd Calvers to Broken Mouth, Bred Angus, calve April 1st, 60 days
Pairs

Scott Thiele (402-640-5726-Tom), 18 Blk 3-6 year old Cows w/ December Calves

Larry Reiter, 4 Blk/Mix Pairs

Bulls

Larsen Herefords (402-687-2532), 5 Coming 2 year olds Polled Hereford Bulls

K.C. Braniiff, 1 15 Month Old Polled Hereford Bull

Upcomings

Tuesday, March 30th - Regular Auction & Fats

Friday, April 2nd - Hay Auction @ 11:00 a.m. (Ron Holtgrew-402-340-0263)

Tuesday, April 6th - Special Feeder Calf Auction

Tuesday, April 13th - Regular Auction & Fats

View our auctions live over internet at www.cattleusa.com

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Wes@AtkinsonLivestock.com

Area All Conference athlete selections told

The Niobrara Valley Conference has announced their All Conference selections for girls' and boys' basketball and wrestling.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

1st Team - Morgan Ramsey - Chambers/Wheeler Central; Ashlynn Charf - Elgin Public-Pope John; Carney Black - Elkhorn Valley; Paige Furstenau - Neligh-Oakdale; Josilyn Miller - Niobrara-Verdigre; Brielle Bussinger - North Central; Hunter Wiebelhaus - North Central; Mya Hedstrom - St. Mary's; **Lexi Schroder - Stuart**; Brenna Wagner - Summerland

2nd Team - Amelia Hoffman - Boyd County; Laurny Hoffman - Boyd County; Ryan Haburchak - Chambers/Wheeler Central; Michelle Koenig - Chambers/Wheeler Central; Keyera Eisenhauer - Elgin Public-Pope John; Kenzie Mosel - Elkhorn Valley; Chaney Konopasek - Niobrara-Verdigre; Jenna Hallock - North Central; Adysyn Mlnarik - Summerland; **Maci Nemetz - West Holt**

Honorable Mention - Paige Druke - Boyd County; Kiryn Kayl - Boyd County; Rachel Dierks - Chambers/Wheeler Central; Tessa Meschke - Chambers/Wheeler Central; Kirsten Krebs - Elgin Public/Pope John; Bria Gale - Elkhorn Valley; Brooke Frey - Neligh-Oakdale; Trinity Kurpgeleit - Neligh-Oakdale; Adisyn Anderson -

North Central; Keely Munger - North Central; Alyssa Brabec - St. Mary's; Lorissa Reiman - St. Mary's; Hope Williamson - St. Mary's; Destiny Tuttle - Santee; **Sydney Estill - Stuart**; **Cadence Kramer - Stuart**; **Taya Schmaderer - Stuart**; Avery Cheatum - Summerland; **Reghan Kerkmann - West Holt**

BOYS' BASKETBALL

1st Team - Colton Wright-Elgin Public/Pope John; Derek Hahne-Elkhorn Valley; Julien Hearn-Neligh-Oakdale; Rane Vesely-Niobrara-Verdigre; Dolan Pospichal-North Central; Adam Everitt-St. Mary's; Aidan Hedstrom-St. Mary's; **Wade Paxton-Stuart**; **Aaron Kraus-West Holt**; **Jakeem Brown-West Holt**

2nd Team - Ethan McBride-Boyd County; Paiton Hoefer-Elgin Public/Pope John; Carter Rautenberg-Elkhorn Valley; Talon Krebs-Neligh-Oakdale; Max Hollmann-Niobrara-Verdigre; Austyn Saul-Santee; Blake Benson-St. Mary's; Tate Thompson-St. Mary's; **Ryan Steinhauer-Stuart**; Mason Hoke-Summerland

Honorable Mention - Zac Rihanek-Boyd County; Ryder Pokorny-Chambers/Wheeler Central; Jack Wemhoff-Elgin Public/Pope John; Carter Werner-Elkhorn Valley; Carson Anderson-North Central; Ben Bruns-North Central; Romeo White-

Santee; Conner Semin-St. Mary's; **Anthony Heiser-Stuart**; **Haden Kaup-Stuart**; Dalton Rotherham-Summerland; **Cameron Adkisson-West Holt**

WRESTLING

106 - 1st - Tristen Krueger - North Central; 2nd - Carson Whitesel - Neligh-Oakdale

113 - 1st - Hunter Bennett - Elkhorn Valley; 2nd - Carter Beckman - Elgin Public - Pope John

120 - 1st - Zack Hartl - Elkhorn Valley; 2nd - Owen Vondra - Elkhorn Valley

126 - 1st - Zach Dickau - North Central; 2nd - Adam Miller - Elkhorn Valley

132 - 1st - Brock Kester - Neligh-Oakdale; 2nd - Thomas Klemesrud - North Central

138 - 1st - Reed Bennett - Elkhorn Valley; 2nd - **Channing Ogden - West Holt**

145 - 1st - **Caleb Davis - West Holt**; 2nd - Malachi Tegeler - Elkhorn Valley

152 - 1st - Levi Lewis - North Central; 2nd - Austin Rudolf - Neligh-Oakdale

160 - 1st - Aiden Kuester - Neligh-Oakdale; 2nd - Alex Arroyo - Summerland

170 - 1st - Conor Dempsey - Neligh-Oakdale; 2nd - None

182 - 1st - Caleb Payne - Neligh-Oakdale; 2nd - Gavin Chohon - Niobrara-Verdigre

195 - 1st - Clay Thiele - Summerland; 2nd - Gavyn Clause - Elkhorn Valley

220 - 1st - Dawson Kaup - Neligh-Oakdale; 2nd - Wyatt Chipps - Summerland

285 - 1st - Logan Mueller - Summerland; 2nd - Caden Reikofski - Elkhorn Valley

Graphic Gleanings

In 1961 . . . Francis Penry was appointed as the night police officer for the City of Atkinson. Police officers were instructed to enforce the city curfew ordinance by Mayor John Beck and the city council. The curfew wording included "It shall be unlawful for any person under the age of 16 years to loiter, wander or play in or upon any street, alley, park or public place or on any railroad right-of-way or in a place of public entertainment or recreation in said City after the hour of 10:30 p.m. of any day until the hour of 5 o'clock a.m. of the following day, unless accompanied by a parent or a guardian."

Larry Schunk was the reporter for the Happy Redwing Ramblers at School District 89. Three beginners started the second semester at the school. They were Terry Tielke, Richard Schunk, and Evelyn Sterns. Other students mentioned in the article included Jerry Tielke, Myron Wasson, and Coleen Sterns.

Paul F. Seger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo F. Seger finished the prescribed course of study at Worsham College of Mortuary Science in Chicago, Ill. He returned to Atkinson where he became associated with his father in the operation of Seger Funeral Home.



Employees receive vaccine. . .

Northeast Community College employees received the one dose Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine during a clinic in the institution's Cox Activities Center on March 8th, coordinated by the Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department. The clinic was the first time the J&J vaccine was administered in the department's four county district. In addition to 225 College employees, another approximately 30 childcare providers received the vaccine. Photo Courtesy Northeast Community College

Students compete in FFA Ag Education Contest at NECC

Over 1,100 students compete in FFA Ag Education Contest organized by Northeast Community College

High school students, recognized by their blue jackets and bright gold lettering, participated in the 2021 FFA Districts 3, 4 and 10 Career Development Event - Ag Education Contest on the Norfolk campus of Northeast Community College recently. Many of the 14 contests for the over 1,100 students from 46 area high schools were state qualifying events with winners proceeding to the state contest in early April at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, only four events were held on campus this year - agriculture sales presentation, floriculture, nursery and landscape, and livestock management. Other contests were held previously at each school. This included agriculture sales exam, agricultural technology and mechanization systems, ag biotechnology, farm and agribusiness

management, food science (included hands on activity), veterinary science, and welding (included hands on activity).

Northeast agriculture and horticulture faculty, staff and students hosted the on campus contests.

Corinne Morris, dean of Agriculture, Math and Science at Northeast, said a change in the format due to the pandemic proved challenging, but was successful. She said collaboration between off site locations, contest leaders, online technology, and instructors was key in maintaining the integrity of the contests which are normally held at the College.

"This event is a huge undertaking in a normal year. Everyone worked together and found solutions to every challenge making it a meaningful experience for students," Morris said. "Our faculty and staff did an awesome job of reinventing how contests could look and still accommodate all of the high schools inside and outside

of our service area with their CDE contests. I am very proud of our teachers and all of the people who helped them this year."

FFA Chapters participating in the contest include:

District 3 Schools: Arlington, Blair, Logan View, Lyons-Decatur Northeast, Mead, North Bend, Oakland-Craig, Omaha Bryan, Pender, Scribner-Snyder, Tekamah-Herman, Wayne, West Point, Wisner-Pilger.

District 4 Schools: Allen-Wakefield, Battle Creek, Bloomfield, Creighton, Crofton, Emerson-Hubbard, Hartington-Newcastle, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Madison, Norfolk, Osmond, Pierce, Plainview, Randolph, Stanton, Summerland (Orchard/Ewing/Clearwater).

District 10 Schools: Ainsworth, Boyd County, Burwell, Chambers, Elgin, Elkhorn Valley, Keya Paha, Loup County, Neligh-Oakdale, O'Neill, Ord, Rock County, Sargent, Stuart, West Holt, Wheeler Central.

Northeast Community College has hosted the contest for over 40-years.

When you move

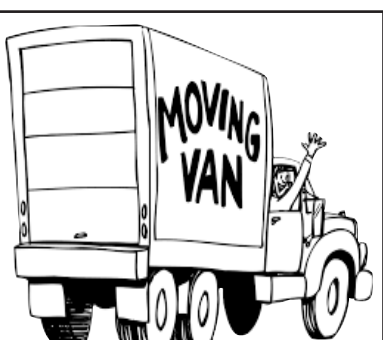
Send your change of address to:

P.O. Box 159

Atkinson, NE 68713

or email it to:

news@atkinsongraphic.com



Congratulations to Stuart Speech State Qualifiers!



Stuart Speech State Qualifiers are front - Alyssa King and Austin Nachtman; middle row, Taya Schmaderer, Grace Alder, and Sydney Estill; back row Katilynn Kaup, William Paxton, and Abigail Tubbs

Ketteler Eyecare

Atkinson Floral

Keating Resources

Atkinson Family Chiropractic

Greater Sandhills Family Healthcare

Braun's Food Center

Matt and Rachel Kaup

Darby and Sara Paxton

John and Erica Tubbs

Reliable Tax Services LLC

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The Tri County Bank

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Gleanings from 2001 . . .

WHHS SPEECH TEAM – From front, left: Jacob Meusch, Kylie Tielke, Sarah Schaaf, Becky Shane and Ashley Schaaf; middle, Meagan Winings, Kalli Asher, Makala Dostal, Tami Pribil, Karla Kopejtka and Stephanie Bade; back, Mrs. Dohrman, Kim Vrooman, Sarah Hamik, Amber Bradley, Heather Murphy, Brenna Pribil, Jade Theisen and Mrs. Bisenius.

Gov. Ricketts proclaims Nebraska best turkey hunting destination in United States

By Jerry Kane,
Public Information Officer
Nebraska Game & Parks

Hunters from across the country have come to discover what Nebraskans know – the state has excellent wild turkey hunting. For the fifth year in a row, Gov. Pete Ricketts has proclaimed Nebraska the best turkey hunting destination in the United States.

Nebraska has a restored and abundant population of wild turkeys, including the highly sought-after Merriam's turkeys in the Pine Ridge. With hunting opportunities in every county, there are tremendous opportunities for hunters.

In a postseason survey, hunters report high success and satisfaction rates, with 97% of resident and 94% of nonresident spring turkey hunters saying they would hunt turkeys in Nebraska again based on their experience in the 2019 spring season.

Permits are unlimited in quantity in Nebraska. Turkey hunters can purchase up to three permits for the spring season and two for the fall sea-

son. They even can be purchased, accessed and displayed on a mobile device. Also, Nebraska champions youth hunting with its \$8 youth turkey permits.

Turkey seasons are long, too: as many as 68 days in the spring and 139 days in the fall. The archery season opens March 25. Youth shotgun season begins April 10 and the regular shotgun season opens April 17. All seasons close May 31.

Hunters find plenty of accessible sites in Nebraska, too, as more than 1.2 million acres of land are open to public hunting in the state. Hunters and landowners are stewards of Nebraska's natural resources, and mentors and leaders in conservation. Hunting, including Nebraska turkey hunting, brings family and friends together in a way that encourages appreciation for our natural world.

Nebraska welcomes hunters from across the country who help create an \$848 million annual economic impact in the state, fueling the economy of towns large and small, and supporting nearly 9,000 jobs.

"Nebraska is the best place in the

nation for turkey hunting," Ricketts said. "Our thriving wild turkey population can be found in every one of our 93 counties. With affordable permits, accessible lands, and long seasons, our state offers an abundance of opportunities for turkey hunters."

Said Alicia Hardin, Wildlife Division administrator for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission: "We have known for a long time that Nebraska offers great opportunities to turkey hunters. We hope the recent warm weather, paired with the chance to make memories with family and friends, is the perfect reason to get outdoors, turkey hunt and get your spring started off right."

Purchase permits at OutdoorNebraska.org or at Game and Parks permitting offices across the state.

Graphic Gleanings

In 1961 . . . Holt County had a total of 613 4-H members. There were 45 4-H clubs in the county which included 381 girls and 233 boys as members. In number of members Holt County stood in tenth place among the 93 counties. With a total of 1,201 4-H projects were being carried out by club members, Holt County was in seventh place.

Mike Coday and Harold Grof, owners and operators of The Service Center located on East State Street in Atkinson announced that they had sold the station to Roy R. Gilg, a local agent and bulk station operator for the Standard Oil Co.

Stores and other business places in Atkinson were closed from 12:00 Noon until 3:00 p.m. while Good Friday worship services were being held at the local churches. Pastors at the protestant churches who had a joint worship included: Rev. Charles Gates – Methodist; Rev. Emil Kuehn – St. John's Lutheran; Rev. Charles Phipps – Wesleyan Methodist; and Rev. Raymond F. Kersting – Presbyterian.



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Nebraska News Service

Highlights from the first week of legislature floor debate

By Brooke Wrage, Celena Shepherd and Madeleine Grant
Nebraska News Service

The first week of floor debates kicked off the second week in March. Senators debated and advanced a handful of bills in the Nebraska Legislature. Read through to get a recap of the week.

LB255: Provide compensation to families of deceased first responders

Sen. Matt Hansen of Lincoln introduced LB255, which would establish the In-Line of Duty Compensation Act to provide a one-time death benefit for a family member of a first responder who dies while in the line of duty.

"I believe it is time for Nebraska to join our neighbors and making sure that those first responders know we value their work, their service and their lives," he said.

The bill would include any volunteer firefighters, emergency medical service, ambulance squad members and law enforcement. Each employee would have the opportunity to designate a beneficiary who would receive \$50,000.

Sen. Curt Friesen of Henderson said that while the bill was well-intentioned because it honors first responders, it duplicated benefits that first responders in Nebraska already receive.

"I have no objection to us doing this, but we have to remember that there are departments out there who do provide very adequate benefits on life insurance policies and things like that," he said. "So, we are really duplicating, in some cases, what they might be receiving."

The Legislature won first-round approval on a vote of 37-1 on March 10.

LB 274: Expand alcohol sales

Sen. John Lowe of Kearney faced a long debate on March 9th over his bill about liquor laws before being advanced to general file.

His bill would allow farm wineries, craft breweries and micro-distilleries to have a special license for selling alcoholic beverages at farmers markets under the Nebraska Liquor Control Act. The license would allow the alcoholic manufacturers to sell at a farmers market for one year subject to its approval.

Parts of two additional bills, LB 72 and LB 578, were amended into Lowe's bill.

Bill 72, introduced by Sen. Suzanne Geist of Lincoln, would allow to-go cocktails to be sold from holders of a Class C liquor license. Tamper-proof seals would be required of those selling the drinks to prevent issues with drinking and driving.

Sen. Tony Vargas of Omaha introduced bill 578, which would lower the excise tax on alcoholic beverages that contain 5-6% alcohol from \$3.75 to 95 cents per gallon.

Sen. Robert Hilkemann of Omaha opposed Vargas's bill to lower the tax

on alcoholic beverages.

"I think about our young people who get caught up with this alcohol. The binge drinking, I think about all the DUI's, I think about all the families that have been destroyed by alcohol," he said.

Lowe's bill advanced with a 33-0 vote.

LB322: Adopt school safety and security reporting system

Sen. Matt Williams of Gothenburg presented LB322 on March 11. His bill advanced out of the first round of floor debates with a 33-5 vote, but questions were raised about funding and privacy.

LB322 creates a state-wide anonymous security reporting system in public and private K-12 schools. Williams said the intent of this program is to reduce or prevent incidents of violence, including harm to self, others and property.

"When it comes to keeping kids safe there's no such thing as having too many helpful resources and this pilot program has been a life-saving partnership," Williams said.

Sen. Steve Erdman of Bayard was concerned about the source of funding for the nearly \$900,00 price-tag of the bill. Groene didn't want reports to follow students into the future.

Former Millard School District school administrator Sen. Rich Pahls of Omaha supported the bill because of the important services it offers to students.

"If the dollar sign is going to hold you up... after several years we're going to see how many calls are there, and that will sell it," Pahls said.

The Legislature also adopted an Education Committee amendment with technical changes by a 34-5 vote.

LB 387: Change military retirement tax

LB387, introduced by Sen. Tom Brewer of Gordon, would allow Nebraskans to exclude their entire military retirement benefit pay from state income tax. The bill, which was requested by Gov. Pete Ricketts, would aid military retirees.

"We have been in a process, literally, for almost four decades to try and get this done; to save retirees from leaving Nebraska," Brewer said. "This bill will help us achieve that."

The Legislature approved a previous exclusion in 2020. This new addition to the bill would allow Nebraskans to exclude 100% military retirement benefit income instead of the previous 50%. Other surrounding states, such as Iowa and South Dakota, have similar legislation and do not tax military retirees.

Sen. Tim Gragert of Creighton spoke in support of the bill, citing the opportunity to attract military retirees from surrounding states.

"Not only will LB387 retain more veterans in Nebraska, it will also attract veterans to Nebraska when they retire from their military career and

Downed powerlines a danger during severe weather

As a part of Severe Weather Awareness Week March 22-28, Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) wants to emphasize the danger of broken or downed powerlines.

Severe weather conditions, such as high winds and lighting, can cause a structure or powerline to be damaged or break. This can leave a live powerline either floating in the air or laying on the ground, creating a dangerous situation.

"When a powerline is lying on the ground or over a roadway, it can charge the ground around it with elec-

tricity, and if anyone were to get too close to that line it could result in a potentially fatal situation," says NPPD Vice-President of Energy Delivery Art Wiese. "If someone comes across a downed powerline, they should avoid the area and call their local power utility or 911, so trained professionals can deenergize the line and make sure it's repaired safely."

If a situation occurred where a powerline fell on a vehicle, it's important the driver and passengers remain inside the vehicle until help can arrive. The powerline could electri-

ready to start their next career," he said.

Lawmakers voted 45-0 to advance LB387 on March 10.

LB 400: Telehealth expansion
On March 9, Sen. John Arch of LaVista presented his priority bill about the expansion of telehealth services to the floor debates.

Arch said that Nebraska health plans have seen the use of telehealth services skyrocket by 2,000-7,000% since the onset of the pandemic.

"Telehealth is not going to completely replace healthcare as we traditionally know it, but it is here to stay as a part of our healthcare system, and it does provide greater access to vital services," Arch said.

Expanding telehealth would allow all areas of Nebraska to continue to have access to behavioral health care services beyond the pandemic. Under LB 400, audio-only behavioral health services would be allowed for established patients in rural areas, regardless of broadband level.

The bill would also stop commercial insurers from excluding telehealth coverage from certain areas, and ensure services to a patient in any location.

The bill would enable individuals to receive telehealth services with verbal approval, rather than written consent prior to the telehealth services like the current law. However, written approval must be received within 10 days of the patients' verbal consent.

The bill won the first round of approval on a vote of 46-0.

LB44: Change adoptions of affordable housing action plans

On March 11, Sen. Matt Hansen of Lincoln discussed his bill, LB44. The bill was on the last step of the legislative process, where it's read and senators vote for final passage.

His bill updates LB866, a law enacted last year that incentivized building affordable housing and required cities to create action plans. Hansen's bill adds one sentence to increase flexibility in how cities adopt action plans.

A motion for an amendment on LB44 was filed by Sen. Mike Groene of North Platte. Typically, amendments are not proposed by individual senators at this step.

"Senator Groene is amending all three components to LB866 from last year," Hansen said. "He's proposing a substantive change for (my) bill that was meant to be a technical clean-up."

Groene's amendment would exempt cities with a population of less than 50,000 from adopting an affordable action housing plan.

"Smaller cities don't need this (bill)...it's added cost," Groene said. "We're a stagnant city trying to survive."

Following the debate, Groene's amendment failed with a close 21-21 vote.

Several other senators weighed in on the debate, before Hansen's bill passed with a 40-5 vote.

cally charge the vehicle and exiting could cause serious or fatal injury.

"When someone is in this type of situation, we ask them to remain in the vehicle and call 911 for help," notes Wiese. "If something like a fire, forces you to exit the vehicle, you should make sure you get to the edge of your vehicle and jump away landing on two feet, never touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then shuffle away from the vehicle until you're at a safe distance."

When severe weather conditions are anticipated, NPPD crews from around the state prepare for an emergency response. "We have to first determine the extent of damage, bring in the necessary crews, and then begin the work of restoration," Wiese added.

Tips on safety precautions during a power outage are available at Electrical Safety (nppd.com).

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Agriculture

Deciphering a hay test

By Steve Neimeyer,
Extension Educator

While typically lower on the lab results, the mineral makeup of forages is no less important than the protein and energy portions we discussed previously. Mineral supplementation can be a big expense in operations, so knowing how to utilize the information in a hay analysis is important.

Mineral demand in animals is highly dependent on your location and feed resources. Forage analysis can help identify possible mineral imbalances in your operation and form the basis for developing a solid mineral program. However, we need to be aware of a few things first.

When dealing with forages, just because a certain amount of mineral is listed in the analysis doesn't mean it will be 100% available to the animal. Because mineral availability is dependent on a number of factors from the feed to animal digestion, only a percent of reported minerals are actually absorbed into the bloodstream. Typically P, K, Mn and Fe are higher in bioavailability; Ca, Zn and Cu in the middle; and Mg absorption is considerably lower. To further complicate things, some minerals are able to be accumulated or stored up in cattle at times when they are in excess and then used as a reserve when diets are deficient.

Using the values provided along with animal intake, an estimate of mineral consumption for each element can be calculated and used when planning a mineral program to ensure animal needs are met without going over and unnecessarily increasing expense. Figuring the right mineral balance for your herd can be a complicated process, so getting help from an expert if needed is always recommended. Those looking for a publication to read might find EC288 — "Minerals and Vitamins for Beef Cows" is a great resource.

Deciphering a Hay Test: RFV and RFD

Two weeks ago, we looked at Total Digestible Nutrients (TDN) or energy and understanding how it is important for the health and nutrition of livestock. TDN is used to calculate forage energy availability to meet animal needs. Now we will look at Relative Feed Value or RFV and Relative Forage Quality or RFQ.

Both RFV and RFQ take into consideration intake, the energy content of the feed and the use of a standard. ADF and NDF have been used to measure fiber and ultimately energy of hay. Labs combine them in to come up with the estimate or relative feed value or RFV. RFV has a downfall because it assumes all fiber digestibility is the same and we all know that's just not the case. The RFV of grasses is often incorrectly valued because they have a lot of fiber compared to legumes but are more digestible than legumes.

RFQ is a newer, more accurate fiber digestibility lab technique. It also uses ADF and NDF to calculate values, but uses a simulated digestion using rumen fluid to predict forage intake and digestibility. RFQ is more accurate than RFV because it uses actual digestion values. It is a better indicator for grass hay than RFV.

Understanding which measurement of energy to use in an operation is important to calculate livestock needs, which change drastically with different stages of production. Being able to decipher RFQ and RFV will help in the purchasing or marketing grass and alfalfa hay.

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Brock Lange

Reinke Manufacturing has recognized Lange Irrigation in Stuart with a Diamond Pride award in recognition of their success last year.

"We are proud to honor the team at Lange Irrigation with this award," said Chris Roth, Reinke president. "They've shown a great deal of dedication, working hard to support their growers. We appreciate those efforts as Reinke continues to develop and implement irrigation equipment and

technology designed to increase agriculture production."

Reinke dealerships from across the United States and Canada come together annually for the company's sales convention. This year, they gathered virtually to recognize select Reinke dealers for their hard work and commitment to the higher standards of being 100% Reinke Certified. Dealers and Reinke leaders discussed the new products and initiatives from the past year, including the introduction of ESAC, SAC VRI and the Maintenance-Free Bearing as well as the partnership with CropX to empower growers with the world's finest irrigation scheduling tools.

The Reinke Pride awards are determined as part of an incentive program that distinguishes superior achievement levels according to an evaluation based on a dealership's exterior and interior housekeeping and maintenance, indoor and outdoor displays, safety, retail environment, merchandising, professionalism, promotions, event participation and market share. For more information on Lange Irrigation, visit langeirrigation.com.

Alfalfa Weeds and Thinning Stands

By Amy Timmerman,
Extension Educator

Dormant Spraying Alfalfa Weeds

As our weather warms, alfalfa producers are reminded to eliminate weeds in their fields before plants break dormancy. Herbicides for controlling winter annual weeds such as pennycress, mustards and shepherd's purse should be applied before alfalfa regrowth reaches 2 inches of height. If alfalfa shoots are green when sprayed, its growth may be set back a couple weeks.

Broadleaf weeds can lower yields, reduce hay quality and slow first-cutting alfalfa dry-down. Grassy weeds such as downy brome, cheatgrass and brome grass can have even higher impact on lowering hay quality.

If your alfalfa variety is Roundup Ready, then glyphosate can be applied to the alfalfa almost any time without harming the fields. Fortunately, if you treat your alfalfa soon, you can have cleaner, healthier alfalfa at first cutting.

Before spraying these weeds, be sure they are causing economic damage to your crop. Spraying will provide a purer alfalfa stand but may reduce your overall total tonnage.

Our new Nebraska Extension Weed Guide, EC 130, lists herbicides labeled to control weeds in alfalfa. To be most successful, apply herbicides before alfalfa shoots green up this spring to avoid alfalfa injury. If it does get late, use either Raptor or Pursuit, because they tend to cause less injury to your alfalfa.

Get ready to control unwanted weeds now before alfalfa plants break dormancy. Spray timing is critical.

Replacing Thin Alfalfa

Planting new fields of alfalfa is expensive. So many of us put off tearing up old fields and planting new ones. But is this smart?

Alfalfa stands usually reach peak production by year two or three. After this, yields tend to decline each year. By year four or five, yields are often much lower than their peak years, especially for dryland fields, because the subsurface moisture that plants were using during the early years is all gone. This is most noticeable during drought years when regrowth is almost zero after the first or second cut. Yield decline in irrigated fields is slower but

usually is a ton or more lower by year five or six. In addition, thin stands with densities of less than 50 stems per square foot can open the door for weed encroachment.

So, should you try to squeeze another year out of your alfalfa stand? Calculate the costs. First, and most obvious, how will the lower yield of your old field compare to yields from a younger field? A second loss is the lost rotation benefit received by crops like corn that follow alfalfa in the rotation. Not only will alfalfa reduce your nitrogen fertilizer needs by 100-150 pounds over the next couple years, much research has shown that corn after alfalfa often yields 10-20 bushels more per acre than it will even with extra fertilizer.

This rotation benefit could be especially valuable this year if corn prices stay high. So if you have alfalfa fields that are past their prime, or maybe show winter damage this spring, this might be an excellent time to rotate those fields to a different crop and plant some new, higher yielding acres to alfalfa.

Both your alfalfa crop and the rotated crop could benefit.

Graphic Gleanings

In 1981 . . . Trudie Garwood was crowned queen and Jim Gotschall the king at a FFA-FHA Sweetheart Dance which featured western music. Attendees were Susan Obermire, Jillyn Gokie, Darla Butterfield, Dan Malmberg, Brian Seger, and Mark Lemmer.

Wm. Krotter Co. rebuilt a building which once housed a bowling alley and moved the offices and building supply merchandise to the new facility.

Nancy Hanten and Stan Kopejka exchanged vows in Sioux Falls, S.D. on January 17, 1981.

The Atkinson City Council approved the letting of bids for a 20-unit apartment building. The project was for elderly housing and was funded with the help of a loan from the Federal Home Administration.

Mrs. Neil Davis was a guest at the inauguration of President Ronald



A look at a truckin' career

By Lorraine Lieswald

Soon after David Butterfield had flipped the tassel on his mortar board hat to signify he had graduated from West Holt High School the young man put on a billed cap, crawled into a semi-truck and called himself a trucker.

That was 43 years ago and by his own admission he's been "truckin'" ever since.

"I always wanted to be a trucker so I'm kinda' living out my dream."

Filling in the pieces of the dream are Butterfield's two sons Mitch and Tyler who are the three members of MTB Trucking - a hauling team who pride themselves in being independent, efficient and reliable in hauling anything and everything needing to be hauled.

MTB Trucking is part of the essential workers who have not let inconveniences and setbacks keep them from hauling the necessities of businesses to keep the nation productive. Butterfield explained hauling through this pandemic has had an up and down side.

"There's way less traffic so it's easier to get down the road. That's the good thing. Getting to sit in a cafe and have a decent meal is not happening this past year. Everything is take out. There's no cash. Payment is with a credit card to eliminate handling money."

Butterfield is a diabetic and doesn't cook in his truck (his sons do) so he searches for eateries where he can get at least one good meal a day.

"Showers are open at truck stops," Butterfield said. "That's all. There's no conversation at any of the stops. That's something over the road truckers miss."

"At West Way Feeds in Omaha they don't come out but talk to you with a microphone. Fill your order. Leave it on the platform for you to load and that's it. No conversation."

"Like every other American citizen masks are required where ever you are. This is O.K. COVID-19 has forced government rules on hauling to be more relaxed."

Butterfield said this has given truckers more time to focus on "just driving".

According to Butterfield the percentage of trucker accidents has risen the past few years because of shortage in finding efficient truck drivers.

"To drive a truck one must pass a CDL (Commercial Driver's License) and obtain a health certificate. We have so many foreign truck drivers driving over the roads today. They are legal but they don't have the know how to drive in our traffic or on our Nation's roads."

Presently Mitch and his dad are hauling hogs to Stockton, Calif. a 32 hour drive. Tyler is taking 60 days off to calve out the family's cows.

"So far the calving season has been uneventful," Butterfield noted. "The cold snap caused a couple of calves to freeze the tip of their ears and one newborn had a frozen tongue. That's all."

Evaluating his trucking career Butterfield noted he could be called a pro-

fessional traveler.

"I've hauled in each state of the Union, Mexico and Canada and I've seen a lot. I've never had an accident but I've come close - too close. I was hauling a load of hogs through the Rocky Mountains to California. The roads were icy and as I was trying to pull the load up a steep incline the truck started to roll backward and I couldn't get any traction to stop it. On one side was the mountain and I could see the depth on the other side. I opened my door, ready to jump. At the same time I edged the semi to the right side of the road onto the rumble bars where the wheels grabbed the traction and I was able to get the truck to inch back up over the mountain. That incident gave me real religion."

"I like hauling to upstate California. The people are friendly and willing to help. That's not the case in other areas of the states. We used to haul groceries. Not anymore. There's so much *#*# there. No cooperation. No communication and a lot of 'just don't care attitude'. Truckers want to get in, load up, and get out. That's not the case at wholesale grocery warehouses anymore."

We're hauling to California basically and since the pandemic I've seen the homeless people population increase almost double."

In the more than 40 years of trucking Butterfield said he's hauled goats from New Mexico to New Jersey, loads of deer out of Canada, and a load of ostriches. At the top of his bucket list of something unusual to haul is alligators.

His favorite scenery has been in upstate New York and Virginia.

"I like what I do but I didn't get to see my family grow up. Teagan is 13 years old and I'm missing all her school activities just like I missed Tyler's, Mitch's and another daughter, Blake's. Trucking is what I do. I don't know anything else."

Butterfield admits to not having much of a family life because of his work and the family members own commitments.

Jackie, his wife, sells boxer pups and works several days for Megan Gotschall.

"Once in a while Jackie or Teagan will go with me on the truck but it's seldom. I like what I do but I didn't get to see my family grow up."

MTB Trucking does what they do because that's what they know and in their own way, "hopefully, we are making a difference."



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Community

“Celebrating Women’s History Month”

By U.S. Senator Deb Fischer

I am a 4th generation Nebraskan. I love this state. I love its people, and I love that it is home to both vibrant urban areas and abundant, fertile farm and ranch land.

Growing up, I thought I knew everything there was to know about Nebraska. But when I moved to a ranch south of Valentine in Nebraska Sandhills in the 1970s with my husband, Bruce, our state taught me an important lesson.

As most Nebraskans know, the Sandhills are a region of grass-covered sand dunes that just so happens to produce the world’s best cattle. Some see our rangeland as fragile – but in reality, it is robust, resilient, and powerful. It can withstand the Great Plains’ strong winds and droughts because of the diversity of cool and warm season grasses that grow there.

These grasses have extensive root systems, and each plays an important role in the larger ecosystem. Some grasses are hardy and long-lived; others are loved by cattle; still others are the “workhorse” grasses that grow despite harsh winters and hot summers.

My time as a rancher in rural Nebraska and in public service has shown me that just as each of the grasses in the Sandhills is indispensable to the environment around them,

each woman involved in local community life is essential to building a stronger state. We are just like our broad array of Sandhills grasses.

We are all different, but we each contribute with our fortitude, daring, and tenacity. This diversity makes our entire country stronger – and our root system is all the women throughout our nation’s history whose firmness of mind and brilliance changed the world.

March is Women’s History Month. This month is a chance to look back on how far we’ve come in the 100 years since the 19th Amendment was ratified, and also to give thanks for the brave women whose vision of a better future made lives like mine possible.

The suffragists of the late 19th and early 20th centuries paved the way for future women’s involvement in politics, including my own. Because of the trail they blazed, I was fortunate to have female political role models in my life. Among them are Kay Orr, Nebraska’s first female governor and the first female Republican governor in the United States, and Virginia Smith, who served as my congressional representative and was the first woman from Nebraska to hold a seat in the House of Representatives.

Women are able to see an opportunity in politics and community lead-

ership because we stood on the shoulders of those who came before us. Not so long ago, women couldn’t even dream of serving their communities.

Women know about hard work. We are builders. We build relationships, families, communities, careers, and businesses. In the century since the 19th amendment was ratified, we have been able to bring that strength of character to build stronger states and a more secure and prosperous country.

The story of women in American life is far from over. This month, let’s be grateful for all that we have accomplished. Our history, our diversity, and the mentors we look up to will continue to serve as encouragement and inspiration for the generations of women who will write the next chapter.

Graphic Gleanings

In 1961 . . . “A Celebration of Easter” Easter Sunrise Service, along with an Easter Cantata was presented by The Community Choir at the Atkinson High School Auditorium. Choir personnel were: The Rev. Emil Kuehn, Director; Rex Thompson, Rehearsal Director; Miss Cheri Paddock, Accompanist; Singers - Virginia Ankney, Dorothy Anderson, Sandra Stronsky, Ruth Evans, Betty Gotschall, Betty Kersting (solo), Helen Braun, Vera Humphreys, Sharon Hayden, Lois Ries, Donna McClurg, Iris Fundus, Maxine Poessnecker, Twila Rossman, Shirley Rossman, Beverly Meyer, Janice Sweet, Arlene Wallen, Earl Collins, Charles Gates, Richard Poessnecker, Eugene Poessnecker, and Ray Kersting (solo).

Game and Parks seeking input

By Shawna Richter-Ryerson
Public Relations Manager
Nebraska Game & Parks

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission is seeking input from underserved audiences on its educational programming.

The survey, available online at OutdoorNebraska.org/community-survey, is targeted toward Nebraskans who do not regularly use Game and Parks educational opportunities. The survey is offered in four languages: English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese, and is open through April 30, 2021.

Game and Parks regularly offers educational programming on science, natural resources, historical and cultural resources, as well as outdoor recreation skills, for a variety of ages and at locations across the state. Programming also is offered virtually.

“But we recognize these programs and resources may not be meeting the needs of all our constituents,” said Lindsay Rogers, Game and Parks Education Division administrator who spearheaded the survey. “We want to do our part in learning how we can do better.”

Feedback gained from the survey will be used to determine how educational programming can be altered to reach broader audiences and will inform what programming is developed to meet diverse constituents.

To take the survey, participants must be 19 years or older. Game and Parks also asks that only one person per household or family complete it.

For more information on the survey, or to take it, visit OutdoorNebraska.org/communitysurvey. For additional questions, contact Rogers at lindsay.rogers@nebraska.gov.

Nitrates and livestock water quality concerns reviewed

By Steve Neimeyer,
Extension Educator

Nitrate poisoning is something we think about with forages such as millet, oats, corn, sorghum, sudan, kochia and others that have been fertilized or if there is a drought, but water can also be a contributing factor. Nitrate (NO3) is not especially toxic, however in ruminants and herbivores, the bacteria in the digestive tract convert nitrate (NO3) to nitrite (NO2), which is readily absorbed and 10 times more toxic than nitrate.

Nitrate poisoning can be a concern due to runoff making its way into stock dams from nitrogen-fertilized fields. Nitrate is soluble and will be picked up and flow with runoff into a pond or into the recharge area for a spring or well, and can be of great concern if the field was fertilized with nitrogen. Typically we will see more of a problem with nitrates in wet years that have more runoff, but it is important to be aware of the potential issue in any year. Nitrate toxicity in water will be the same as for high nitrate forages. Again, we often think of high-nitrate forages as a drought concern, but in the case of water, it is more of a concern in wet years.

When determining nitrate levels in the diet, it is important to consider the level in the water as well as in any forage. Nitrate levels are commonly provided in lab reports in one of two ways, either as NO3-N or NO3. Determine which way it is reported in a

given lab report and compare to the following levels:

Levels of nitrate-N (NO3-N) in water and the risk levels:

- 0-100 ppm-Safe
- 100-300 ppm-Use caution, and consider the additive effect with feed
- >300 ppm-Potentially toxic

Levels of nitrate (NO3) in water and the risk levels:

- 0-440 ppm-Safe
- 440-1300 ppm-Use caution, and consider the additive effect with feed
- >1300 ppm-Potentially toxic

Levels of nitrate-N (NO3-N) in forage and the risk levels:

- 0-0.15%-Safe
- 0.15-0.45%-Use caution, may need to dilute or limit feed forages.
- >0.45%-Potentially toxic

Levels of nitrate (NO3) in forage and the risk levels:

- 0-0.65%-Safe
- 0.65-2%-Use caution, may need to dilute or limit feed forages
- >2%-Potentially toxic

SDSU Extension Regional Centers have electroconductivity (EC) meters, which measure total salt content in water. This provides a reasonable estimate of whether water quality is a concern. If the EC meter suggests problems, a water sample can be sent to a laboratory to accurately measure actual nitrate levels. Knowledge of these levels gives the rancher the ability to manage potential problems.

Source: Adele Harty – South Dakota State University Extension Cow/Calf Field Specialist

Panhandle, Sandhills offer spring fishing opportunities

By Justin Haag
Public Information
Nebraska Game & Parks

As the ice melts and days get longer, spring fishing opportunities heat up in western Nebraska.

Whether anglers want a Frye Lake crappie or a Fort Robinson trout, Joe Rydell, a fisheries biologist for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission’s northwest district, said spring brings diverse angling opportunities throughout the region.

From data gathered from last year’s fish surveys and other observations, Rydell has some predictions of where anglers will have success this spring. Some of his picks for this year’s best opportunities in the district, which includes the 11 counties of the Panhandle and Cherry County, are listed below.

- Trout. Rydell said the first fishing opportunities that comes to mind for spring are trout stockings. Beginning in March and through May, select lakes throughout the state receive stockings of rainbow trout. Locations include Bridgeport State Recreation Area, Terry’s Pit, the Morrill Sandpits, Chadron State Park pond and Fort Robinson State Park ponds, such as Carter P. Johnson Lake and Grabel Ponds. Spring also is a prime time to pursue trout in western Nebraska’s streams, including Nine Mile Creek, the White River, and the south and middle forks of Soldier Creek.

- Northern pike. The second opportunity on Rydell’s list is ice-out pike fishing. Pike are a cool-water species that get aggressive in cold water. They

also begin to move into the warmer shallow waters at ice-out in preparation to spawn. He said the best pike lakes in the district include Box Butte Reservoir, Dewey Lake, Hackberry Lake and Smith Lake.

- Largemouth bass. Largemouth bass can be aggressive early in the year, seeking warmer shallow areas such as drainage ditches, feeder creeks or shallow bays. Rydell said some of the best bass waters from 2020 surveys include Frye Lake, Avocet Lake, Island Lake, Home Valley Lake and Smith Lake.

- Walleye/Saugeye. As water becomes warmer, walleye begin to congregate in spawning locations such as gravel or rocky shorelines, along riprap, or even up flowing water. Rydell said some of the best early season walleye fishing can be found at Whitney Lake where the turbid water warms up quickly. Other lakes notable from 2020’s walleye surveys include Lake Winters Creek and Merritt Reservoir. Big Alkali Lake surveyed high for saugeye, a hybrid of walleye and sauger.

- Bluegill, Yellow Perch, Crappie. Panfish bites typically pick up in April into May as water temperatures break 50 degrees. Rydell said some of the best bluegill lakes include Smith Lake, Frye Lake and Box Butte Reservoir. Best bets for yellow perch include Watts Lake, West Long, Smith Lake and Home Valley. For crappie, the best lakes for population are Whitney Lake and Cottonwood-Steverson, and Home Valley and Frye Lake both have crappies over 12 inches.

CONGRATULATIONS! Good Luck at State Speech!



STATE SPEECH QUALIFIERS

West Holt had eight students who qualified for the State Speech Meet in Kearney this week. Pictured are State Qualifiers front, Haley Peek, Taylor Schaaf, Brianna Rentschler, Sidney Burkinshaw, and Madeline Rentschler; back, Hayden Davies, Caide McCart, and Jackson Butterfield.

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Public Notices

West Holt Public Schools District #239 Proceedings

Monday, March 8, 2021

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of West Holt Public Schools, District #239, was held on Monday, March 8, 2021, in the Board Meeting Room. Meeting opened at 8:00 p.m. by President Jelinek. A complete copy of the Open Meetings Act was posted inside the meeting room, and a copy of all materials provided to the board was made available to the public in a folder.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by publication on the West Holt Public School's website on February 9, 2021, and thereafter, and in The Atkinson Graphic on February 25, 2021, as shown by the Affidavit of Publication attached to these minutes. Notice of the meeting was simultaneously sent to all members and a copy of their acknowledgment and receipt of notice and agenda is attached to these minutes. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the advance notice as is the notice to the members of this meeting. All proceedings hereafter shown were taken while the convened meeting was opened to the attendance of the public. The agenda for the meeting is attached and incorporated into these minutes.

Roll call was taken with the following members present: Kelly Jelinek, Susan Judge, Mike Fredrick, Nick Konrad, Brian Mlady, and Scott Gotschall. Also present were Paul Pistulka, Tracy Larson, Michelle Laetsch, and Laurie Lieswald.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Moved by Mrs. Judge, seconded by Mr. Jelinek to approve the minutes of the February 8th regular meeting as printed. Roll call vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Gotschall, seconded by Mr. Konrad to approve the General Fund bills in the amount of \$61,450.98. Roll call vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Fredrick, seconded by Mrs. Judge to approve the Building Fund bills in the amount of \$1,000.00. Roll call vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

A video update by NASB on Rule 10 and Rule 14 was watched by all in attendance.

Mrs. Larson gave the elementary principal/curriculum reports to include ELPA/NSCAS testing, RCA houses, and upcoming Kindergarten round-up/parent-teacher conferences.

Mr. Pistulka gave the superintendent report to include finances, interviews/personnel, buildings/grounds, requisitions, year-end board/staff gathering, I Love Public Schools filming, Atkinson/Holt County Communities for Kids, Lunch RFP process, strategic planning, and review of agenda action items.

Discussion was held on COVID precautions and policy discussion was tabled.

Moved by Mr. Fredrick, seconded by Mr. Gotschall to accept the letter of resignation of Cindy Prater effective at the end of her current contract. Roll call vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Moved by Mrs. Judge, seconded by Mr. Konrad to accept the letter of resignation of Priscilla Jenness effective at the end of her current contract. Roll call vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Mlady, seconded by Mr. Gotschall to approve hiring Haley Paxton as a Special Education

Teacher effective for the 2021-22 school year. Roll call vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Moved by Mrs. Judge, seconded by Mr. Jelinek to approve hiring Ann Fritz as a Special Education Teacher effective for the 2021-22 school year. Roll call vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Mlady, seconded by Mr. Konrad to approve hiring Kenzie Hedlund as a School Psychologist effective for the 2021-22 school year. Roll call vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

The following was recognized for recent accomplishments:

Monica Chavez, 7th grade, was the winner of the Holt County Spelling Bee.

Moved by Mr. Jelinek, seconded by Mr. Fredrick to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m. Roll call vote: 6 ayes, 0 nays. Motion carried.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, April 12, 2021, at 8:00 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room.

Brian Mlady, Secretary
**WEST HOLT PUBLIC SCHOOLS
GENERAL FUND BILLS FOR
MARCH 8, 2021**

Admin Cell Service, Elementary
Principal - Reimbursement. \$70.00
Superintendent -
Reimbursement \$70.00

The Alley,
Lifetime Sports Fees \$128.00

Amazon Capital Services,
Graduation Supplies \$44.85

Elementary Supplies \$5.58

JH/HS Supplies \$24.89

General Storeroom
Supplies \$34.03

Appears, Custodial Supplies \$108.72

Apple Inc.,
Technology Supplies \$799.00

The Atkinson Graphic,
Ads/Proceedings \$128.73

Avera St. Anthony's Hospital,
SPED Therapy Services \$2,876.63

Black Hills Energy,
Gas Service \$6,791.77

Braun's Food Center,
Custodial Supplies \$13.32

Elementary Supplies \$109.57

JH/HS Supplies \$50.13

Preschool Supplies \$64.01

FCS Supplies \$141.53

SPED Supplies \$111.67

Carroll Olson Enterprises,
Custodial Supplies \$118.97

CenturyLink,
Access Line Charges \$23.37

City of Atkinson, Utilities... \$507.88

DAS State Acctg - Central Finance,
Ethernet Services \$93.99

Eakes Office Solutions, General
Storeroom Supplies \$73.80

ESU 8, SPED Services... \$12,325.30

Fairfield by Marriott Fis Grand
Island, State Dance Travel \$459.80

First Stop,
Van/Suburban Fuel \$287.05

Full Spectrum Laser LLC, Ag Ed
Laser System \$6,337.50

The Home Depot Pro,
Maintenance Supplies \$362.94

Health Supplies \$61.93

Hometown Leasing,
Copiers/Printers Lease .. \$2,436.00

Island Supply Welding Co.,
Ag Shop Supplies \$314.77

Jacquelyn Meyer,
Student Services \$900.00

Jostens,
Graduation Supplies \$354.83

Keogh Storage Building,
Bus Storage \$400.00

Kratz Services, Inc.,
HVAC Repairs \$1,672.82

KSB School Law,
Legal Services \$180.00

Mid States School Bus, Inc.,
Bus Travel \$4,014.89

Mid-American Research Chemical,
Custodial Supplies \$1,031.46

Mitchell Equipment,
Custodial Supplies \$54.96

NASB, Membership Dues \$4,225.00

Conference Meals
Refund \$(237.00)

Nebraska Public Power District,
Electricity \$3,381.11

Niobrara Valley Electric Membership
Corp., Union Electricity \$52.39

Northeast Regional Deaf Ed Program,
SPED Services \$228.00

Option Enrollment Transportation
Mileage Reimbursement .. \$244.18

Regular Transportation,
Mileage Reimbursement \$5,761.90

rSchoolToday, Athletics Management
Software Renewal \$588.00

Six Star Sanitation, LLC,
Sanitation Service \$526.00

Taylor Made Printing,
Office Supplies \$501.00

Transfer to Petty Cash Fund - VISA,
Staff Development \$131.16

Van/Suburban Fuel \$199.81

JH/HS Supplies \$46.02

Payroll Services \$4.80

Workshop Registration \$49.00

Postage \$8.05

Wrestling Sub-district
Travel \$390.00

Car Fuel \$34.30

Technology Supplies \$9.99

Transfer to Petty Cash Fund,
Telephone Service \$194.54

Office Supplies \$31.50

Banking Fees \$10.00

Custodial Supplies \$25.46

Admin Cell Service -
JH/HS Principal \$98.77

Triple R Tire LLC,
Mower Tire Repair \$77.75

Welsh Welding & Repair,
Ag Ed Supplies \$58.40

West Holt Memorial Hospital,
SPED Therapy Services... \$884.68

Western Oil II, LLC,
Van/Suburban Fuel \$172.19

Car Fuel \$21.50

Bus Fuel \$138.00

Wm Krotter Co.,
Maintenance Supplies \$9.79

SPED \$16,475.28

GRANTS \$6,337.50

TOTAL \$61,450.98

**BUILDING FUND BILLS
FOR MARCH 8, 2021**

Clark & Enersen, Engineering
Services for Track
Improvement Project.. \$1,000.00

TOTAL \$1,000.00

Stuart Public School District #44 Proceedings

Stuart Public School held a Regular School Board Meeting on March 8, 2021.

Present: Olberding, Paxton, Kohle, Schmaderer, Kaup, Stracke (7:06)
Also Present: Robert Hanzlik, Travis Ludwig, Claire Kaup, Craig Jones

The President opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. and the notice of the meeting was posted at three locations: United State Post Office, Tri-County Bank, and the door to the main entrance of the school. It was also published in The Atkinson Graphic and The Wrangler. An advance agenda was given to the president of the Board and all members prior to the meeting date. All visitors were welcomed and informed this meeting was in compliance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act and the Open Meeting Laws are posted for inspection at any time.

No public comment

Moved by Paxton, seconded by Schmaderer to approve the consent agenda, which includes: regular board minutes, treasurer's report and pay bills. Roll call vote. 5-yes, 1-absent Carried

The next regular meeting will be April 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Claire Kaup presented the 2019-20 MAP assessments results.

Moved by Kohle, seconded by Stracke to adopt the 2021-22 Pre-School and K-12 calendars as presented. Roll call vote. 6-yes Carried

Mr. Hanzlik presented to the Board a list of student accomplishments, awards, and activities. The board members would like to commend all the students, teachers, sponsors and coaches for excelling in these activities. A list of all activities reported to the Board is located in the office of the Superintendent.

Craig Jones from First National Capital Markets presented information on the advisory role his team has with school districts during a bond election. Question/answer session followed to clarify questions from the board members.

Mr. Hanzlik presented a cost estimate on the new addition the Board is considering in the near future. Board members discussed the continuing needs identified from the previous bond election. The board members agreed the district needs to continue to pursue options to meet these needs.

Moved by Stracke, seconded by

Kohle to offer contracts for the 2021-22 school year at the same FTE as the 2020-21 school year to the following teachers: Jenny Alder, Judy Dvorak, Doug Erb, Paulette Fahrenholz, Perri Farr, Patty Hanzlik, Karri Hickey, Claire Kaup, Rachel Kaup, Teresa Kohle, Mary Krysl, Brenda Larabee, Monty Larsen, Stacy Ludwig, Sandy Miller, Sharon Paxton, Lorena Riha, Colin Schurman, Jennifer Steinhauer, Rex Stolcpert, Lorraine Wallinger and Megan Wenner. Roll call vote. 6-yes Carried

Videos provided by the NASB regarding Approval, Accreditation and Accountability Rule Development or possible changes with Rule 10 and an NASB update were viewed by all present.

Principal's report: parent/teacher conferences, Spring COVID guidelines, observations, work shops, ESU8 usage, hallway motivational posters, student representatives

Superintendent's report: State aid, Coronavirus, NRSCA convention, DC trip update, NASB Strategic Plan, Nebraska Strong Scavenger Hunt

The President adjourned the meeting at 10:12 p.m.

Darby Paxton, Secretary, District 44

Agland Electric Motor Service,
Repairs \$484.74

Atkinson Graphic,
Advertising \$113.06

ATT, Telephone \$155.84

Avera St Anthony's Hospital,
Special Ed Services \$761.08

Barnhill Enterprises,
Classroom \$11.98

Cash, Postage \$100.00

Classen, Steve,
Mileage Reimbursement .. \$179.56

Das State Acctg-Central Finance,
Internet \$452.33

Doke, Scott or Heather,
Mileage Reimbursement .. \$249.93

Dudley Laundry Co.,
Building \$157.16

Duhachek, John or Stephanie,
Mileage Reimbursement .. \$164.85

Ecolab, Building \$65.00

Educational Service Unit #8,
SPED Services/Ws Reg/

Misc \$11,988.50

Francke, Heath Or Serenity Mileage
Reimbursement \$ 287.28

Hanzlik, Robert,
Mileage Reimbursement .. \$197.12

Heartland Fire Protection Company,
Inspection \$219.00

Holt County Clerk, Election \$129.37

Island Supply Welding Co.,

Classroom \$64.40

J&H Welding Service,
Classroom \$18.19

Jardoe, Randy, Building \$212.50

Jostens,
Graduation Supplies \$865.56

Kenneth F. Hamsa,
Classroom \$83.00

Kohle, Dan or Jonna,
Mileage Reimbursement \$91.93

Loffler, Copiers \$1,077.45

Matheson Tri-Gas,
Classroom \$420.43

Miksch, Randy or Rhonda,
Mileage Reimbursement .. \$113.95

Municipal Power, Utilities \$8,875.35

Ne Assoc Of School Boards,
Training \$2,916.32

Nebraska Safety Center,
Training \$450.00

Olson Inc, Classroom \$21.82

Paxton, Dana or Amanda,
Mileage Reimbursement .. \$452.45

Paxton, Darrin or Sharon,
Mileage Reimbursement .. \$280.04

Paxton, Jake or Josie,
Mileage Reimbursement .. \$350.00

Peterson, Ollin or Ashley,
Mileage Reimbursement .. \$109.17

Postmaster, Postage \$110.00

Sargent FFA, Registration... \$126.00

Southside, Fuel \$353.48

St Bon Christian Form Comm,
Rent \$400.00

Stuart Locker, Classroom \$255.75

Visa, Classroom/Building/Health/
Office/Subs \$1,884.55

West Holt Pharmacy,
Health Supplies \$26.27

Wm Krotter Co,
Classroom/Building \$1,466.78

Total \$36,742.19

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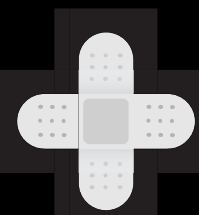


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DO
YOU
SAY
I AM?"
- Jesus
Matthew 16:15**



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HELP WANTED - The Sandhills Guest House Motel is seeking Part-time housekeeper. Hours vary with need, but typically run between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Paid training provided. Both positions start above minimum. Apply in person. A7-TFC

HELP WANTED - Full time truck driver. Home nightly. Benefits. Pulling side dump and grain trailers. 2 years experience. Cleaning driving record. CDL required. 402-340-1154. A8-4Tb

CUSTODIAN - Stuart Public School is accepting applications for a Full-Time Custodian. Applicants must be a self-motivated, organized person. Will work mostly days with some nights and weekend hours during the school year and daytime hours during the summer. This position comes with BC/BS single health insurance, retirement plan, paid personal days, sick days, holidays, bereavement and vacation days. Competitive wage depending on experience. Please call the school for more information. Email or drop off resume to: Mr. Robert Hanzlik, Stuart Public School, P.O.Box 99 Stuart, NE 68780, rhanzlik@stuartbrncos.org Position is open until filled. A9-3Tb

KITCHEN/LUNCHROOM AIDE - Stuart Public School will be hiring a full time kitchen/lunchroom aide to assist with the lunch program starting immediately. Hourly wage starting at \$12.00 or more depending on experience. Includes retirement plan; paid personal days, sick days, holidays and bereavement. Interested applicants need to contact Mr. Hanzlik at school either by phone (924-3302) or mail: Mr. Robert Hanzlik, Supt., Stuart Public School, P.O. Box 99, Stuart, NE 68780-0099. Position is open until filled. A9-3Tb

WEST HOLT MEDICAL SERVICES is currently seeking a Full Time Nutritional Services Assistant to prepare and serve quality nutritious meals to patients, employees and visitors. For more information or to apply please visit www.westholtmed.org/careers. A10-6Tb

Graphic Gleanings

In 1991 . . . Chris Gotschall was cast as Steward in the play "Into the Woods" at Nebraska Wesleyan University. Nebraska Wesleyan was one of the first colleges or universities in the country to stage "Into the Woods".

Myron Poessnecker, an 8th grader at District #53 was the Holt County spelling champion at the annual Spelling Bee held in O'Neill. There were 47 competitors in the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades.

A fire destroyed the interior of a house belonging to Dwayne and Susan Olberding approximately one mile west of Stuart on a Sunday afternoon. The fire apparently started in the attached garage.

Kelly Ninas and Tannon Dvorak were winners at the Pinewood Derby sponsored by the Boys Scouts of America.

UENRD ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY/ACCOUNTANT WANTED - Responsible for district payroll, submittal of federal & state taxes, accounts receivable and payable, bank deposits and reconciliation, greeting and assisting customers with district programs, customer billing, answering and directing phone calls. Knowledge of QuickBooks ProPlus (2019), accounting procedures, familiar with workers compensation and Microsoft office programs is beneficial. Post-Secondary Education in bookkeeping or accounting beneficial but not necessary. The salary range is \$35,000-\$42,000, plus retirement program, medical, vision and dental insurance, paid holidays, vacation & sick leave. Contact the Upper Elkhorn NRD for full job description at 301 North Harrison, O'Neill NE 68763 or download from www.uenrd.org. Please include: Coverletter and 3 references when submitting your resume. Applications will be accepted until April 1, 2021. For additional information please contact the District at (402) 336-3867. The UENRD is an Equal Opportunity Employer. A10-3Tb

DUE TO RETIREMENT, West Holt Public Schools in Atkinson is in search for a Business Manager/Bookkeeper in the district. For detailed information, please view the "employment opportunity" article on the homepage at www.westholtps.org. A10-3Tb

FOR SALE

FOR SALE - Registered or certified Jerry oats. Holt County raised, field inspected, cleaned, weed free. 94% germination, 37# test weight. Excellent for fall cover crop or spring forage. Call Matt at 308-234-4819. A10-4Tb

FOR RENT

FOR RENT - In Atkinson, nice 1 bedroom upstairs apartment. Off-street parking. Tub, shower, washer, dryer, refrigerator, stove. Mostly furnished. Water/garbage paid.\$250 per month. 402-925-5787 or 307-761-2905. A11-TFC

FOR RENT - 326 acres north of Newport. 20 cow-calf pair. 402-340-5718. A11-2Tp

FOR RENT - 2 Bedroom 2- Bath Duplex with single car garage. All appliances included along with washer and dryer. Basement storage room. Call Patti at 402-340-1964 A11-2Tb

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Notice is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Holt County Board of Supervisors, O'Neill, Nebraska, for gravel for 2021.

Said bids will be opened at 11:00 a.m. on March 31, 2021, in the County Board meeting room, at the Holt County Courthouse. The Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Specifications may be obtained at the office of the Holt County Road Superintendent.

Holt County Clerk
-s-Cathy Pavel
Publ. March 11 and 18, 2021
10-2 ZNEZ

BRENT KELLY LAW, LLC
BRENT M. KELLY
P.O. BOX 910
47640 E HWY 20
ATKINSON, NEBRASKA 68713
(402) 925-2268

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that TRI-STATE TRUCKING, LLC, A Nebraska Limited Liability Company, is organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with TCM ENTERPRISES, LLC, A Nebraska Limited Liability Company, as its registered agent for services of process of the company, and with an office at 47282 U.S. Highway 20, Atkinson, Nebraska 68713. The initial designated office for the company is at 47282 U.S. Highway 20, Atkinson, Nebraska 68713. The general nature of its business is to engage in and to do any lawful act concerning any and all lawful business, other than banking or insurance, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of Nebraska; and for all other purposes authorized by law, to the same extent as natural persons might or could do. The limited liability company was formed on February 19, 2021 and has perpetual existence. Its affairs shall be conducted by the Members pursuant to the Operating Agreement duly adopted by the Company.

BRENT M. KELLY
Attorney for Members
Brent Kelly Law, LLC
P.O. Box 910
47640 E Hwy 20
Atkinson, Nebraska 68713
(402) 925-2268
Publ. March 11, 18, and 25, 2021
10-3 ZNEZ

BRENT KELLY LAW, LLC
BRENT M. KELLY
P.O. BOX 910
47640 E HWY 20
ATKINSON, NEBRASKA 68713
(402) 925-2268

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that ALLSTELLAR, LLC, A Nebraska Limited Liability Company, is organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with COLBY J. DESEIVE as its registered agent for services of process of the company, and with an office at 1011 N. Carberry St., Atkinson, Nebraska 68713. The initial designated office for the company is at 1011 N. Carberry St., Atkinson, Nebraska 68713. The general nature of its business is to engage in and to do any lawful act concerning any and all lawful business, other than banking or insurance, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of Nebraska; and for all other purposes authorized by law, to the same extent as natural persons might or could do. The limited liability company was formed on March 11, 2021 and has perpetual existence. Its affairs shall be conducted by the Members pursuant to the Operating Agreement duly adopted by the Company.

BRENT M. KELLY
Attorney for Members
Brent Kelly Law, LLC
P.O. Box 910
47640 E Hwy 20
Atkinson, Nebraska 68713
(402) 925-2268
Publ. March 18, 25, and April 1, 2021
11-3 ZNEZ

PUBLIC NOTICES

BRENT KELLY LAW, LLC
BRENT M. KELLY
P.O. BOX 910
47640 E HWY 20
ATKINSON, NEBRASKA 68713
(402) 925-2268

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that MEGAN MITCHELL ART, LLC, A Nebraska Limited Liability Company, is organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska, with Megan S. Mitchell as its registered agent for services of process of the company, and with an office at 905 N. Madison St., Atkinson, Nebraska 68713. The initial designated office for the company is at 905 N. Madison St., Atkinson, Nebraska 68713. The general nature of its business is to engage in and to do any lawful act concerning any and all lawful business, other than banking or insurance, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of Nebraska; and for all other purposes authorized by law, to the same extent as natural persons might or could do. The limited liability company was formed on March 3, 2021 and has perpetual existence. Its affairs shall be conducted by the Members pursuant to the Operating Agreement duly adopted by the Company.

BRENT M. KELLY
Attorney for Members
Brent Kelly Law, LLC
P.O. Box 910
47640 E Hwy 20
Atkinson, Nebraska 68713
(402) 925-2268
Publ. March 18, 25, and April 1, 2021
11-3 ZNEZ

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Counties of Antelope, Knox & Holt are seeking grant application assistance and sealed bid proposals from qualified consultants to provide assistance with their 2022 update and revision of their current Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan for all three Counties and their sub-jurisdictions. Interested applicants may contact Bobbi Risor, Emergency Management Director, at 402-844-2050 or brisor@norfolkne.gov with any questions regarding the grant application assistance and proposal submissions.

Grant application assistance and sealed bid proposals must be received at the Region 11 Emergency Manager's office on or before 12:00 p.m. (noon) on March 31, 2021. Sealed bid proposals must be delivered in person or via mail to: Region 11 EMA, 701 Koenigstein Ave, Norfolk, NE 68701. All grant application assistance and sealed bid proposals must be clearly marked Hazard Mitigation Plan Proposal and must include a detailed history of past experience with hazard mitigation planning.

The sealed bids will be opened at the April 6, 2021, Antelope County Commissioners Meeting located at 501 Main Street, Neligh, NE 68756 @ 9:15 a.m.

The Antelope, Knox & Holt County Board of Commissioners reserve the right to reject any and all grant application assistance and bid proposals, waive minor irregularities in any grant application assistance and bid proposal, and to accept the grant application assistance and bid proposal most favorable to the Counties interest, as well as to work with the most responsive bidder based on the recommendation of the three county emergency management directors and staff.

Procurement of funds will be contingent upon grant approval.
Publ. March 18, 2021 11-1 ZNEZ

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INVITATION TO BID

Notice is given hereby that the City of Bassett (Owner) invites building contractors to bid on the following project:

BASSETT RENTAL DUPLEX CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Proposed at Bassett, Nebraska. Bids will be received on one, single prime, fixed-price contract to include civil site work, general, mechanical and electrical work for the Project, all as described in the Proposed Contract documents prepared by the City of Bassett and the Central Nebraska Economic Development District.

Bids will be received from bidders at the Bassett City Office until:

12:00 p.m. (noon) Local Time, on Wednesday, April 7, 2021

The bids will be publicly opened by the Owner, read aloud at that time and place. Interested parties are invited to attend. All bids shall be made on the printed Bid Form furnished by the Owner and delivered to the bid opening in a sealed envelope.

The bidding documents may be checked out at the Bassett City Office, 308 E. Hwy 20, Bassett, Nebraska 68714, during regular business hours. Or, copies may be mailed upon request to Emily Shook, Bassett Economic Development Director, phone: 402-684-3338.

Lana Arrowsmith, Mayor
Bassett City Council
Publ. March 18, 2021 11-1 ZNEZ

CARDS OF THANKS

CARD OF THANKS
The family of Andy Hoffman would like to thank everyone for their support and prayers these last few months. Thanks to the team at West Holt Hospital, as well as Jeanne and AseraCare Hospice for taking such good care of Andy. Thanks to Pastor Hasskarl and Immanuel Lutheran Church, Leo and Seger Funeral Home, and everyone that helped us honor and celebrate Andy's life. Thanks to the Team Jack Foundation staff who were busy handling a lot of things behind the scenes that we don't even know about. The love and concern shown for our family has been overwhelming and we are so thankful to live in this great community.

Thank you!
Bri, Jack, Ava and Reese
Gary and Karen Hoffman
and families
Kerry and Bonnie Stiner
and families

CARD OF THANKS

Thank you Atkinson Floral for the beautiful floral bouquets in celebration of National Women's Day. The Sunshine Girls were honored with the nominations. Thanks to all who thought of us. We are truly blessed.

Patti, Sandy and Diane

CARD OF THANKS

Thank you to everyone who remembered me on my 54th birthday with cards, flowers, balloons, gifts, gift cards and phone calls. A special thank you to the Sunshine Girls, the Atkinson Library, Thursday night bowling league and Sandhills Guest House for celebrating my birthday with me. You are all very special to me.

Laura Braun

CARD OF THANKS

The family of Jesse Wolf would like to thank all of you who remembered us with cards, phone calls, visits, flowers or plants, food, memorials, and most importantly your prayers. Jess was an amazing person who accomplished so much in his lifetime. His quick-witted humor, beautiful smile, jocular laugh and very generous heart are just a few of the characteristics he exhibited and won the hearts of so many friends. We miss him more than words can express but know someday we will meet him again in Heaven. Thank you all again for thinking of us.

Loxi Wolf
Jack and Linda Wolf and family
Jay Wolf

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Diane and Tom Keogh

Photo by Lorraine Lieswald

Keogh has ankle surgery

By Lorraine Lieswald,
Atkinson Graphic reporter

This is the thirteenth in a series about modern medicine survivors.

Remember that saying: "When you get older you'll never be without a male companion. Arthur (arthritis) will always be with you!"

For the good amount of seniors this holds true - sometimes with only a slight ache or pain, but it can be just the opposite too.

Diane Keogh knows. Two years ago she landed in the category with a constant foot pain when her left foot collapsed thanks to arthritis.

"My left foot started to have pain and this made me walk by rolling my foot to the side to ease the pain. Slowly it became worse and then almost unbearable," Keogh said. "About six months ago the pain was so bad I knew something had to be done but first there were some family matters I wanted to celebrate."

"For Christmas we had given our whole family a skiing trip to the Black Hills. Our family is growing older and our grandkids have their own activities so we don't get to see them as often as we used to and I really wanted to be able to have that time with them," Keogh said.

In January this year they took the vacation and it was every bit what Keogh imagined. Now, it was time to have the surgery.

Three weeks before having surgery on February 19, Keogh's foot collapsed and put her in a wheelchair. Because of health reasons Keogh is not allowed to have MRI's and an X-ray showed the inside of her foot "was a mess".

The extent of that "mess" was only found when Keogh was lying on the surgery table. All the soft tissue connected her foot bones was either gone or badly deteriorated. The tendons and ligaments holding her foot together were broken down or gone causing her foot to collapse. Arthritis had slowly eaten them away.

In a four and a half hour surgery, using cadaver tendons the foot was rebuilt, the ankle repaired and the heel bone stabilized with a bone graft.

Three days later Keogh was back home in a cast from mid-leg below

Senator Tim Gragert's Legislative Update

By Senator Tim Gragert

March 12, 2021
Due to the pandemic, the Legislature has been holding full-day public hearings in an effort to limit the number of senators in one location. With more vaccinations underway, senators will begin full-day debate on Monday, March 15.



This past week also marked the deadline for the designation of priority bills. Senators are allowed one personal priority bill and committees can select two bills as committee priority bills. The Speaker of the Legislature can designate up to 25 bills as speaker priority bills.

Among the bills given priority status are the following: LB 408 - limits annual growth in local government property taxes to no more than 3% a year; LB 388 - introduced at the request of the governor, seeks to appropriate \$20 million in grants annually to increase access to high speed broadband across the state; LR 14 - proposes to apply to Congress to call a convention of the states, which would be limited to proposed amendments dealing with fiscal restraints on the federal government, limiting the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and term limits for officials and members of Congress; and LB 561 - provides regulatory authority over casino gambling, which was legalized by voters last year.

I designated LB 387 as my priority bill. Last year, the Legislature passed a bill to exempt 50% of military retirement benefits from the Nebraska income tax. LB 387, introduced by Senator Tom Brewer, at the request of the Governor, would fully exempt military pensions from state income taxes. Although this bill is important to military families, I felt it is also important to our state because it will be an investment to keep a quality workforce in Nebraska.

I chose LB 387 as my priority bill because not only will it retain more veterans in Nebraska, it will also attract more veterans to our state when they retire from the military and are ready to begin their next career. The increased revenue the state will receive from income taxes paid at their new jobs will more than offset the income tax exemption for their military retirement benefits.

Twenty-one states exempt military retirement pay from state income taxes and nine states have no state income tax. We must be competitive with these thirty states, including all of our surrounding states except Colorado, in order to attract military retirees.

This legislation was an opportunity for legislators to show their gratitude as well as their wisdom. LB 387 was given first-round approval this past week on a 45-0 vote.

The Revenue Committee advanced LB 64, which as amended, would exempt social security benefits from the state income tax, through a ten-year phased-in approach. Only a dozen states currently tax social security benefits.

Numerous attempts have been made in the past to exempt social security income but due to the fiscal impact, they have been unsuccessful. I believe it is time to discuss this issue again. LB 64 has been designated as a priority by Senator Mark Kolterman.

LB 680 was also advanced by the Revenue Committee this past week. It

reduces the top corporate income tax rate from 7.81% to 6.84%, making it equal to the top rate paid by individuals and most small businesses.

During the last week of public hearings, LB 474 was heard before the Judiciary Committee. LB 474 would legalize the use of medical marijuana. The sponsor of the bill, Senator Anna Wishart, noted that this is the 5th year she has brought this bill before the Legislature.

She also was a leader in the petition drive, which collected more than the necessary signatures to place it on last year's ballot, but was struck down by the Nebraska Supreme Court for violating the single subject rule. With another petition drive already started, Senator Wishart pointed out that LB 474 contains far more restrictions than what would be passed by voters.

Proponents of LB 474 gave sometimes emotional testimony promoting the use of marijuana to treat certain medical conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder and severe seizures in children.

Former Husker football player, Grant Wistrom informed the committee how medical cannabis improved his quality of life when he played in the NFL.

Opponents of the measure included the state's Chief Medical Officer, a representative of the Nebraska Medical Association, and the superintendent of the Nebraska State Patrol. They emphasized the need for drugs to be approved through the FDA process.

The governor held a press conference prior to the start of the hearing, warning that marijuana use affects the chemical makeup of the brain, particularly in our youth.

As the Legislature begins full-day debate, I encourage your input on issues that are before us. I can be reached at District #40, P.O. Box 94604, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE 68509. My email address is tgragert@leg.ne.gov and my telephone number is (402) 471-2801.

Americanisms



"It is impossible for a man to be cheated by anyone but himself."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Hadleigh Stracke (#6) plays on a league volleyball team out of Norfolk.

Courtesy Photo

Local girls on D-League Volleyball Club

Submitted Article

In November, Lainey Smith, Emilee Walnofer, and Hadleigh Stracke went to tryouts at the YMCA in Norfolk for the D-League Volleyball Club.

At the tryouts, they took stats of serves, passing, hitting, and setting. They compared everyone's stats to pick out players to make up four teams in each age category.

The girls received an email within a week or two informing them that they had been selected to make the team.

Smith, Walnofer, and Stracke began practices in early January on Sundays at the YMCA. Once tournaments started, they began practices on

Wednesday nights as well. The season will go until mid-April or early May.

Stracke made the 15U Red Team. So far she has travelled to Sioux City and Boone Central schools. She will also travel to Sioux Falls, Stanton, and Cedar Catholic. She is coached by Jessie Brandl.

Smith made the 15U team. She has travelled to Sioux City and will also travel to many other places like Lincoln and Sioux Falls. She is coached by Tracy Kuester.

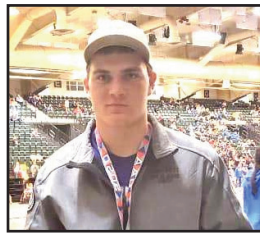
Walnofer made the 16U Black team and is coached by Jordynn Luetzel and Jaclynn Rethwisch. She has travelled to Sioux City and will travel to Lincoln and Sioux Falls.



Reid Buss



Cort Buss



Cale Buss

Buss boys wrestle

Submitted Article

At a District wrestling meet, Reid Buss placed first in the fourth grade 105 pound bracket.

Cale Buss was first in the eighth grade 220 pound bracket.

The Buss brothers also went to Mat Jam at Kearney recently.

Cale won first in the eighth grade at 220 pounds.

Reid won fifth in the fourth grade 105 pound bracket.

Last Saturday Cort who is a seventh grader and Cale (eighth grader) wrestled at AAU State in Kearney.

Cort placed fifth and Cale won first which qualifies him for AAU Nationals in Des Moines.

Gov. Ricketts designates March 20 "Meat on Menu Day"

On March 5th, Governor Pete Ricketts announced that he had designated March 20th as "Meat on the Menu Day" in Nebraska. On this day, Nebraskans are encouraged to purchase and eat beef, pork, chicken, lamb, or another kind of meat.

"Agriculture is Nebraska's number one industry and beef is our largest segment of production," said Governor Ricketts. "While meat is one of the most nutrient-dense foods you can eat, there are radical anti-agriculture activists that are working to end meat production and our way of life here in Nebraska. I have designated March 20th as 'Meat on the Menu Day' to highlight the importance of meat in a good diet as well as to provide an opportunity to support our farmers and ranchers."

Recently, Colorado Governor Jared Polis designated March 20th as "MeatOUT Day," encouraging people to adopt a vegan diet. The day is a part of a national "MeatOUT" campaign aimed at ending animal agricul-

ture production. Governor Ricketts has designated the same day as "Meat on the Menu Day" to highlight the importance of meat to a healthy diet.



Greater Sandhills
Family Healthcare, PC

Our family healthcare team is prepared to help your family through winter illness as we continue to support your preventive health needs. Please report a COVID-19 infection to your healthcare provider if not diagnosed in clinic. We want to provide the best care by providing early treatment. Review your immunizations with our team to keep you and your family healthy!

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Erica Tubbs, PA-C, CDCES Tara Swanson, FNP-C
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