



OUR VIEW

Jason recipients worthy of honor

Award winners exemplify
the vision, courage and
will needed to embrace
life's challenges and
opportunities

Children's Square U.S.A. honored six individuals with Jason Awards at Tuesday's annual ceremony, this year co-chaired by Polina and Bob Schlott and Susan and Bill Cutler.

The Jason Awards event is held to recognize individuals, couples, organizations and businesses that exemplify the mission of Children's Square U.S.A. Jason Award recipients demonstrate an extraordinary degree of caring, contribution and commitment to children, families, communities and related causes. Their lives and work exemplify the vision, courage and will needed to embrace challenges and opportunities in life.

The couples and individuals honored this year included Kate Cutler and Boyd Littrell, Chris Hochstetler, Rev. Harry H. Wallar Sr. and Duane (Bud) and Sandy Wilwerding.

Cutler and Littrell were recognized for their ongoing and wide reaching contributions and commitment. Both have been passionate about multiple causes and have embraced opportunities to strengthen families and enrich our community through personal, professional and volunteer commitments and contributions. Cutler's

recent volunteer work on behalf of Habitat for Humanity and Littrell's three-year investment in the Kaneshville-Tinley neighborhood initiative were but two examples of their caring, contribution and commitment that were highlighted during the awards presentation at the Mid-America Center.

Hochstetler, a Council Bluffs resident, was honored for his vision, courage and will. He joined the Army just days following his graduation from Grand Island Senior High School in 1986 and had a decorated 20-year career. A combat veteran, he served in assignments around the world. He is currently the executive director of KANEKO, an arts and culture nonprofit in Omaha that fulfills its mission to encourage and explore creativity by providing world-class exhibitions, programs, events and workshops.

Wallar founded the Christian Worship Center Ministries in 1993, which has embraced the needs of the homeless and the hungry for 25 years. Wallar's church converted an old hardware store to a permanent meal site, which became Mohm's Place. Over the next 10 years, a million meals were served to the homeless and near-homeless, 20 percent of which were children.

Wallar's New Visions Council Bluffs, the only facility of its type in southwest Iowa, was founded in 2008. The 2.3-acre campus includes a 62-bed men's shelter, an expanded Mohm's Place meal site and 26 one-bedroom permanent supportive housing units for chronically homeless men or women. The continued presence of homeless veterans led Wallar to develop New Visions Omaha in 2012. The Omaha campus offers 40 one-bedroom units for the chronically homeless, 26 of which are for veterans and 14 of which are permanent supportive housing units.

The Wilwerdings, of Omaha, were named Jason Award Champions of Children. The couple opened their hearts and home to care for 168 children across 46 years of foster parenting. Since 1970, they have been caring for babies, toddlers and teens who have been placed in their home, sometimes for just a few days or a month to many years. After 46 years, the Wilwerdings retired from foster parenting at the end of 2016.

These couples and individuals have truly exemplified the vision, courage and will needed to embrace challenges and opportunities in life and in doing so have made our city a better community.



On Friday, Nov. 3, the Rotary Club of Glenwood commemorated the 95th Anniversary of its founding with a celebration and supper for members, spouses, and a few honored guests, including District 5650 Governor Tom Cardwell and his wife Jenny of the Lincoln South Club and Mick McKinley, District Governor-Nominee, and his wife, Jan, of the Council Bluffs Noon Club. The Council Bluffs club sponsored Glenwood when it joined Rotary International on Nov.2,1922.

COURTESY PHOTO



Nancy Finken Joins NET Leadership Team

Nancy Finken has been promoted to NET's leadership team as assistant general manager for broadcast production and programming. During her 25-year career at NET, Nebraska's PBS and NPR Stations, Finken has embodied NET's commitment to trusted and meaningful journalism along with arts, culture and education. In her new role, Finken will oversee all local television and radio production projects for the statewide network as well as determine which public media programs are acquired and broadcast in Nebraska. She will also work closely with PBS and NPR on efforts to distribute NET content nationally.



Finken's NET career began in 1992 when she joined as news director. In 2002 she became radio program director and assistant network manager. In 2007 she was promoted to manage the radio network and in 2015 she became station manager for all NET television and radio stations. NET has participated in many successful local and regional collaborations during this time, including Harvest Public Media, a journalism collaboration with other Midwest and Plains stations covering agriculture from farm to table. Finken was named journalist of the year in 1993 by the Society of Professional Journalists Nebraska Pro Chapter and supervisor of the year in 2007 by the State of Nebraska. The Lincoln resident serves on Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra board of directors and is a member of Lincoln Rotary Club 14.



Cattlemen's Ball in 2018

Co-sponsor of the Cattlemen's Ball, Randy Hergott, of Hebron, was at the Fairbury Rotary on Wednesday to share details of the event.

The 2018 Cattlemen's Ball is scheduled for June 1-2 at Hergott Farm near Hebron.

He explained that Cattlemen's Ball signed a contract this week with country superstar Trace Adkins and is close to finalizing other entertainment acts for the weekend including possibly Tracy Lawrence, Lucas Hoge and Hannah Huston. Miss Nebraska, Allison Tietjen, of Thayer County, is also slated to appear at the event.

The ball has raised over \$13 million in 20 years for cancer research. Funds go to the Buffett Cancer Research Center in Omaha and 10 percent of the funds raised goes to local organizations that help with the ball.

"None of those funds go for brick and mortar. It is all for cancer research," Hergott said.

Over 500 volunteers help get the event off the ground and running smoothly. An estimated 5,000 people are expected to attend the two-day event.

"I want my grandkids there because they will be able to tell everyone the rest of their lives they were at that event," Hergott said. "It will be talked about for years."

The event will take over 80 acres and will have modern amenities.

"It is a tent-city. There are tents and generated power with entertainment both days. It is such a unique event," Hergott said. "It has grown to the point we constantly have people saying they want to be involved."

Organizers met with Gov. Pete Ricketts last week and personally invited the governor to the event and noted, 'he had already marked it off on his calendar.'

A side project that has gone over tremendously has been 'Calf for a Cure,' program. The program encourages the donation of \$1,000 and along with the donation, a feeder cattle will be placed in a pen at Duensing's Feedlot or Roode's Feedlot.

Tobe Duensing and Dustin Rippe will be helping feed the cattle as part of the project.

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CATTLEMEN

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The cattle, pens and food have all been donated, so Hergott noted that when the cattle go to market, the \$1,000 donation will easily be doubled. As of Monday, \$190,000 has been given for cattle.

"We plan on taking that 190, I will say over 200 this week, and will double it. We have free cattle, free yardage and free feed," Hergott said.



EVENTS

THROUGH DECEMBER 9

Stuff the Cruiser begins collections

Seward Rotary's annual Stuff the Cruiser program has begun collecting toys and clothes for families with children age 0 to 14. The cruiser will be at Dollar General Friday, Dec. 8, and at the Seward Walmart Friday and Saturday, Dec. 8 and 9. Families wishing to sign up or anyone wishing to donate who will not be in town Dec. 8 and 9 or who wishes to donate money should call (402) 646-5755 between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., any Seward Rotary member or the Seward Police Department.

NOVEMBER 15

Veterans celebrated at Seward center

The Seward Senior Center will serve a fried chicken lunch at noon Wednesday, Nov. 15, to celebrate area veterans. The meal is free to all veterans and is funded by the Cattle National Bank and Trust Co., Jones National Bank and Trust Co. and Union Bank and Trust Co. Reservations should be made by noon Nov. 14. Brian Sermeno, a 23-year Army veteran, will be the featured speaker, and the KiTones will sing at 1 p.m.

NOVEMBER 16

Senator plans mobile office

U.S. Sen. Ben Sasse will send a member of his staff to a mobile office in Seward Thursday, Nov. 16. The representative will be at Seward Memorial Library from 1 to 3 p.m.

NOVEMBER 17

Annie Oakley topic of speaker

The Seward Senior Center will serve its Thanksgiving dinner Wednesday, Nov. 22, at noon. At 1 p.m., Charlotte Endorf with Nebraska Humanities will talk about Annie Oakley's life and legacy.

DECEMBER 3

Scholarship Parade of Homes announces sites

The 2017 Scholarship Parade of Homes will be Sunday, Dec. 3, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. All ticket sale proceeds go to provide scholarships for Seward County high school seniors who will attend Concordia University or Southeast Community College in Milford. Tickets are available at Concordia University's Alumni Office (Weller 206) or the Seward banks (Cattle National Bank and Trust Co., Jones National Bank and Trust Co. and Union Bank and Trust Co.). They are \$12 in advance, \$15 day of event. Homeowners on this year's tour are Mark and Chris Blanke, 189 Wildwood Road; Dave and Amber Fiala, 411 N. Columbia Avenue; Mike and Jeanie Hecker, 2432 N. Columbia Avenue; Scott and Tammy Kocian, 2443 N. Columbia Avenue; and Nicky Engel and Jim Neuberger, 206 Seward Street.



Electric transportation part of solution

by Emily Hemphill

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Some stories are predictable. We go. We take the picture. We leave.

Other stories grab us by the camera strap and pull us in—and they don't turn out anything like we expect.

Last Wednesday, I sauntered



Emily Hemphill
Reporter

a block from the office to take a quick picture of a guy telling people about a car. Sounds exciting, right?

My intent was to just take the picture and leave.

But when they offered to let me ride in the car, I couldn't say no. I do have a thing for cool cars, after all.

Then, when they offered to let me drive the car...I'll just say wow.

This wasn't just any car. It was a 2017 Tesla Model S, and it was the sassiest shade of blue I've ever seen. Tesla is known as a pioneer of the electric car industry, producing all-electric vehicles packed with horsepower.

Trust me on the horsepower—the best way to experience it is from the driver's seat: zero to 60 in 4.1 seconds. As the force slammed me back into the seat, I thought "this must be what it's like to blast off in a space shuttle."

Former Nebraska Sen. Ken Haar of the Malcolm area spoke to the Seward Rotary Club that day, Nov. 1, about climate change, and

he brought along the Model S, which belongs to Dr. Donald Cox, a retired electrical engineer from Lincoln.

Cox owns four Teslas: two Model Ss and two Roadsters. His goal is to let other people drive them—a sort of "Tesla evangelist" as Haar called him—because he wants people to get excited about electric transportation.

Haar said Cox has invited thousands of people to drive his cars. Among those was Seward County Commissioner Roger Glawatz, who rode with us.

You might recall reading how ecstatic I was about riding in a 2017 Chevrolet Volt last May. This was that experience on steroids.

This particular Tesla costs about \$87,000, not including options. There's no way I'll ever be able to afford that, but test driving one was a high that'll last me awhile.

On the other hand,

Tesla's Model 3 is now in production, selling for about \$35,000, which makes it almost equal in price to the Volt. Though the Model 3 doesn't have all the bells and whistles, it's one step in the company's plan to make electric vehicles more affordable and accessible to drivers.

"Part of the solution to climate change is going to be electric transportation," Haar said.

He said he likes to borrow the car whenever he can and use it as a tool to educate people about how electric engines can lessen one's environmental impact.

I think that's great, and I believe electric vehicles are a huge leap forward.

Thanks to those gentlemen for the experience. I'll hold onto that memory for years to come. At least until NASA lets me test drive a space shuttle...

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EMILY HEMPHILL/SCI

Ken Haar, a climate change educator and retired Nebraska senator from Malcolm, stands with the 2017 Tesla Model S he brought to Seward Nov. 1 for a Rotary Club presentation. Haar borrowed the car from Dr. Donald Cox of Lincoln, who encourages people to drive his four Teslas to learn about the impact electric vehicles can make.



Seward High Youth Rotarian

Name: Evan Nottingham

Parents: Dana and Danna Nottingham

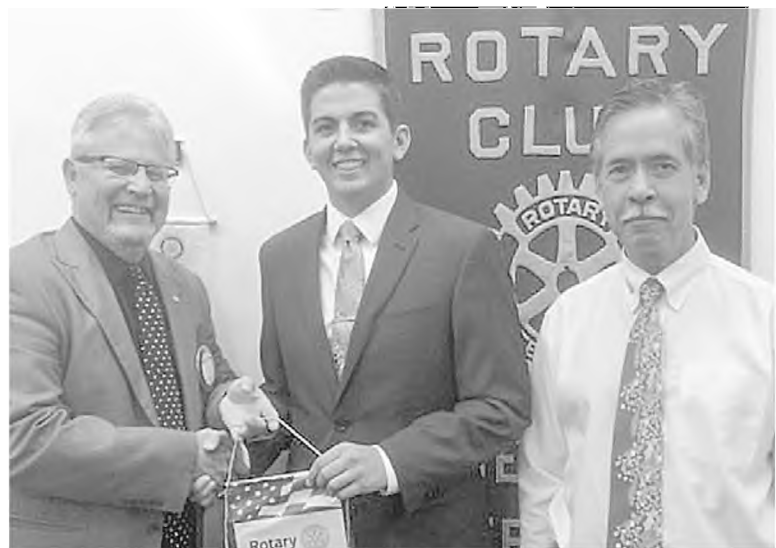
Activities: State Fair education contests, Doane College Tri-Mathlon, Academic Decathlon, quiz bowl, FBLA, speech, piano, Spanish, public speaking, Boy Scouts, SHS Ambassadors

Honors: National Honor Society; State Fair: first in math and science, second in history, third in grammar; first at 2015 Doane College TriMathlon; first at American Math Contest 2016 and 2017; third in Optimist state speech; second in VFW Voice of Democracy; Eagle Scout

Work: Syngenta

Church: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

Service Above Self: Volunteer work at



Seward High senior Evan Nottingham, center, pictured with Seward Rotary President Russ Sommerfield, left, and Tom Cardwell, Rotary district governor, was the October Youth Rotarian of the Month.

church, CASA Children's Christmas toy drive

College plans: Brigham Young University to major in chemistry with a minor in Spanish



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