



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TODAY

• **Wednesday Lenten Organ Series with Jeffrey Hoffman** — 12:10 p.m., St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 239 Frank St. Homemade lunch is served to everyone following the recital. Free and open to the public. St. Paul's is handicap accessible.

• **American Red Cross Blood-pressure Screening** — 10 to 11 a.m., Oard-Ross Drug Store, 701 16th Ave.

• **Meal and a Message** — 6 p.m., Fifth Avenue United Methodist Church.

• **Bluffs Center Dance** — 7 to 10 p.m., The Center, 714 S. Main Street.

• **Rotary Centennial Club** — 7 a.m., Madison Avenue Hy-Vee by Mall of the Bluffs.

• **Breastfeeding Support Group** — 9:30 a.m., CHI Health Mercy Hospital Lactation Clinic in Mercy 2 Professional Center, Room 206. Call 712-328-5252.

• **Lewis & Clark Study Group** — 9 to 11 a.m., 2 Huron Circle, Salem United Methodist Manawa Center. Find out what happened to the explorers.

• **Carter Lake VFW No. 9661 Hamburger Night** — 5 to 7:30 p.m., 100 Locust St., Carter Lake. 712-347-6969.

• **Greater Communicators Toastmaster Club** — 6:30 p.m., The Center, 714 S. Main. Call Floy at 712-326-9332.

• **Water Exercise Program** — 7 to 8 p.m., Lewis Central Pool.

• **Carter Lake Optimist Club** — 7 p.m., Carter Lake Senior Center, 626 Locust St.

• **Debtors Anonymous** — 7 p.m., Community of Christ Family Life Center, 150 W. Kanessville Blvd. Call 712-325-6788.

• **Gamblers 12-Step Program** — 8 p.m., 12-Step House, 7306 Grant St., Omaha. For 24-hour hotline, call 402-978-7899.

• **Wednesday Night Live Al-Anon** — CHI Health Building, 622 S. Fourth St.

THURSDAY

• **Friends of Underwood** — Organization seeking more engagement from community members in pursuit

of brainstorming and implementing ways to make the Underwood community a better place to live and work. 7:30 p.m., Underwood City Hall.

• **The Compassionate Friends** — 7 p.m., New Cassel Retirement Center, 900 N. 90th St., auditorium, second level, Omaha. A non-profit, self-help support organization that offers friendship, understanding and hope to bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings. No religious affiliation. No membership dues or fees. Find more at tcfomaha.org. Call Shirley at 712-352- 2244.

• **Blood Pressure Checks** — Available at Neola Area Community Center.

• **Crescent Optimist Club** — 7 p.m., fire station.

• **Optimist Club of Council Bluffs** — 7 a.m., Madison Avenue Hy-Vee.

• **Al-Anon Family Group** — 10 a.m., The 500 Club, 410 S. 16th St.

• **Council Bluffs Rotary** — Noon, The Center, 714 S. Main St.

• **Tops Iowa 1263** — 5 to 6 p.m., Harmony Court. Use east door. Call Shirley at 712-642-3530 or Donna at 712-325-1783.

• **Council Bluffs MAD DADS** — 7 p.m. Call 712-328-0302.

• **Gamblers 12-Step Program** — 7 p.m., Pacific Hills Lutheran Church, 90th and Pacific Streets, Omaha. For 24-hour hotline, call 402-978-7899.

• **All Acoustic Music Jam** — 1 to 4 p.m., Western Historic Trails Center.

• **White Elephant Bingo** — 12:30 p.m., The Center.

• **Teen Gaming** — 3:30 to 7:30 p.m., Council Bluffs Public Library's Teen Central. Mix of board and video games for students in sixth through 12th grade. Call 712-323-7553.

FRIDAY

• **Family Night at the Museum: Book It**

Up for March Madness! — 5 to 7 p.m., Union Pacific Railroad Museum, 200 Pearl St. This event will focus on literacy and reading. Iowa Western Community College Reivers from the volleyball, women's soccer and cheer teams will host storytimes. There will also be activities sponsored by Raise Me to Read, the Council Bluffs Public Library, Operation Lifesaver and Pottawattamie County Conservation. El Patron will provide live music. Attendees will receive a punch card for the year; those who attend and receive stamps at seven or more family nights throughout the year will be eligible for a six-person trip aboard the Boone & Scenic Valley Railroad in Boone. The drawing will happen during the family night in December. Participants must be present to win. Free; freewill donations will be accepted. For more, visit uprrmuseum.org or call 712-329-8307.

• **Elks Lodge TGIF Dinner** — 6 to 8 p.m., 380 McKenzie Ave. Call 712-323-2589 or find Elks Lodge 531 Council Bluffs on Facebook for weekly menu.

• **Roller Skating** — UMBA Hall, Underwood. 7 to 8:30 p.m., open skating for fourth grade and below (parents may skate with children); 8:30

to 10 p.m., open skating for fifth grade and above. Cost \$4, skates included. No outside skates allowed. Cancelled if Underwood schools closed for weather or a holiday weekend. For more, call 712-566-2222 or 712-310-0935 or email linda-jeanscott07@gmail.com.

• **Southwest Iowa Narcotics Anonymous** — Noon, Let It Be, New Litehouse, 200 16th Ave.; 6:30 p.m., Just for Today, Faith Community Church, 2701 N. Eighth St., Red Oak; 7 p.m., Clean & Free Group, first floor McDermott building, 800 Mercy Drive; 8 p.m., Straight and Grateful, 309 Elm St., Atlantic; 8:30 p.m., Discovery Group Church of Christ, 714 Benson St., Omaha; 8:30 p.m., Rebellions, New Litehouse, 200 16th Ave.

• **Bingo** — 12:15 p.m., The Center, 714 S. Main St. Two to four cards for 25 cents each, plus white elephant gift.

• **Freedom Seekers Al-Anon** — 7:30 p.m., Broadway Christian Church, 2658 Ave. A.

• **Pickin' and Grinnin' Country Music Jam** — 6:30 to 9 p.m., Corn Crib restaurant, 12 East St., Shelby. Musicians and music lovers invited to a weekly jam session. Call the Corn Crib at 712-207-2676.

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CALENDAR

FRIDAY

Fremont Rotary Club, noon, Fremont
Golf Club. N. Somers Ave.



ESU4 services discussed at weekly Rotary meeting

Kirt Manion

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Gregg Robke, administrator for ESU4 at Auburn, provided the program for the Nebraska City Rotary over the noon hour on Wednesday, Feb. 21, at the Eagles Club.

Robke said he saw the Rotary program as an opportunity to explain the services provided by ESU4 across a nine-district service area that includes the counties of Otoe, Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee and Richardson.

Schools in the service area are Auburn, Falls City, Falls City Sacred Heart, Humboldt-TRS, Johnson Brock, Johnson County Central, Lewiston, Nebraska City Lourdes, Nebraska City, Palmyra-Bennet, Pawnee City, Sterling and Syracuse-Dunbar-Avoca.

ESU4 is also the operating organization behind the Nebraska Center for the Education of Children Who are Blind or Visually Impaired (NCECBVI) in Nebraska City.

It all boils down to services for ESU4.

"What I am here for is just to talk about our services," Robke said. "What we do is we help schools.

"We are not in competition with any school district. We don't try to over take the school district.

"We try to work with the school district to improve education for all students," said Robke. "Every student matters to us."

And so does every district. Robke noted that whether the school is small or large, patrons can expect to get the same level of support from ESU4.

Services provided by ESU4 include the areas of health, technology, special education and professional development.

Stacie Higgins, a member of the Nebraska City Public School Board of Education, was present at the meeting and voiced her support for the work done by ESU4. Higgins specifically noted that

the professional development provided at ESU4 is top notch and a huge value to her district's patrons.

"We have a lot of experts at the ESU who are within 50 miles of us," she said. "When you drive by the little building in Auburn and wonder what happens there—it's huge for what it does for a public school."

Beginning with the area of health, Robke talked about what ESU4 does for students in its service area.

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ROTARY

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Catrina Zentner and a staff of three travel to schools in the service area to provide basic health checks for the kids.

"If kids aren't healthy, they can't learn," said Robke.

The ESU4 team does more than just identify problems though. Staff members work to rectify situations. If a child needs glasses but the family can't afford them, the ESU4 has partnerships with optometrists and can meet that need.

If a student has a hearing problem, that can be addressed too.

Joel Halpine, ESU4's audiologist, travels the area and does hearing assessments. If there is problem, a piece of technology might be employed.

Robke said he visited a school where a student with a hearing problem had an earpiece that allowed him to hear the teacher's voice at an amplified level.

Turning to special education, ESU4 works to identify kids as early as possible, even before the age of three, and then sets up a plan to meet their needs. And the ESU4 will follow that student all the way to age 21 if necessary.

Ellen Stokebrand, ESU4's expert in special education, works with students in the areas of psychology and speech pathology. She also works to secure funding for special education needs.

While students in the service area are getting support, so are the teachers.

Robke said the professional development team of Jennifer Madison, Suzanne Whisler and Ben Hanika work with teachers to strengthen their classroom techniques.

"They do an outstanding job of going to schools and helping teachers improve their instruction," said Robke.

Through what ESU4 calls a High Impact Instruction Partnership, teachers work with the ESU4 team to develop goals for instruction and work toward the goals through what Robke described as "deliberate discussions."

A lot of the professional development activities happen right in the building of a particular school. But those aren't the only education opportunities for teachers.

Just recently, the ESU4 hosted an Engaging Educators Conference which featured expert presenters and staff from the Nebraska Department of Education.

Outside of teachers, school counselors, principals and superintendents can all have cooperative meetings and talk about the challenges and opportunities with which they are faced.

An example discussion might be one involving school safety. Robke said experts for ESU4 can instruct staff members of a school on techniques to keep students safe.

"What do you do when there is a threat?" Robke said. "And how do you deal with that?"

Answering questions and providing support would not be possible without the right technological and networking support.

The ESU4 provides technology trainings, technology support and network support.

Technology support for each school goes all the way down to incorporating technology to enhance an individual student's experience.

Nebraska City's 1-to-1 Chromebook program is a great example. Nebraska City's middle school began a program back in 2015 that provides each student

with a Chromebook for class work. But that opportunity doesn't come without possible complications.

Hanika, a tech expert and member of the professional development team, will go out and work with schools to incorporate technology, like the Chromebook, into their every day curriculum.

With all of this action, the ESU4 needs a great structure. And it definitely has one with a 75-member staff and a nine-member board that functions the same way as any school board with representation from schools across the service area. Robke said the ESU4 board meets once per month.

The ESU4 staff doesn't just sit in the office. Robke said about 10 of the 75 are office regulars, meaning that the overwhelming number of staff members are out in the schools of the service area.

"These people are out and about every single day doing stuff for districts and for students and, I truly believe, making an impact.

What sets ESU4 apart from other educational service units across the state of Nebraska?

Without question, that difference is NCECBVI. Sally Schreiner of the NCECBVI, who introduced Robke's program, works with students, not just in Nebraska City, but statewide. Schreiner helps to provide educational opportunities for some 800 students across the state and ESU4 has personnel that travel the state to make assessments of students. That's also while running a residential program in Nebraska City.

"I think that's very powerful," Robke said. "I think that's very unique to what ESU4 does."

From all of its support programs to NCECBVI, the ESU4 does a lot. And it wants to do more.

Robke said the biggest emerging problem for schools these days revolves

around mental health. The staff at ESU4 is hopeful that LB998 will be passed by the Nebraska Legislature. If the measure does pass, a mental health care provider would be placed in every ESU in Nebraska.

"Is that enough? (It's) probably not, but at least it's a start," Robke said. "There are so many kids who need that resource."

Behavioral and mental health is currently being addressed and supported in the service area thanks to programs like Nebraska City's impact classrooms, which provide educational support for students with behavioral issues.

Robke said the ESU4 sees the need for impact classrooms and noted that Humboldt-TRS also has some space dedicated to that effort with two impact class-

rooms.

"We do collaborate," said Robke. "We do send kids who are in the area to (Nebraska City Superintendent) Dr. (Jeff) Edwards' program.

"Kids closer to Humboldt, we send there.

"And we are full. We have to deny kids," he said.

Robke said resources don't exist to provide for the needs of every student with a behavioral problem, but attempts must be made, Robke said. If not, Robke said he fears that there might be more incidents like the shooting in Florida.

To learn more about ESU4's programs, visit <http://www.esu4.org>



Gregg Robke of the Nebraska ESU4 describes the services provided by his organization during a meeting of Rotary at the Eagles Club.

PHOTO BY KIRT MANION



Boy Scouts celebrating Boy Scout Month!

Scouts
thank
community
for
support
throughout
the past
year

Wayne Boy Scouts would like to thank the following for their support of our troop: Wayne United Way, Wayne Kiwanis, Wayne Optimist Club, Wayne Rotary Club, Wayne Fire Department, Wayne Police Department, Wayne Sheriff's office, Wayne State College, Wayne Community Schools, Wayne County Fair Board and City of Wayne.

Also, Wayne Public Library, Journey Christian Church, Wayne First

Presbyterian Church, St. Mary's Catholic Church, First United Methodist Church, Grace Lutheran Church, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Wayne Herald, Tom and Sandra Hansen CPA, State Nebraska Bank and Trust, F & M Bank and Gill Hauling/Transfer Station.

Also, Izaak Walton League, Diamond Center, Carhart Lumber Co, Country Nursery Inc., Gerhold Concrete Co., Quality Foods, Pac 'N' Save,

JB Mart, Wayne East, Wayne Majestic Theater, Northeast Nebraska Public Health Department, John's Welding, Stadium Sports, Super 8 Motel.

Cobblestone Hotel and Inn, First Bankcard Center, Brookdale Wayne, Sand Post Creek and Beam, Heritage Homes, Greenwood Cemetery caretakers/board, Wildcat Lanes, and many other thoughtful individuals and groups throughout the area.



Scouts who are part of Troop 174 include (front) James Simpson, Brandon Sebade, Ethan Sebade and Zachary Schenk. (Back) Jack Schlickbernd, Silas Mark, Isaac Davis, Matthew Kufner and Shayne Geidner. Not pictured, Nolan Kruse and Jon Worner.

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Troop Leaders include (left) Mike Schlickbernd (Committee), Jeff Simpson (Committee Chair), Michelle Mark (Committee), Jen Geidner (Treasurer) and Stacy Schenk (Scoutmaster). Not present, Dave Bohnert (Asst. Scoutmaster), Adam Davis (Advancement), Chris Geidner (Committee), Brian Kufner (Committee), Bob Liska (Charter Representative), Troy Reynolds (Pastor of Charter Organization) and Bill Schenk (Committee).





Scouts who are part of the Wayne troop include (left) Nathan Kufner and Ethan Bohnert.



Wayne United Way
***Troop
Sponsor***



***Troop
Sponsor***



Journey
Christian Church
***Charter
Sponsor***



Scout leaders who are part of the Wayne troop include (left) Mytzy Kufner (Assistant Scoutmaster) and Dan Kruse (Eagle Advisor).



Midwest Farmers Cooperative donates to local FFA chapter grants

ELMWOOD – Midwest Farmers Cooperative (MFC) has donated \$10,600 to the Nebraska FFA Foundation to directly support local FFA chapter needs.

Seven FFA chapters received a grant including Waverly, Ashland–Greenwood, Syracuse, Conestoga, Palmyra/Elmwood–Murdock and Lincoln Public Schools The Career Academy for Ag Biology/Science Program.

Conestoga FFA Chapter received a \$1,000 grant through MFC to be used to help fund a tower gar-

den growing system. The hydroponic system would be able to further educate the students. The system utilizes new vertical farming technology to minimize resource use and maximize yield. This grant helps the chapter take a step in updating their resources and giving them new opportunities.

“We are proud to support these chapters and the young men and women that have an interest in agriculture. It is a small way

that we can give back to the communities that support Midwest Farmers Cooperative and a way to support the future of agriculture,” said MFC Chief Executive Officer Jeremy Wilhelm.

Nebraska FFA Foundation financially supports growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture with MFC’s help to area FFA programs to achieve that FFA vision.

“We are excited to release the results of the Midwest Farmers Cooperative chap-

ter grant program during National FFA Week February 17-24, 2018. Thank you Midwest Farmers Cooperative for helping provide resources to the chapters in your area,” said Stacey Agnew, Nebraska FFA Foundation Executive Director.

The mission of the Nebraska FFA Foundation is to enhance quality education/FFA programs in order to achieve excellence in leadership development, curriculum innovation and scholastic advancement of students.



Joining Midwest Farmers Coop CEO Jeremy Wilhelm, center, joins Conestoga FFA members during Plattsmouth Rotary Club's Farmer's Day Feb. 14. With Wilhelm, from left, are Wyatt Remmers, Adam Olson, Jeremy Wilhelm, Sophia Svanda, Kelsi Weilage, Shay Uhe and Jacob Drake. MFC awarded Conestoga FFA a \$1,000 grant to use for a tower garden growing system.



Rotary learns about comfort dogs

Nicodemus, an official Comfort Dog sponsored/ hosted by the Rock Lutheran Church in Seward, was the featured program at the Seward Rotary Club luncheon meeting at the Jones National Bank and Trust Feb. 7. He was accompanied by his "assistants" Danna Seevers and Randy Newsome of Seward.

Seevers presented the program on the Comfort Dog Ministry and her expe-

riences with the program.

Nicodemus is a trained LCC K-9 Comfort Dog. He interacts with people at churches, schools, nursing homes, hospitals, events and in disaster response situations. Nicodemus is a friend who brings a calming influence and allows people to open up their hearts and receive help for what is affecting them.

Seevers spoke on her recent travels with Nicode-

mus on behalf of Lutheran Church Charities to Las Vegas. She worked with a host of people in a variety of situations surrounding the latest shooting in Las Vegas.

Questions and answers followed the presentation.

For more information on the program contact them via Facebook: NicodemusComfortDog or contact the Rock Lutheran Church at (402) 643-6624.