



# N. Platte Noon Rotary raises funds for Global Grant hospital project

Facility serves 2 million people in Kenya, thousands of women with one incubator

By JOB VIGIL

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The North Platte Noon Rotary spearheaded a Global Grant project to raise funds for the Kakamega County Hospital in Kenya and has exceeded its goal.

The club offered to match individual donations up to \$5,000 and members raised over \$7,000 for a total of more than \$12,000 going toward the project. The estimated total to complete the project is \$130,000, with \$80,000 going to new equipment and \$50,000 to fund training. The rest of the funds will come from the Rotary Global Grant Foundation, other Rotary clubs across the district, Rotary International and from the Rotary Club in Kakamega County.

"We just have the best Rotary club ever," said club President JoAnne Hoatson. "We rallied behind the project, the district has rallied behind the project, and it is one of the six areas of service."

Rotary Foundation lists its six areas of service as promoting peace, providing clean water, saving mothers and children, supporting education, growing local economies and fighting disease. This project falls under the category of saving mothers and children because of the mortality rate in

heard the hospital serves 2 million people and thousands of women daily with one incubator," Hoatson said. "We just knew we had to step in."

The project came about when North Platte optometrist Kim Baxter and his son, Craig, now deceased, saw conditions in Kenya during an eye-care mission trip about five years ago. Craig told his dad he wanted to return to Kenya to help.

"Those who have been involved with this have been amazed that, with the many setbacks and challenges along the way, this grant request has been approved and the project is a reality," Baxter said. "It is truly a miracle, and we can look at many people who without their involvement and undeterred dedication, this project would never have seen the light of day."

Hoatson said from this point forward everything has to fall into place quickly, because plans are to begin working on the project in the spring of 2018.

"Training at the hospital in Kenya, as well as bringing doctors from Kenya to John Hopkins Hospital and purchasing equipment all has to happen very fast," Hoatson said. "What we're doing

now is getting all the money collected from all the sources because the project is contingent upon getting that to the foundation."

One of the key requirements of the project to acquire the grant from the Rotary Foundation was that it had to be sustainable long-term.

"Sustainability was the make-it-or-break-it piece of the grant," Hoatson said.

To help ensure that aspect, Baxter said, the Kakamega County Ministry of Health officials have partnered with Rotary on the project, committing "\$60,000 to help repair and refurbish the hospital building itself."

Hoatson said there will continue to be fundraising efforts to help the hospital continue to improve equipment and training.

Baxter emphasized the impetus behind the effort really belongs with his son.

"It wouldn't have happened without Craig," Baxter said. "No doubt, God has been at work through it all."

Hoatson said she believed Craig's spirit has kept the project alive throughout the process.

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## HOSPITAL

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Kakamega County, Hoatson said.

"(Project organizers) got it narrowed down to a hospital project when they



## Schmieding honored for 42 years of perfect attendance

Seward Rotary member Ken Schmieding has enjoyed perfect attendance every week since he joined the Seward Rotary Club over 42 years ago. He was recognized with for his perfect attendance again for the Rotary Club year at the recent Seward Rotary Club meeting Dec. 27 at the Jones National Bank and Trust.

At the luncheon meeting, Schmieding was presented with the J. Don Miller Perfect Attendance Award for having not missed a Rotary meeting all year.

"There were weeks when I had a conflict for our meeting, and I had to make up a meeting in Lincoln, David City or York," Schmieding said. "But I always made sure I attended a Rotary meeting within the time frame allotted."

"We are proud of Ken and his passion to be at the Rotary Club meeting every week," Rotary President Russ Sommerfeld said. "He is an outstanding example for all of us and we should learn from his longtime commitment to Rotary."

Longtime Rotarian Clark Kolterman praised Schmieding's dedication, as well.

"Schmieding holds the record in the Seward Club and has to be one of the top 'perfect attendance' honorees in the district. Rotary prides itself on attendance at meetings and Ken Schmieding leads by example," Kolterman said. "I know that even when he has been sick and in the hospital, he made the effort to make-up for a missed meeting."

"He is indeed dedicated to the Rotary goal of fellowship and service," Rotarian Shelia Beins said. "We are really proud of Ken for this accomplishment and wish him many more years of perfect attendance."

The J. Don Miller Perfect Attendance Award was established by the Seward Rotary Club to honor the late J. Don Miller, longtime Seward Rotarian, businessman and civic leader, who enjoyed Rotary and had perfect attendance from the day he started until his sudden death. An



COURTESY PHOTO

Rotarian Ken Schmieding of the Seward Rotary Club, left, was recognized and congratulated for his 42 years of perfect attendance at Rotary Club meetings and activities by Seward Rotary President Russ Sommerfeld.

engraved plaque honoring Miller lists the names of the Seward Rotary Club members with perfect attendance.



# Seward Rotary learns about protective military uniforms

Former Marine and retired Air Guardsman from Seward, Andrew "Andy" Hartmann addressed the Seward Rotary Club Jan. 3 on the topic of Military Protective Clothing and Protective Posture Uniforms (MOPP)-Mission Oriented Protective Posture uniforms. He was assisted by a volunteer who wore the protective clothing and gas mask.

Hartmann talked about the protective gear—which works for both gas attacks as well as nuclear attacks—dealing with nuclear fallout and radioactive materials. He spoke on the types of gases and symptoms from the harmful gases on humans. Hartmann discussed the parts of the uniform and demonstrated how the uniform and mask work.

He also commented on nuclear warfare, fallout and blast zones. All branches of the U.S. military have some type of training to use gas masks and similar uniforms for protection. Hartmann discussed the differences between the gases and the liquid gas.

He concluded the presentation with his personal experiences in the military. He was a Marine for two years and in the Air National Guard for 25 years in the Civil Engineer Squadron/branch and retired a Chief Master Sergeant E-9. He was involved in major activities and repair in numerous projects, in numerous



COURTESY PHOTO

**Andrew "Andy" Hartmann defines the parts of the protective clothing and gas mask uniform worn by Seward Rotary President Russ Sommerfeld.**

bases, working on such projects as the "Rapid Runway Repair" and was required to wear the gas mask suit while completing the repairs.

He distributed a handout description of the presented materials for the AFEM on

the MOPP uniform information.

Questions and answers followed and the living male model for the uniform was revealed to be Russ Sommerfeld, president of the Seward Rotary.



## Seward High Youth Rotarian

**Name:** Elijah Hackbart

**Parents:** Daryl and Susan Hackbart

**Activities:** Basketball, cross country, soccer, student mentor, FBLA, FFA, SkillsUSA, mission trips

**Honors:** Honor roll, athletic honors

**Church:** Hillcrest Evangelical Free Church

**Service Above Self:** Community service activities with church and school, Stuff the Cruiser toy distribution program

**College plans:** Southeast Community College-Lincoln for degree transfer, then University of Nebraska to become a woods/building construction/building and trades vocational education teacher



COURTESY PHOTO

Seward Rotary President-elect Todd LaVelle, left, presents Elijah Hackbart with the Seward Rotary banner as January Youth Rotarian of the Month.



# Kube announces candidacy for District 40 Senate Seat

Keith Kube from Crofton, is announcing his candidacy for the District 40 State Senate Seat in the Nebraska Unicameral.

Kube is a fiscally conservative, prolife candidate and a member



of St. Rose Catholic Church in Crofton. He is active member of the Crofton Community Club and chaired the Q125 History Book Committee. He has served on Boards of the Salvation Army, Rotary International, Yankton Area Concert Association and The Energy Committee for the National Association of Realtors. He is a member of the National Rifle As-

sociation, Ducks Unlimited and the Yankton Area Arts Council.

He was a former candidate for the 40th District seat in 2014, and like our president, believes Government must run like a business. This means investing tax dollars to reduce future expenses and not spending tax dollars that inflates bureaucratic budgets to unsustainable levels with little to show for it.

His top priority will be addressing the property tax problem in the state. "The property tax system is fundamentally unfair and persecutes the largest industry in the state, the farmers and ranchers," said Kube. With his career experience in taxes and finance, working with both rural and urban communities, he believes this solution requires a strong business background to

expose, address and fix this unfairness.

Born and raised on the family farm west of Crofton, he attended The University of Nebraska on a track scholarship and graduated with a B.S. in Civil Engineering with a minor in Economics. He worked as process engineer in energy and environmental areas and also as an investment banker and international management consultant. He has authored two books on business and has a weekly commentary on WJAG radio covering principles included in his books.

Check his website: [www.keithkube.com](http://www.keithkube.com) for his positions, commentaries, book reviews and follow him on Twitter (@keithfkube) and on Facebook.





## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

### TODAY

• **Head Injury Survivors Support Group** — 6:30 p.m., Goodwill Industries, 1111 S. 41st St. Groups for survivors and caregivers and family members. For information, call 402-231-1933 or 402-231-1927.

• **Noon Enthusiasts Toastmasters** — Noon to 1 p.m., Iowa Western Community College, Looft Hall Room 010. Guests are welcome. Call Terry at 712-325-3353.

• **Military Family Support Group** — 7 p.m., First Congregational Church, 36th and Harney streets, Omaha. Group is for any family member, significant other or close friend of military or civilian assigned overseas. Call Kathy at 712-292-1312 or Diana at 712-292-4138.

• **Harlan Alzheimer's Association Support Group** — 7 p.m., Harlan Senior Center, Eighth and Laurel Streets. Call Alice at 712-755-2757.

• **United Support for Amputees** — 1 p.m. For amputees, family members and friends. Call Maxine at 712-644-2955.

• **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 712-328-5522.

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

what happened to the explorers.

• **Midday Optimist Club** — Noon, Golden Corral, 3103 Dial Drive.

• **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 Floyd 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 engage-

ment 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.

• **Mills County H.O.P.E. Helping Oncology Patients Excel Support Group** — 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Glenwood Public Library Annex, 109 N. Vine, Glenwood. Patients and caregivers

welcome. Share and hear information about cancer issues. Call 712-527-9699.

• **Pregnancy Loss and Newborn Loss Support Group** — 7 to 8:30 p.m., Methodist Hospital Cancer Center Library, 8303 Dodge St., Omaha. Call 712-354-4016 or Health Touch One at 712-331-1111 or 800-273-3737.

• **Share & Care** — 7:30 p.m., CHI Health Missouri Valley Community Memorial Hospital, 631 N. Eighth St., Missouri Valley. Support group for cancer survivors. Call 712-642-2784.

• **Vietnam Veterans of America** — 7:30 p.m., American Legion Hall, 716 S. Fourth St.

• **Poetry Club** — 6 to 7 p.m., Council Bluffs Public Library, 400 Willow Ave., Meeting Room 2D. Discuss poetry; inquire at the reference desk for books. Call 712-323-7553.

• **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., 133 W. Broadway. 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

• **National Active and Retired Federal Employees Chapter No. 449** — Noon, Madison Avenue Hy-Vee. Open to the public.

• **Elks Lodge TGIF Dinner** — 6 to 8 p.m. Call 712-323-2589 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 lindajeanescott07@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., Rebelions, 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.

### ONGOING

• **UNMC Ice Skating Rink** — University of Nebraska Medical Center, located east of 42nd Street, midway between Emile Street and Dewey Avenue on the north side of the Michael F. Through Feb. 4. Sorrell Center for Health Science Education building in Omaha. Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays noon to 10 p.m. Sundays noon to 8 p.m. Admission is \$7, includes skates. Cash or credit card only. No checks or debit cards. For more, check Facebook, call 402-559-0697 or go to [unmc.edu/cfhl/activities-events/skating.html](http://unmc.edu/cfhl/activities-events/skating.html).

• **The Ice Rink at Midtown Crossing** — 3409 Farnam St., Omaha. Through Feb. 25. Open Thursdays and Fridays, 4 to 10 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, 1 to 10 p.m. Closed to the public Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. \$5 admission fee with proceeds going to The Salvation Army. For more, go to [midtowncrossing.com/events/the-rooftop-rink](http://midtowncrossing.com/events/the-rooftop-rink).