



Tidbits

Lenten luncheons scheduled at churches

The Lenten Worship and Lunch Schedule in Hebron is as follows. All lunches are served at 11:30 a.m., with worship and reflection at 12 p.m., and a second lunch at 12:30 p.m.

- March 20 — Grace Lutheran Church;
- March 27 — First Community Church;
- April 3 — Hebron Bible Church;
- April 10 — Courtyard Terrace;
- April 17 — United Methodist Church.

Deshler Zone Spring Workshop March 16

The LWML Deshler Zone Spring Workshop will be held March 16 from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Ruskin. Registration begins at 8:45 a.m.

All Lutheran women and guests are invited to attend.

This year's Ingathering is for the Orphan Grain Train.

Hygiene kits will include bath towel and wash cloth; sturdy comb; toothbrush; bar of soap, and bandages.

The theme for this year's workshop is "Caring Enough to Encourage."

Gospel Music Concert March 17

The Hebron United Methodist Church will hold a Gospel Music Concert March 17 at 2 p.m.

Blood drive at Thayer Central March 21

A Thayer Central Student Council Blood Drive will be hosted March 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Anyone interested in donating may contact a student council member, Staci Hergott or Lara Harms at 402-768-6117.

The Nebraska Community Blood Bank has stated they are dangerously low on some blood types — especially O negative and positive.

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Sunday, Monday

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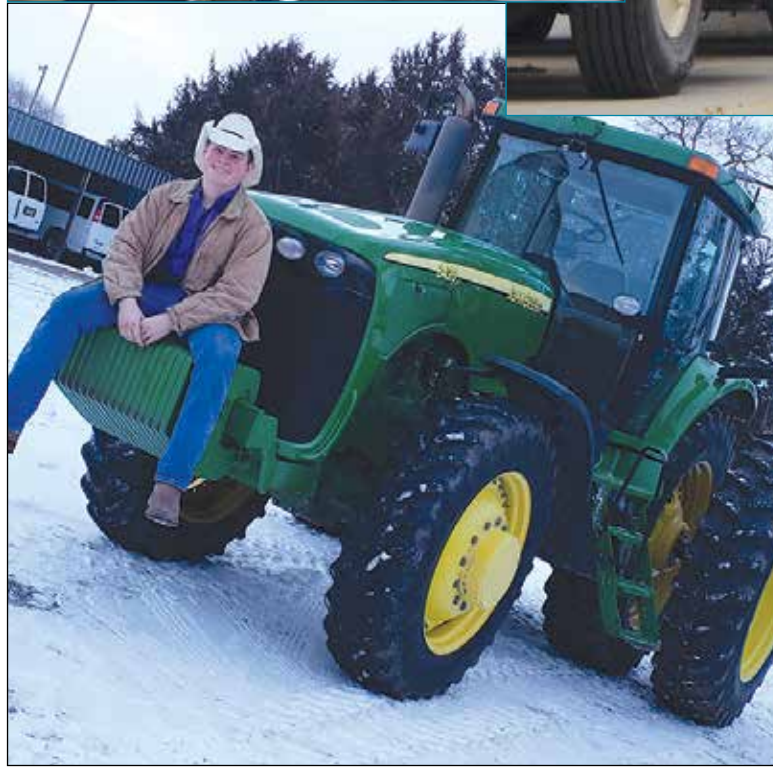
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National Ag Week page features FFA

FFA groups in Thayer County are featured in this week's Hebron Journal-Register as part of National Ag Week. Top left: Thayer Central's FFA Petting Zoo is popular with elementary students. Top right: Cameron Czekai assisted with the Harvest Bonanza lunch for farmers as they brought their grain to the elevator during harvest. Lunch bags included promotional products from sponsors. Bottom: Sam Baysinger participated in Drive Your Tractor To School for Bruning-Davenport's National FFA Week in February.

Volk: Pathways tied to jobs in south central Nebraska

Scott Volk, vice president of MetalQuest Unlimited, Inc., appreciated the opportunity to speak at the March 6 ribbon cutting for the first rural Nebraska Center for Advanced Professional Studies at South Central USD 5's Career Pathways building.

The ribbon cutting follows the opening of the NCAPS building in January and the Developing Youth Talent Initiative Grant awarded in 2016. MetalQuest was one of the recipients and had already worked with the school district on its manufacturing program.

"They had pathways when they came to us at the end of 2015, but they didn't have MetalQuest," Volk said.

Career Pathways offers high

See PATHWAYS page 12



MetalQuest Vice President Scott Volk poses with Gov. Pete Ricketts inside Nebraska's first rural Career Pathways building at Sandy Creek



Titans win district second year in a row

The Thayer Central Titan Talkers claimed the C2-4 District meet and qualified seven Talkers for the state meet in Kearney March 22. The state qualifiers are (From left to right) Bridget Linton, McKenzie Johnson, Yong Wang, Daktoa Cherney, Holly Timmerman, Maggie Harris and Chloe Hintz. The Titan Talkers are coached by Justin Bomar. Story, page 11.

Planting season on horizon

By Nancy McGill
Hebron Journal-Register
hebronjrnews@windstream.net

Planting the fields this season may have a slower start for some farmers as they pick up fertilizing tasks from harvest season.

"With the wet fall and delayed harvest, a very small percent were able to put fertilizer into the ground," Larry Seaman at Norder's Supply elevator said. "In our area, half of the fertilizer is put down in the fall."

Winter wheat acres are down than traditionally planted, and the economics of wheat isn't good either, Seaman said.

"Yields won't lend itself to make a big profit," he said.

On the corn side, there is a solid demand for feed because of the harsh winter, but farmers are still waiting on a trade deal with China to help the price. Corn hasn't been as dramatically affected as soybeans. It is being stored like the beans, but the beans are the cash crop.

Bids on beans were softer than normal last fall.

"Lots of producers put beans in the bins. They did a little bit with the corn, but dryland corn was less than normal and there was space for beans," Seaman said.

In Chester, AGP is storing 690,000 bushels of beans.

"I'm very hopeful there will be a trade deal soon. We haven't started moving beans out yet. The corn has started to move out, but not the beans," manager Roger Rumsey said.

If the market responds, farmers will have to move grain and fertilize before planting, Seaman said.

"They know there is a heavy workload ahead, but they can't move," Seaman said.

But farmers have dug their boot heels in — years and years of unfair trade is tough to repair.

"They realize we've been treated unfairly in the past and someone is trying to do something. The Chinese tend to play longer than the US," Seaman added.

For the slow season in the grain industry, Rumsey said safety training is the top priority in Chester.

"We're developing a safety culture. AGP does a good job of that," he said.

Safety training takes place once a month and includes learning about fire extinguishers, and de-energizing equipment so it can be safely worked on.

Chester's March lesson on safety was about blood-borne pathogens, such as HIV and Hepatitis B and C.

"We do a tremendous amount of training and have a weekly safety toolbox meeting," Rumsey said.

Flooding on radar

Thayer County Emergency Manager Colt Farringer said he is watching for the upcoming rains. The creeks are elevated, but waters hadn't reached their banks as of March 12.

"They're elevated and swollen," Farringer said. "There is an excess of frost and snowpack on top."

The winter season didn't give Farringer any headaches, but he did watch for warnings to relay to the public.

Farringer will issue any warnings on Thayer County Emergency Manager's Facebook page. For those who don't have Facebook or the internet, can hear updates from radio or television news stations.

Farringer did say if drivers see water across roads, they should turn around instead of trying to drive through it.

National Ag Week

- March 10-16, 2019 -

FFA president: Members don't have to live on a farm

By Sera Johnson
BD FFA Chapter Reporter

The Bruning Davenport FFA chapter currently has 24 members. Seven officers spend one day a week to meet and discuss new ideas and plans for the chapter.

Members have always been successful in FFA-related contests, but this year has been exceptionally high. The chapter has had members qualify for state in Leadership Development Events, Career Development Events and Proficiency awards.

It is the chapter's number one goal to reach out and increase student involvement.

Chapter president, Isaac Baysinger, always stresses the point members do not have to be from an agricultural family to be a part of the FFA.

This organization plays a huge role in the community, not only in ag, but in leadership as well.

FFA District Contest results

Land Judging — Participants were Anthony Schweer, Kyle Ardissono, Isaac E, Isaac Baysinger;

Livestock Evaluation — Senior team placed fourth. Participants were TaraLee Hudson (3rd individual), Nolan Weber (10th individual), Isaac Baysinger, Dylan Domeier. Junior participants were: Dominic Quinones, Eric Schroeder, Anthony

Schweer, Rodney Wassom, Jordan Bolte;

Discovery Speaking — JessaLynn Hudson purple, first place and state qualifying, Hallie Hoins blue;

Ag Literacy — Paige Oltmans purple and third place;

Ag Demonstration — Sam Baysinger and Matthew Wachtel, blue;

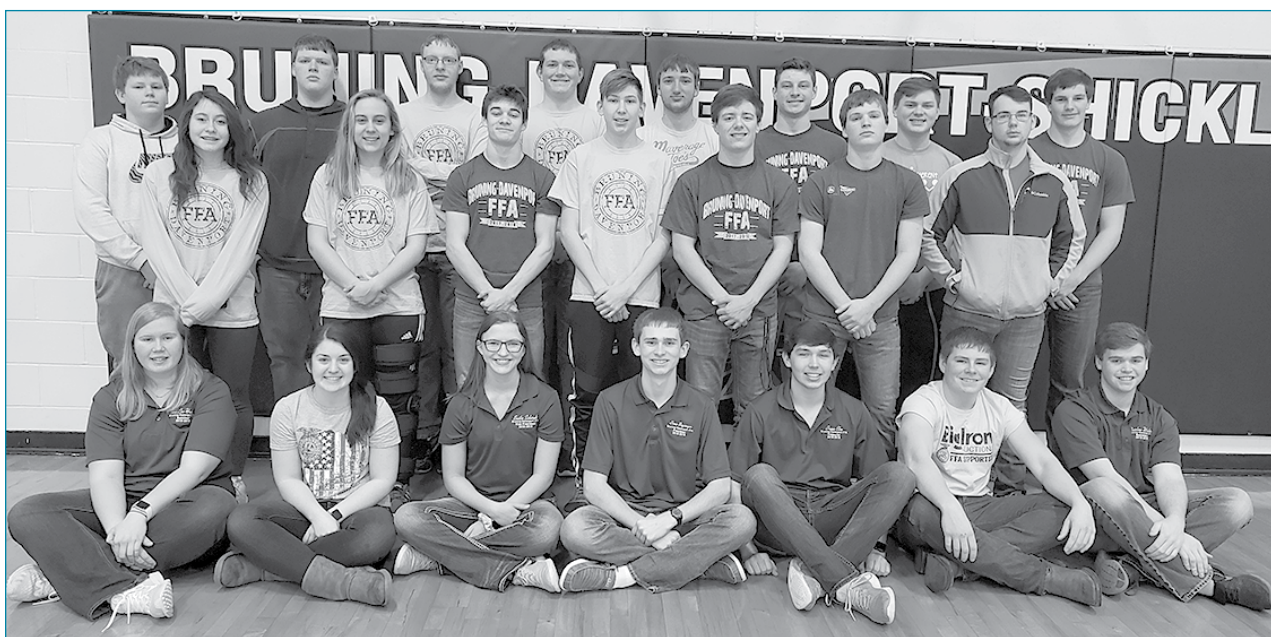
Parliamentary Procedure — Isaac Else, Sera Johnson, Emilie Schardt, TaraLee Hudson, Isaac Baysinger and Glenn Meyer, purple, second place and state qualifying;

Job Employment Skills — TaraLee Hudson purple, second place and state qualifying;

Natural Resources — Isaac B. purple, second place and state qualifying;

Agriculture Mechanics — second place as a team. Participants were Sam Baysinger (sixth individual), Anthony Schweer (tied for 10th individual), Rodney Wassom (tied for 10th individual) and Keenan Dickson;

Food Science — Team one placed first. Participants were Sera Johnson (first individual), Emilie Schardt (second individual), TaraLee Hudson (third individual), and Isaac Baysinger. Team two placed third. Participants were Jayda McCall, Chase Krehnke, Heath Calvert and Eric Schroeder;



Members of Bruning-Davenport FFA for 2018-2019 are (Front row, left to right) TaraLee Hudson, Sera Johnson, Emilie Schardt, Isaac Baysinger, Issac Else, Sam Baysinger and Matthew Wachtel. (Middle) Jayda McCall, Jordan Bolte, Dominic Quinones, Chase Krehnke, Dylan Domeier, Tusker Schweer and Terry McBride. (Back) Holden Wilkens, Anthony Schweer, Rodney Wassom, Keenan Dickson, Glenn Meyer, Nolan Weber, Alfonso Pena Lopez and Kyle Ardissono. Not Pictured: Eric Schroeder.

Natural Resources — Team placed fourth. Members were Isaac Else (tied for fifth individual), Nolan Weber (tied for fifth place individual), Matthew Wachtel and Kyle Ardissono.

Agronomy — Participants were Alfonso Pena Lopez (10th individual), Isaac Else, Nolan Weber, Chase Krehnke, Dylan Domeier, Holden Wilkens, Jordan Bolte Kyle Ardissono;

Floriculture — Participants were Dominic Quinones, Isaac Baysinger, Jayda McCall, Glenn Meyer.

Livestock Management: Participants were TaraLee Hudson, Glenn Meyer, Heath Calvert, Terry McBride and Dylan Domeier.



State Degree Recipients

Isaac Baysinger and TaraLee Hudson.

District Proficiency Awards

Sam Baysinger — Gold and advancing to state in Agriculture Mechanics; TaraLee Hudson — Gold and advancing to state in Beef Production;

TaraLee Hudson — second gold and advancing to state in Agriculture Education;

Isaac Baysinger — Gold and advancing to state in Vegetable Production.

State Proficiency Awards

Sam Baysinger — Bronze in Agriculture Mechanics; TaraLee Hudson — Silver in Beef Production;

TaraLee Hudson — Gold Finalist in Agriculture Education;

Isaac Baysinger — Silver in Vegetable Production.

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Members of Deshler Public Schools FFA for 2018-2019 are Paige Kniep, McKensi Blau, Leah Schmidt, Lacey Schmidt, Paiton Nash, Avery Eitzmann, McKinna Peterson, Jayden Isernhagen, Kara Kniep, Abigail Knigge, Bryn Kniep, Alexis Holtzen, Mallory Kleen, Kaden Lanham, Cale Schardt, Trenton Buescher, Dylan Reinke, Gavin Nash, Brenton Laaker, Coltin Hansen and Cameron Czekai.

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Deshler FFA juniors take first in judging

The Deshler FFA Chapter has been busy this school year with various activities.

The year started with members exhibiting livestock and range boards at the state fair followed by most of the members attending Husker Harvest Days in Grand Island.

Two members helped Kutt99.5 with the Harvest Bonanza at Carleton where a lunch of hotdogs and chips for farmers was served as they brought their grain into the elevator at harvest.

The next activity was the area range-judging contest held in Seward county, where the junior team took first place honors.

That was followed by the area land-judging held near York where contestants identified the different soil types.

The district livestock judging was also held in York at the county fair grounds.

The district welding contest was held at Southeast Community College in Lincoln, while other district ag skills contests were held at SCC in Beatrice.

Deshler had a team in enirothon; meat judging team; two teams in the livestock management contest; an agriculture mechanics team; and individuals in the farm business management contest.

The chapter celebrated National FFA Week by holding a

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Thayer Central elementary students lined up to visit a variety of animals for the petting zoo hosted by members of FFA.



Members of Thayer Central FFA competed in Career Development Events last week.



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Speech team takes district second consecutive year

The Thayer Central Speech team won its district for the second year in a row March 11 and qualified seven Titan Talkers for the state meet March 22.

Competing, medaling and qualifying for state in the C2-4 district contest were Maggie Harris, Yong Wang, Dakota Cherney, McKenzie Johnson, Holly Timmerman, Bridget Linton and Chloe Hintz.

"As was the case with most of the season, the Titan Talkers came away with plenty to celebrate, namely the school's second consecutive district championship," Coach Justin Bomar said.

Thayer Central earned 258 points. Nebraska Christian was second with 142 points. Hastings St. Cecelia had 130 points for third place.

Leading the way for Thayer Central were seniors Harris and Wang. Harris won both events she competed in (Serious Prose and Poetry) and Wang won Persuasive and runner-up in Entertainment.

Fellow senior Dakota Cherney won Entertainment while earning fifth in Humorous Prose.

Senior McKenzie Johnson won the Informative category and came up fourth in Extemporaneous Speaking.

Senior Holly Timmerman earned second in Persuasive Speaking.

Sophomore Chloe Hintz earned runner-up in Humorous Prose and senior Bridget Linton earned third in Informative.

Seniors Keegan Casey and Dylan Fischer won fourth in Duet Acting

while Sophomore Mikenzy Andersen placed the same in Poetry.

Senior Sierra Hatcher won fifth in Serious Prose and the Duet Acting team of Junior Jayden Leonard and Sophomore McKenna Leonard placed fifth as well.

Sophomore MicKael Halverstadt took home sixth in Extemporaneous Speaking.

"It was a great day for our students," Bomar said. "The kids are seeing the payoff now for their hard work. We're not done yet, but we won't forget today for a long time."

The seven Titans will compete at the state meet on the University of Nebraska-Kearney campus.

Sheriff's report

March 1 — Individual contacted to move vehicle for snow removal in Hebron, 8:22 a.m.; Eratic driver on Highway 81 near Bruning. Advised Fillmore County, 9:51 a.m.; Eratic driver on Highway 81 just about to enter state. Forwarded to Nebraska State Patrol, 2:20 p.m.; Emergency medical rescue forwarded to Jefferson County, 5:48 p.m.; Injured deer on Highway 136. Nuckolls County deputy on scene and removed deer, 6:58 p.m.; Complaint of animal cruelty, 10:09 p.m.; Hebron rescue for lift assist at Parkside Manor, 10:42 p.m.

March 2 — Individual needed master key, deputy responded, 9:44 a.m.; Hebron rescue to vehicle accident on Highway 81, along with Thayer County Sheriff and NSP, 10:31 a.m.; Cows out along Highway 5. Owner contacted, 10:38 a.m.; Sheriff's office assisted with funeral in Chester, 11:12 a.m.; Individual inquired about inmate, deputy responded, 12:10 p.m.; Individual requested to speak with deputy about child welfare, 12:13 p.m.; Fillmore County requested transient transport to Republic County, 1:48 p.m.; Cow complaint, owner contacted, 2:57 p.m.; individual spoke with deputy, 5:43 p.m.

March 3 — Report of vehicle on Highway 81 driving north in the southbound lane, 3:26 a.m.; Vehicle stuck in median. Driver was OK and waiting for family, 3:37 a.m.; Deshler Rescue and Fire for two-car injury accident on Highway 136, 5:56 a.m.; Vehicle stuck. Deputy conducted traffic control, 6:41 a.m.; Hebron rescue for medical emergency, 8:46 a.m.; Vehicle obstructing path for snow removal. Owner was contacted, 10:58 a.m.; Thayer County Hospital spoke with deputy referencing a patient, 2:59 p.m.; Report from Child Neglect Hotline for child welfare check, 7:30 p.m.

March 4 — Individual to speak with sheriff about property theft, 10:50 a.m.; Cattle out on Highway 8. Owner contacted, 11:12 a.m.; Individual spoke with deputy about child welfare, 12:30 p.m.; Abandoned vehicle with 32-county plates in Jefferson County, 1:52 p.m.; Individual to speak

with sheriff, 2:39 p.m.; Deputy enroute to Child Advocacy Center in York, 2:45 p.m.; Probation matter, 2:48 p.m.; Cattle out on Highway 5. Owner contacted, 4:34 p.m.; Sheriff enroute to Lincoln with one individual, 4:44 p.m.; Union Pacific reported railroad crossing malfunction in Carleton, 10:30 p.m.

March 5 — Union Pacific reported railroad crossing malfunction in Davenport, 6:10 p.m.; Seward County deputy spoke with individual who said scam call was coming from Thayer County, 2:32 p.m.; Deputy spoke with individual about child harassment, 2:47 p.m.; Deputy checked fire extinguishers at business, 5:56 p.m.; Deputy picked up transient for motel room and food assistance, 8:31 p.m.

March 6 — Sheriff spoke with individual about moving out of state, 9:21 a.m.; Accident victim reported suspect vehicle in hit and run, 9:24 a.m.; Eratic driver on Highway 136 reported, 3:12 p.m.; Individual reported they ran over a dog. Dog was deceased and owner notified, 3:36 p.m.; Deputy responded to incident in business parking lot, 4:22 p.m.; Individual and child spoke with deputy about child welfare, 4:30 p.m.; Vehicle stuck in mud. Driver looking for dog, 8:41 p.m.; Deputy relayed information on Nebraska Game and Parks for removal of possum on property, 8:49 p.m.

March 7 — City of Hebron contacted for loss of power, 7:25 a.m.; Owner of lost cell phone pinged it in the 200 block, Hebron, 8:53 a.m.; Child welfare check in Gilead, 1:10 p.m.; Civil standby, 6:26 p.m.; Child welfare check in Bruning, 8:19 p.m.; Union Pacific contacted for complaint via a train blocking traffic, 9:01 p.m.; Deputy made contact with vehicle in Deshler that was reported as suspicious activity, 10:22 p.m.; Byron first responders for medical assistance, 10:36 p.m.

March 8 — Byron first responders for medical assistance, 6:39 a.m.; Cattle on east side of Highway 81, 10:20 p.m.; Attempted child welfare check in Gilead, 2:21 p.m. Individual reported attempt to make contact with owner of damaged property in Hebron, 3:46 p.m.



C2-4 District medalists for Thayer Central are (Front row, left to right) Yong Wang, Bridget Linton, Dakota Cherney, Holly Timmerman and Maggie Harris. (Back) Sierra Hatcher, McKenzie Johnson, Keegan Casey, Dylan Fischer, MicKael Halverstadt, Jayden Leonard, Mikenzy Andersen, Chloe Hintz and McKenna Leonard.

USDA providing funds to protect and restore lands

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service is now accepting applications for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). This program, created under the 2014 Farm Bill and reauthorized in the 2018 Farm Bill, provides funding for the purchase of conservation easements to help productive farm and ranch lands remain in agriculture and to restore and protect critical wetlands and grasslands.

Nebraska state conservationist Craig Derickson said, "Conservation easements are a good tool to ensure natural resources are conserved and protected for all Nebraskans. We encourage American Indian tribes, state and local governments, non-governmental organizations and private landowners to contact their local NRCS office to find out how to apply."

The main goal of ACEP is to prevent productive agriculture land from being converted to non-agricultural uses and to restore and protect wetlands and wildlife habitat. Cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland and nonindustrial private forestland are eligible.

Applications can be submitted at any time, but to be considered for 2019 funding opportunities, applications in Nebraska must be received by April 12, 2019. Applications are currently being accepted for both agricultural land and wetland reserve easements.

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance directly to private and tribal landowners to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands through the purchase of conservation easements. Eligible landowners can choose

to enroll in a permanent or 30-year easement. Tribal landowners also have the option of enrolling in 30-year contracts.

A key option under the agricultural land easement component is the "grasslands of special environmental significance" that will protect high-quality grasslands that are under threat of conversion to cropping, urban development and other non-grazing uses. To qualify, the application would need to be located in an area meeting the designated criteria.

All applications will be rated according to the easement's potential for protecting and enhancing habitat for migratory birds, fish and other wildlife. Eligible applicants will be compensated with a payment rate comparable to the local land use value.

Applicants will need to provide accurate records of ownership and ensure they have established current fiscal year ownership eligibility with USDA's Farm Service Agency. Application information is available at your local USDA Service Center and at www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted.

"NRCS staff will work with all interested applicants to help them through the application process and provide one-on-one assistance to create the conservation easement option that works best for their farming or ranching operation," Derickson said.

For more information about the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the programs and services it provides, visit your local USDA Service Center or www.ne.nrcs.usda.gov.

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Pancakes for all...

This past Sunday, the Lion's Club in Hubbell hosted their popular pancake feed. Guests were treated to a fine dinner of eggs, pancakes and sausages. A raffle was held for many fun prizes as well as a final cash drawing. The pancake supper at Hubbell drew a large crowd and was standing room only at the Hubbell Community Center.



JR Photo/Art Whitton

Chester pancake feed...

On Saturday night we served a steady, large crowd for the Annual Chester Volunteer Fire & Rescue pancake feed and gun raffle. The donations from the pancake feed will go toward updated equipment for the ambulance and the gun raffle proceeds will benefit the fire department.

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Belvidere

By Linda Hudson

The story is—Everyone is trying to adjust to Daylight Savings time!! Do you prefer to stay on it all the time or do you like the two changes each year? It would be fun to take a survey to find what Thayer Countians think? Should we favor the evening over the morning when trying to distribute the sunlight? Not just spring and summer but throughout the year. Any state can opt out and right now there are three considering it. At the present time there are two states that do, Hawaii and Arizona. But for right now we all have to change our clocks two times a year. Thank goodness our electronic devices automatically do it!

Speaking of surveys, the other night at Woman's Club we took a fun survey about whether or not they should still release the balloons on the first touchdown of the Nebraska football games. The results were 9-2 that the tradition should continue. The University students in their survey also voted the same. Now we will wait and see what the real outcome will be.

Gee, I went a couple of paragraphs before talking about the weather this week. Seems as though we all like to complain about something. The frost seems to be leaving the ground and with that comes the "potholes." No wonder the complaining begins as drivers lose hubcaps, major damage is done to a car, etc.

But let's be realistic. Just a week ago, it was zero weather and the roadway covered with snow. Road crews cannot fix every pothole at once. Besides that the holes setting with water are less than ideal to fix.

Oh, by the way, one more complaint. Heavy rain is forecast for this week so we are still yearning for spring weather. Oh, where was all this moisture last summer when some farmers crops were drying up to the point

there was hardly any yield. I guess be glad we have it now. Let's hope for the flooding to stay away!

Viewers coming to see the crane migration by Grand Island have not witnessed a great number migrating yet. They are saying because of the late winter weather we have been having that the main heavy migration is probably going to be about two weeks later than usual. This winter has not only affected humans but the "birds" also. At least their pathway is the sky.

Reports of usually good, graveled roads are that some are almost impassable. Can't get to town, the roads are too muddy. How long has it been since we have heard that term? And of course you know what is looming in the forecast...heavy rain!

One thing for certain is that when you reach a certain age, you are elated when you hear the news that one of your children is moving "HOME." Such is the case of Betty and Gene Dudgeon of Hebron. They recently received word their daughter, Teresa, and husband, Roger Hofts, will soon be Hebron residents.

Russ and Bonnie Priefert spent Saturday with Lorna Waldmeier of Beatrice.

Returning to Hebron for a funeral was Yolanda Koenig of Kansas City and Jeff Cotter of Minnesota. Jeff's stay was not long as the forecast for his drive home was not good. He had come as his dad and John L. once many years ago were super good friends.

Everyone hopes that Ronnie Williams returns home in good health as it was reported last week that he was hospitalized in Arizona due to heart conditions.

Living in a rural area all my life I can't help be concerned about the farm economy. It has been on my mind for some time and an editorial in the Lincoln paper seemed to stir my concern to a higher level. According to their calculations, one in every four jobs in Nebraska are related to agriculture and 91 percent of the state's land area is used for farming and ranching. The real trigger

is that the farming income has fallen more than half since 2013. Nebraska ranks second in farm related bankruptcies. The tariffs which have been imposed during the past year have cost the agriculture sector.

Nebraska's strengths are exports, thus this has hurt our state. It is our rural communities job to fight for property tax reform and to get rid of these barriers of trade. The property tax is not an easy fix. All of this means our population in the county will continue to diminish if small farmers cannot make a living. That means less people for our hospitals, schools, etc. Thank goodness we do have at least two major employers which require many employees. One thing for sure, if our ag economy doesn't improve, our whole neighborhood will suffer. Not only the farmers but every business on Main Street. Something has to change!

Can't believe sports is at the bottom of the news this week. It was so good for the win that Tim Miles and his team got at home against Iowa. What a way for the seniors on the team to play their last game at Pinnacle Arena. Now the Big Ten tournament begins this week. For high school, attention now goes to see who can run the fastest, jump the highest or throw the farthest. We're not done yet. More sports to come!

Guess that is the way with life. We all hope we are not done yet. We all want at least a few more races to at least try to win.

3 More Things:
Thing 1. Try not to fly on a Boeing 737 Max at least for awhile.

Thing 2. Don't forget Pi (pie) Day in Belvidere on the 14th.

Thing 3. Get on your Green! Come see our Irish Mystery couple at Toads on Sunday.

Irish Quote- May you be in Heaven a half hour before the Devil even knows you're dead!

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