

# The SCC Challenge

Fall 2021





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# The SCC Challenge

FALL 2021 - VOLUME 26, No. 1

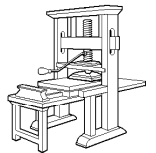
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*On the cover:* The Health Sciences building on a unseasonably warm December morning as the skyline delivers another beautiful Nebraska sunrise.

**Published each semester by journalism and photography students  
at Southeast Community College**

**[www.sccchallenge.com](http://www.sccchallenge.com)**



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# Lincoln Dorm Construction to Begin Soon

By Caitlyn Schuette

LINCOLN - The wait is finally over! After years of inquiry and support from both students and staff, SCC's Lincoln campus is finally getting its very own residence hall.

The residence hall's construction had its stamp of approval from The SCC Board of Governors

Currently, SCC-Lincoln is in the design phase of a projected 250-bed residence hall which will cater to students' needs. The designer of the residence halls is BVH Architecture in Lincoln.

Two student surveys, one internal and one that was external, showed that ongoing students felt it was important for the college to have a residence hall.

"In 2017, 30 percent of surveyed students said they would be very likely or moderately likely to live on campus, roughly 900 SCC-Lincoln students who were in this category," clarified Lincoln Campus Director Bev Cummins.

These surveys were the final push to get a plan in motion for the dorms, Cummins said.

It's important for SCC-Lincoln to have a student residence hall, Cummins believes.

As she explained,

"There are students who may choose not to attend SCC-Lincoln due to the lack of residential housing."

The construction for the residence halls will begin this spring, around March of 2022.

Cummins states, "Residence halls students are often more engaged in college life, and the more engaged students are in their college experience, the greater their chances for success."

The dorms will provide students with a safe and engaging alternative for students looking for a more traditional college experience.

Cummins further adds, "At SCC-Lincoln, we have a very diverse population of students ... and living on campus provides a safe, engaged and affordable option for students."

The expected completion of these dorms is for the fall semester in 2023.

The student dorms will be located on the east side of the school towards the parking lots and trees.

As part of the design, walking paths through the trees so it will be easier for students to walk to other residence halls.

Cummins explained, "We plan to make the whole campus walkable, so it feels like a real college campus."

Building the residence

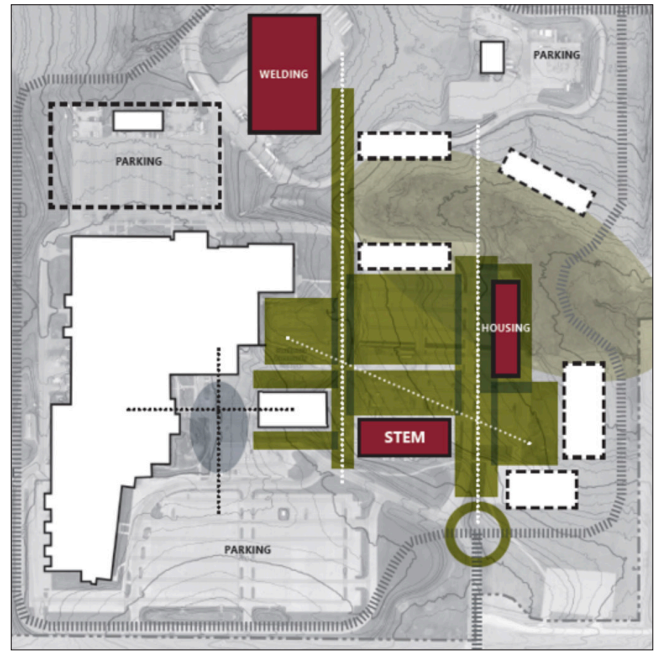


image contributed

**In the next few years, three new buildings are planned for the Lincoln campus (in maroon), including the campus's first dorm.**

halls is the first step in that direction of students being able to walk to class from their dorms.

"This is all still a work in progress and has not been finalized," stated Cummins regarding the specific details of the new dorm.

The residence hall will be co-ed.

SCC is planning on doing gender-specific floors for the dorms but is willing and able to have conversations with students.

Cummins says the college is open to gender-specific or gender-neutral settings, but most importantly, the goal is for it to be based

on student choices.

Cummins summarizes, "We want students to feel comfortable in these spaces."

Southeast Community College's other locations in Milford and Beatrice already have their residence halls, but SCC-Lincoln's residence hall won't be homogeneous to their apartment-style dorms.

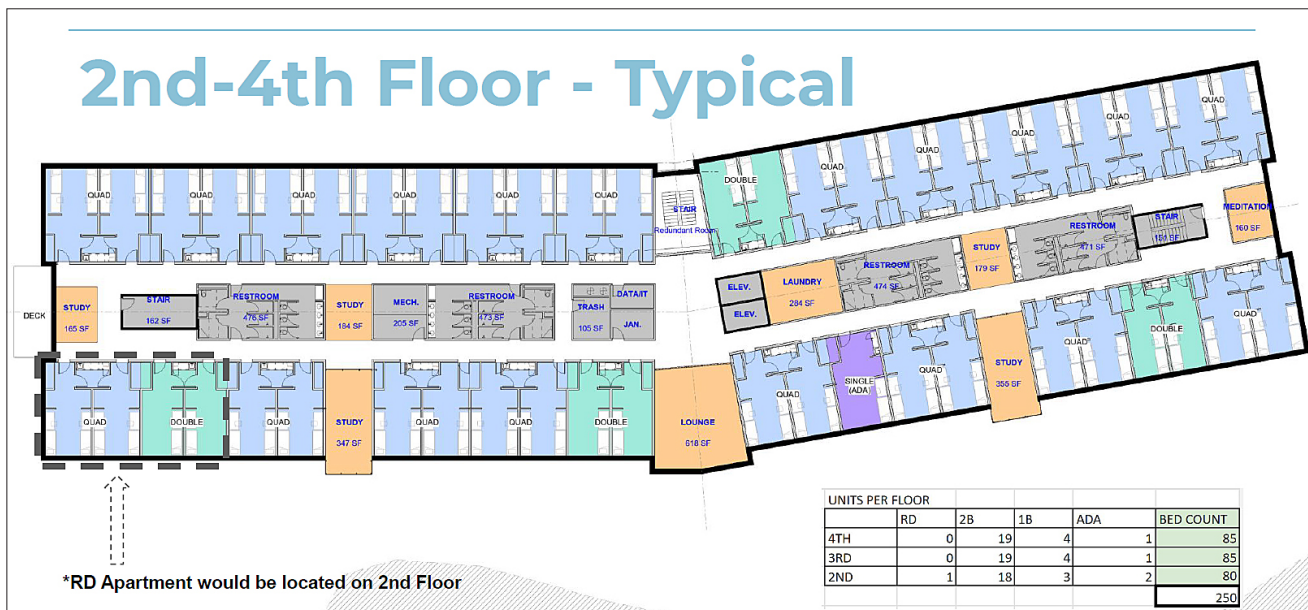
"They have a very different, unique style," described Cummins of the future Lincoln's dorms.

The first floor of the residence halls will be open to everyone on campus. The reasoning behind this Cummins

**continued on page 6**

# Lincoln Dorm, continued

## 2nd-4th Floor - Typical



\*RD Apartment would be located on 2nd Floor

image contributed

The dorm to be built on the Lincoln campus will have four floors and include an interactive space on the first floor for campus residents and commuters. Construction will begin in the spring semester, with completion expected before the fall of 2023.

### continued from page 5

explains, is “We want to provide interaction between students who live on campus and students who commute.”

Cummins envisioned, “The first floor will be open and airy with lots of windows that brings everyone into the space.”

The first floor will comprise a gaming space, workout area, a convenience store, bike storage and a kitchen.

Cummins jokes there will be a “kitchen if students want to get together for Friendsgiving or just cook. There will be space for that.”

The second and third

levels of the residence halls will be the student dorms and are locked off just for residents.

The dorms located on the second and third levels will either be single or double rooms.

The single rooms give the students more space and privacy, but will be more costly than double rooms.

All the rooms will include a bed, closet, and desk, and each room, no matter single or double, will share and be connected through a kitchen space.

The kitchen will include a counter, kitchen sink and microwave, and there will be universal

bathrooms for the residents to share that are easy to access.

In the halls, there will be lots of communal spaces for the students, not just a room. Each floor will have a laundry room, lounges, deck and numerous windows.

Finally, it will incorporate a dining hall for the residents that entails a robust breakfast, lunch and dinner.

The 250- bed residence isn’t the end goal for SCC-Lincoln’s plans, but a starting point to see demand.

Cummins reassured, “If we need more, we will make more.”

Overall, “The focus of the residence halls is to become a community learning together on how to adult,” stresses Cummins.





# Nebraska Hall to Become a New Student Union for Students in Milford

By Mitchell Yosten

MILFORD - Big things continue to happen at the Southeast Community College campus at Milford.

The Nebraska Hall renovation is one of the many construction projects across campus.

“The goal of the renovation is to create a student union and a student support center, similar to but much smaller in scale to what they’re doing at the Lincoln Campus,” said Milford Campus Director Ed Koster.

Koster said Nebraska Hall is jam packed full of history.

The building was originally built in 1920 and was used as a hospital for the Soldiers and Sailors Home for World War I veterans.

The college took possession of the building in 1941 and turned it into the main residence hall and cafeteria.

Students at Milford lived and ate there from 1941 until 2019 when the residence hall was decommissioned following the opening of Prairie Hall.

The building is right in the middle of the campus, which makes it a prime spot for the epicenter of the college that is the union.



images contributed

**Nebraska Hall will be renovated to become the new student union and student support center. When completed, the storied building (see below as it appeared in the 1950’s) will resemble the illustration above.**

“This is a fairly large construction project on campus,” said Koster.

“The lowest level will be student union space and the top two floors will be student affairs, admissions, registration, finan-

cial aid, business office, tutoring and so forth,” he explained.

The estimated cost of the renovation is set at \$5.5 million, which is less than the \$13.1 million for the diesel technology

building or \$8-9 million for each of the new residence halls.

As for the beginning of construction, it won’t be long.

“We do have some conceptual designs and the basic floor plans,” Koster said. “The architect is just starting construction drawings.”

The crew is planning on breaking ground shortly after the first of the year in hopes to have the project wrapped up before May of 2023.

Koster said the new space will be a great addition to the SCC- Milford campus and help guide students towards learning and success.



# Accreditation Renewal Preparation Underway

By Hailey Dewitt

Accreditation is something that few people know much about, but is especially important to schools and higher education institutions across the country.

Shawna Herwick, Administrative Director of Accreditation, Institutional Assessment and Planning at SCC, explained that accreditation is “a continuous improvement process that colleges and universities participate in to ensure that there is quality education experience.”

When asked why it is so important for Southeast Community College (SCC) to receive accreditation, Herwick says, “it says to the public that we meet a certain standard.”

By meeting this standard, it also opens the door other things such as participating in the financial aid program and also assisting students who wish to transfer to other institutions. Being accredited by the same institution as other schools

also makes it easier for students to transfer after their time at SCC.

SCC is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), located in Chicago, Ill.

HLC is the largest institutional accreditor in the United States and is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation to accredit colleges and universities.

Herwick explained that there are five standards (criteria for accreditation) that have to be met in order for an institution to receive continued accreditation.

The first one is mission. This means the college must have a mission statement. And by having that, Herwick says it “guides their operations, everything we do at the college.”

SCC’s mission statement is “The mission of Southeast Community College is to empower and transform the diverse learners and communities of south-

east Nebraska through accessible lifelong educational opportunities. The college provides dynamic and responsive pathways to career and technical, academic transfer, and continuing education programs that contribute to personal, community, and workforce development.”

The second standard is integrity. This includes aspects such as having policies and procedures, academic integrity in the classroom, having human resources available and also financial resources available.

The third standard is having quality in both teaching and learning.

This is important because it shows “the college is investing in the student experience,” says Herwick.

The fourth standard is evaluation and improvement, which essentially is “assessing the student experience,” says Herwick.

The last standard is planning and resources for the future. This encompasses aspects of how the school can keep improving different aspects to continue to provide a high education and quality student experience.

SCC gets re-accredited every 10 years, and the next accreditation date is set for April of 2023.

President Paul Illich is ultimately in charge of the accreditation process, but both students and faculty play an important role in the process as well.

Certain programs at SCC also have a specialized accreditation. This specialized accreditation helps with licensing and standards and gives these programs a more focused review, rather than just an overall view of the college as a whole.

Faculty is constantly helping with the accreditation process.

Herwick says, “part of the accreditation standards note that faculty support students, provide a quality learning experience, and are constantly assessing how students are learning.”

Students also contribute to the accreditation process. Students can participate in clubs, such as student senate, and that “gives students a voice,” says Herwick.

SCC is always looking to improve in any way that they can so that their students and staff receive the best experience possible.

Herwick says, “That is at the heart of accreditation. Always learning, always growing.”





# Bright New Addition on Campus

**By Samantha Christiansen**

**BEATRICE** - Brett O. Bright joined the Beatrice campus in September to fill three roles: vice president of program development, the new campus director and athletic director.

Bright's previous home was with Hutchinson Community College, where he served as vice president of student services.

He has been in the athletic department of several campuses since 2002 and brings an array of experience.

He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from East Central University in Ada, Okla., and

recently earned his Education Specialist degree in Leadership Administration from Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kan.

He will oversee bringing new programs to the curriculum as well as focus on the Beatrice campus facilities.

In addition to his academic attributes, he will also oversee the athletic department's vast array of sports offered through the campus.

When asked about how the transition was going, his answer was quick and simple: "I feel I am giving each position to the best of my ability to be the best for each avenue."

Bright claims his major challenge thus far has been to make sure the



**Brett Bright**

campus and departments he oversees have what they need.

Since the pandemic, there seems to be a shortage of staff or staff that is able to be present on campus, and he looks forward to seeing everyone return.

Bright hopes this will be his last career stop and is able to add as much value to the legacy of SCC as he is able.

He said his passion is teaching, and he looks forward to creating a lasting impression on the minds and halls of each of the campus he has the privilege of working at.

Bright is located at the Beatrice campus but has duties at all SCC campuses and encourages his staff and students' involvement or questions.

He encourages involvement from those who may need his assistance and wants to be quick to lend a helping hand.

## New Biotechnology Program Kicks Off

**By Mitchell Yosten**

**LINCOLN** - New pathways are opening up for high school and college students in Nebraska. This semester marks the first semester that Biotechnology is being offered as a program at Southeast Community College.

"This is huge for us," said Misty Wehling, the co-director of Biotechnology at SCC. "We're small but growing."

Tracy Niday, who is the other director of the Biotechnology program,

is excited as well.

The number of students has increased dramatically since biotechnology was just a concentration of classes within Academic Transfer.

"There are 20 college students in the program," said Wehling. "In the Ag/Bio pathway at The Career Academy, there are 26 more."

Just a few short years ago, there were 12.

Wehling describes biotechnology as "The intersection between science and business."

Once someone has developed a product or a service, it turns to the business side.

Wehling used the COVID-19 vaccine as an example to explain the program.

"Oftentimes, there are a lot of laws involved, like getting approvals for things from the government," she said.

"In the process of developing the program, we went to all of the science companies in the area to find out what skills and knowledge they want their employees to have,"

said Wehling.

She added that like many other industries, biotechnology is in a labor shortage.

"One of the things we did learn from the students that were in the [biotechnology] concentration that started earlier is that indeed they all do get jobs," Wehling said.

There are also scholarships available to students to pay for schooling and provide a part-time job to help students achieve success.

The full set of courses  
**continued on page 10**

# Three New Instructors for Milford

## Jason McCormick

By Caleb Brown

MILFORD - Teaching at a community college brings many rewards and challenges, says new Milford English instructor Jason McCormick.

As McCormick tells it, “I grew up just outside of Denver, but my family moved to the mountains in my senior year of high school.”

He moved to Nebraska in August of 2019 and started the PhD program at UNL in 2020.

He says he has had many jobs besides teaching, “27 jobs in all,” he reports.

According to McCormick, “I’ve been employed

in retail, a cook, bartender, casino employee and prior to teaching, eight years in marketing and advertising.”

As an undergrad, he struggled and initially dropped out, which he says gives him empathy for other students who struggle.

“I know school can be challenging for some students, and I struggled too,” McCormick says, “so I try to use those memories to make things better for my students.”

He ultimately earned his undergraduate degree in English from the University of Northern Colorado and then moved on to New York, where he



Jacon McCormick

was accepted to a renowned MFA program.

As McCormick explains, “The New School was the only MFA that accepted me, but I was shocked because they are well known.”

Following that, he earned another master’s degree from Hunter College.

The typical day for McCormick starts out at five in the morning with a cup of tea, a bowl of cereal and several minutes of yoga to relax. He teaches two to three classes per day and spends his time between classes either grading papers or working on his doctoral class, which he attends one night per week.

“My typical day lasts about 13-15 hours,” McCormick states.

McCormick’s dream job is right where he is at this time in his life.

“I love SCC, and I feel very connected and appreciated here,” he said. “Teaching is so special to me. I hope by being in this environment, I am adding to the college in a positive way.”

When discussing challenges facing the education systems today, McCormick’s response was “Oh boy! There are a lot of things.”

When looking at K-12 education, he talked about how years of trying to develop a standard for teaching is difficult because people’s experiences throughout their lives are so different.

One main strategy that McCormick uses in teaching his students is time management.

“Many students just look at deadlines day to day and don’t look ahead during the week to plan their time,” McCormick said. “The Google calendar is like my best friend.”

“Hard work for me is spending time getting to know my individual students, their strengths and their weaknesses,” says McCormick.

He talked about how everyone has to take an English class in college, but finding specific interests of each student can make the class more enjoyable.

## Biotechnology, continued

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for the biotechnology program will be offered on the Lincoln campus.

“You can take a lot of your gen-ed or general science classes... in Beatrice and some of them even online,” says Wehling.

“The biotechnology program courses are hybrid, where lectures are online and labs are in person,” she explained.

As for what students can do after graduation with a biotechnology degree, Wehling explained, “When a student gets a

job, they are probably going to be entering in a technician position.”

“They are going to be helping with things,” said Wehling. “If they stick with the company long enough or continue their education, there’s a lot of opportunities for moving up.”

With help from college advisors, another goal of Wehling and Niday is to make future education pathways clear.

“We want this to be a stepping stone for them to keep going,” said Wehling.



## Robert Stokes

By Alexander White

MILFORD - For anyone who has ever thought that a life on the road, always moving and getting to see the whole United States from behind a windshield, was calling them, then Robert Stokes is the man with the plan.

Stokes is the new Professional Truck Driving instructor on the Milford campus, bringing a wealth of experience.

He started driving trucks when he was just fifteen, living on the farm. His father started him off on a nine-speed and that number quickly went up from there.

He also spent 25 years as a medic in the Army, after which, he retired and took the job as a Professional Driving instructor at SCC, where he wants to place a huge importance on teaching safety when operating a big rig.

“Our goal is to teach people to safely and legally drive commercial trucks,” he said.

He will also be teaching students how to maintain the trucks and keep them safe to drive on their own, not only for the driver, but also for others out on the road.

The professional driving program at SCC is an eight week-long program with lectures and four weeks of highway driving and backing accompanied by an instructor.

To sign up, students



**Robert Stokes**

must be of at least 18 years of age, and if they want to work in interstate commerce, they must be 21.

If both of those boxes are ticked, then students

will need to take the SCC placement tests, have a commercial vehicle learner’s permit and partake in a medical screening, which includes a drug test, to secure their spot in the program.

If anyone out there is wondering if they may or may not be the right fit for becoming a professional truck driver, Stokes commented that anyone is accepted (with the prerequisites completed, of course), and the schools gives them the knowledge they need to start their traveler’s lifestyle.

As Stokes explained, “We’ve taught people from the age of 18 up to

the age of 50 who want a career change.”

Just because this job has the perk of traveling and seeing the world by interstate and highway, that doesn’t mean that it’s an aloof and carefree one, he advised.

There is a growing need for truckers in the time of COVID-19, and while the program will welcome anyone from any walk of life, Stokes implores any student interested in joining to have an open mind.

“There’s a lot more to trucking than you think,” he said. “Think of how all the products in stores get there.”

## Kerry Raile

By Garrett Oswald

MILFORD - Kerry Raile, while not new to SCC, is a new faculty member at the Milford campus, where she teaches Principles of Management, Microsoft Applications and other business-related classes.

For 10 years, Raile taught as an adjunct on the Lincoln campus, but it was while teaching a class on the Milford campus as an adjunct when she said, “I fell in love with the campus, the students and the town.”

Raile was born and raised in Benkelman and attended Chadron State College where she earned her Master’s of Business Administration degree.

She said, “Chadron State really solidified the fact that I wanted to be a college professor because of the small class size and the positive relationships I had with my instructors.”

When asked about how she was inspired to become a teacher, Raile said, “I wanted to be a teacher since I was a small child. I’ve always had the ‘gift’ of being able to lead people in understanding complex concepts and have the constant drive to help others.”

Raile talked about how her teaching philosophy is very in tune to fit each individual student’s needs. She believes everyone learns differently, and she



**Kerry Raile**

tries to allow each student to learn in their own way.

To allow everyone to learn in their own way, Raile described her classroom environment as a “relaxed, open learning environment.”

**continued on page 17**

# Lincoln Business Program Adds Two

## Maryjan Fiala

By Caleb Brown

LINCOLN - Teaching at a community college level brings many rewards and challenges for new SCC business instructor Maryjan Fiala.

Fiala first went to college at Wayne State College in Wayne, where she earned a scholarship to attend the school and planned to become a lawyer or high-powered business executive.

“I had big dreams but was lost as a college student,” she explained.

“After my freshman year, I left my scholarship behind to come to Lincoln, where I bounced from SCC to the University looking to find my way,” Fiala said.

Fiala eventually graduated from Peru State College with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and a Master’s degree in Organizational Management.

She also earned a Master’s degree in Adult, Occupational, and Continuing Education from Kansas State University.

“I found education almost by accident,” Fiala said.

“I interviewed for a job managing an adult education learning center with the local community college and left knowing that I wanted to spend my career working in higher education at the commu-



Maryjan Fiala

nity college level,” she explained.

Fiala has been working in a community college environment for more than twelve years, and

this is her seventh year teaching business full time.

As a business instructor, Fiala’s days are filled with teaching, advising, grading and planning.

She spends most of her time throughout each day focusing on educational materials and student’s outcomes for each class she teaches.

“My students are the reason that I do what I do,” she says.

“As a teacher, I am passionate about helping my students achieve their dreams, and I feel like I get to be a part of that everyday teaching in a

community college,” she states.

She says she is driven to help her students find success and feels “that my passion comes through in my classroom presentations and in my one on one conversations with students as I help them navigate their course work and career paths.”

Five years from now, Fiala hopes to still be teaching at Southeast Community College.

“As corny as it sounds,” she says, “having come full circle, once a SCC student and now a member of the faculty, it really feels like home.”

## Marlyce Carlson

By Jeanine Akamba

LINCOLN - #lifelong-learner, #dogrescuemom, #blessed, #teacherforlife; these are the hashtags new business instructor Marlyce Carlson defines herself by.

Carlson grew up on a farm outside of Laurel and was very active in high school activities.

She graduated from Northwestern College in Orange City, Iowa, with a degree in elementary education and business education.

Carlson taught both elementary and high school and enjoyed both.

Carlson states, “My first teaching position

was at Oakland-Craig Public School in Oakland, Nebraska.”

She was at Oakland-Craig for eight years, where she taught multiple business classes and enjoyed working with many different extracurricular activities.

Some of these activities include middle school volleyball, sponsoring the junior class, the speech therapy team, one-act plays, and traveling to Washington, D.C. with the Close-Up group.

After this experience at Oakland-Craig, Carlson went on to move to Lincoln, where she began teaching in the business department at Lincoln

High School.

She says, “I was fortunate to be able to teach several classes such as accounting, information technology, applied eco-

continued on page 13



Marlyce Carlson



# Herwick is New CIT Dean

By Kate Carmichael

LINCOLN - Caleb Herwick has been the construction, manufacturing, electronics and Computer Information Technology Dean since Sept. 20.

Originally from Wisconsin, he originally came to Nebraska to continue his education.

After he went to a four-year college, receiving his

bachelor's degree, he then went through Southeast Community College's CIT program, later becoming an instructor in that program for three years.

Some of Herwick's hobbies include talking about and participating in sports, fishing and four-wheeling.

As program dean, his duties include collaborating with the directors of

his respective programs to make sure that the curriculum reflects what students will be facing in the real world.

"Not only are we accounting for what students need to day, but also looking down the road," Herwick stated.



Caleb Herwick

## Carlson continued

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nomics as well as other courses."

She also led the LHS work experience program, which allowed her to go into the business world each semester.

Lincoln High School, the oldest public high school in Lincoln, is culturally diverse and offers many classes, activities and clubs for students.

During her 26 years teaching at LHS, she worked with the TeamMates program, Educators Rising club and served as the business department chair.

Beginning in 2011, while teaching full time at the high school level, Carlson began teaching as an adjunct for Southeast Community College.

She states, "Sometimes, I would teach an evening class in the class-

room, and other times, I would teach an online course."

They are very fond memories for her, and she says, "I sincerely enjoyed teaching at the post-secondary level."

In the summer of 2021, she was offered a full-time instructor position in the business administration department at SCC.

So, after 34 years in a high school classroom, Carlson became a full-time instructor at the post-secondary level.

She says, "My time at SCC has been very busy and there are many new things to learn, but I am very happy to be here. I love my classes and working with the students."

Carlson thinks the department she works in is fantastic and appreciates the staff, whom she describes as "extremely

helpful."

She goes on to say, "I look forward to working with other instructors on the curriculum and gaining knowledge from my colleagues."

She says one of the highlights of her teaching career was presenting with a group of TeamMate mentors at a conference in Anchorage, Alaska.

She states, "It was a phenomenal conference and it was an honor to attend and be a presenter."

Outside of teaching, Carlson has been helping rescue dogs since 2001. She has taken in six different Pomeranians into her home over the years, and has two Poms at this time.

For her, she explains, "It's a joy to be able to give these little dogs a good home with plenty of room to run and play."

She also loves traveling and learning about other cultures. In fact, she has been fortunate enough to travel to several countries.

"One of my favorite experiences was attending a wedding in Sweden and taking part in a Midsummer's Day celebration," she says.

Carlson says that people who are interested in business should get out into the business world and see what goes on in companies.

She also advises people to keep up with current events and what is happening in the business world locally, nationally and internationally.

To that end, she says, "Become a lifelong learner, aware that there is always more to learn and that things are constantly changing."

# New Faces in Beatrice for Business, English

## Jonah Jordening

**By Faith Barber-Davidson**

BEATRICE - Jonah Jordening was hired as a business instructor at Southeast Community College in Beatrice, and he explains there isn't anything else he'd rather do.

Jordening teaches several business and economy classes at SCC. In addition to being a full-time teacher and advisor, he also works recruiting events with high school students and counselors.

Jordening grew up on a dairy farm in Daykin, where he spent his time farming. He explained that growing up on a farm with parents that didn't attend college, farming was supposed to be his path in life.

Outside of working as a teacher, Jordening loves to work in his lawn and garden, bird watch, watch sports such as football, golf or basketball, and he enjoys staying active. He has three bird baths and enjoys watching the birds come eat and bathe.

Although he says he lived a sheltered life, he attended his first years of college at SCC for an intermediate step from high school, knowing he didn't want to attend a university right away. After realizing how much he enjoyed school, he transferred to Peru State, where he completed his

bachelor's degree as well as his master's.

In graduate school, he worked at a call center Nelnet and later worked for Tabs 3 Software. In these jobs, he explained that even though these weren't his favorite jobs, he realized that when people needed help, he genuinely enjoyed being able to teach them.

Jordening was unsure what exactly he wanted to do in life, and past jobs didn't help in deciding what career he wanted to pursue. Although he noticed that in all his past jobs, there was always the love of learning and teaching.

He explained that his family also didn't tell him what to do or where to go in life besides working on the farm, and he knew that was the one thing he didn't want to do.

Once he came to the realization that he wanted to teach, he looked into working at SCC.

"Being a student at SCC myself, I understood the values at SCC, and I wanted that," Jordening says. "I wanted to show I come from a similar background, with free lunches K-12th grade, and anyone is capable of working towards a better future."

Jordening loves the work he does at SCC, where he is able to continue to learn all of the time. "Enjoying what I do is an



**Jonah Jordening**

understatement," Jordening says.

Being a part of SCC for a little over a year now, Jordening loves every aspect of his job, and there is nothing he wishes to

change.

Jordening says he is focusing on continuing to improve as an instructor, continue learning and gain more experience and knowledge.

Having this teaching job has affected his life in many positive ways, he says. He loves that he is getting paid to learn and have an impact on students' lives.

His goal is to continue to show students that they can also go far in life no matter what their background is.

"Dream big," Jordening says, "no matter how much money you have, you can do it."

## Lincoln English Dept. Comes Together

**By Logan Mankhey**

LINCOLN—For almost the last decade, the English department at Southeast Community College's Lincoln campus has functioned under two umbrellas – developmental coursework and college-level coursework.

However, this structure is set to change beginning with the spring semester.

Both departments will work together as one, under the supervision of current co-chair Phip Ross and new co-chair Amy Doty.

Former English Chair and current Dean of Arts and Sciences Carolee Ritter reflected on the good things brought by the split eight years ago and had encouraging things to say about what this merge may bring about for students:

"At the time, the biggest benefit was that we could really focus our attention on the needs of the students who were not college ready ... a little bit more specifically," she explained.

Ritter emphasized that

**continued on page 15**



## Heather Hoffman

By Hailey Dewitt

BEATRICE - Heather Hoffman is a new addition to the English department on the Southeast Community College (SCC) Beatrice campus.

So far, she is loving the time she has spent on the Beatrice campus, but there is more to Hoffman than just teaching.

Hoffman is originally from Missouri but moved to Lincoln in 2019. Growing up, she had many inspiring teachers in her life and that led her to attend Concordia University in Seward to receive her undergraduate teaching degree.

Hoffman has taught



Heather Hoffman

at many different ages, not just college. She has taught from middle school to college age, but she says that she feels like college is where she is supposed to be.

Last year, Hoffman

was an adjunct professor on both the Lincoln and Beatrice campuses, but when a full-time job opened on the Beatrice campus, she decided to apply and got the job.

For the fall semester, Hoffman taught English 960, Beginning College Reading and Writing; English 985, Intermediate College Reading and Writing; and English 1010, Composition I.

When asked what she wants students to take away from her class, Hoffman says that she doesn't want students "to fall in love with reading and writing," but rather "become more confident in their reading and writing

skills so that they can be successful."

To help her students achieve these goals, Hoffman includes group work and peer review into her class as well as a good amount of writing. She does not like to lecture and would much rather have a hands-on activity to keep her students engaged.

Hoffman says the most rewarding experience for her as a teacher is the "ah-ha moment when a student has been struggling with a concept."

When asked how she feels about the Beatrice campus, Hoffman de-

**continued on page 21**

## English Dept. continued

**continued from page 14**

upon reunification the department will be more focused on "common strategic planning goals between the two departments to streamline the experience for students so that they have a similar experience throughout their English classes."

It is expected that reunification will lead to a more efficient college experience for students and staff alike.

An Accelerated Learning Program (ALP) will be the focus going forward, according to Ritter.

"I think one of the most exciting things we've been doing, and I imagine this is just going to take

off... is something called ALP," she said.

"One of the initiatives we've been trying to do is to help students not have to spend too much time in developmental classes if they don't need to," she explained, and ALP is expected to help with that.

For example, if a student's placement scores leave them just shy of Composition I, that student will now be encouraged to take Comp I, but alongside their Composition I course, they will be able to take a support course.

Ritter said that together, this allows students who need a little extra support with their writing the opportunity to get

that support simultaneously with the college-level course, instead of spending a semester in developmental coursework first.

Ritter was equally enthused about the new team of Phip Ross and Amy Doty.

"I think it's going to be a great fit," she offered. "They've been working together for a while, and they work together very well."

"Amy has strong leadership qualities that I think will make her an excellent chair," she reflected. "They're very creative and collaborative people, so I'm excited to see what they'll be able to do together."

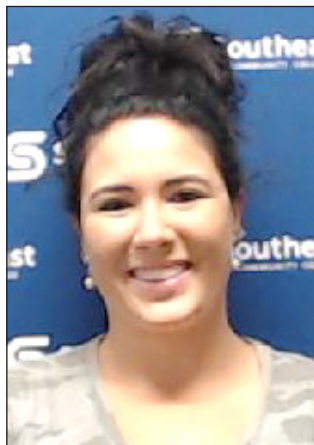
Upon this transition, Jeanine Jewell will be closing out her 15-year tenure at SCC and heading into retirement and looking forward to her next chapter.

"The department will miss her generosity the most," Ritter predicted. "Her door is always open; she will put everything aside to sit and talk with and support an instructor."

"She's just been such an incredible support for students and faculty in the department, in their ideas and their struggles," Ritter explained. "She has a really special way about her and we're really going to miss that."

# Timoney, Price Add to Math in Lincoln

## Alison Timoney



**Alison Timoney**

**By Ace McKinnis**

Alison Timoney has begun her first year at SCC as a Developmental Math instructor, allowing her to continue her passion of mathematics.

Timoney was raised on a farm outside of Surprise and attended Aquinas Catholic High School in David City, graduating in 2012.

After that, it was to Concordia University in Seward, where Timoney acquired her degree in Middle Level Math and Language Arts, as well as Secondary Math Education.

Her teaching career began at Scotus Central Catholic in Columbus, where she taught for five years while also attending classes at UNL to pursue her master's degree. Timoney graduated with her masters in Math Education in August of 2020.

After spending one more year at Scotus, she landed at Southeast. It was the first college that interested her and seemed like a great fit for Timoney.

Her uncle works for the Southeast Campus in Milford, and he informed her a math position would be opening up soon. She jumped on the opportunity and got the job.

She currently teaches Beginning Algebra as well as Intermediate Algebra and has begun to get a lot more comfortable as she settles in and figures everything out.

"The beginning was

a little tough," Timoney said. "Now that we're past the first couple weeks, it's getting a lot better."

Timoney has always had a passion for math and tries to make class as enjoyable as possible in order to get that across to her students, using plenty of examples and interacting with students as much as possible.

Both her mom and uncle are currently teachers, so she has been around the profession for a while.

Timoney said, "There is a lot that goes on in the background that students aren't aware of."

Teachers are respon-

sible for lesson plans, grading papers, helping students and a lot more that students don't see, she said.

When asked the most important quality for a teacher, Timoney said they "need to love what they're doing. If not, it's definitely translated to the classroom."

Timoney also enjoys working out, taking care of her cats and hanging out with friends and family. She is happy with her current situation and is excited to see what the future holds.

## Carson Price

**By Samantha Christiansen**

Many returning math students may recognize a new name to the lineup. Carson Price is one of the new faces gracing the halls of the SCC math department.

The Kentucky native has taken on instructing MATH 1150 and Statistics for the 2021 Fall semester.

This is his first year in Nebraska and instructing at the college level outside of grad school.

Price grew up and lived the majority of his life in Kentucky, and hiking and running are a couple of his outdoor hobbies.

He also enjoys studying French and is even taking an ASL course at SCC.

He is an alumni of Western Kentucky University, where he obtained his undergrad degree before completing his graduate studies at the University of Kentucky.

His specialty in math is partial differential equations. Logic and the abstract are what interest him about teaching math.

Teaching has been one of his life goals, and he says he is excited for this journey.

He taught at the University of Kentucky during grad school and is off and running. The biggest challenge he foresees



**Carson Price**

is the construction of the course content.

"Learning the best order of things is what I will learn most from this

**continued on page 17**



# New Advanced Phlebotomy Course Set to Return Fall 2022

By Logan Mankhey

After its introduction in the fall semester this year, Advanced Phlebotomy will be making a return next year.

The class is open to all students who have already passed (MEDT 1100) Procedures in Phlebotomy with a C or higher, not just Medical Laboratory Technology students.

As SCC instructor Leah Stamps, explains, “This will give [students] some more insight as far as what to expect in clinical studying such as the patients they’re going to encounter.”

“They’ll learn more about what tests belong in what tubes so that

they’re able to pick those out quickly rather than look everything up,” she added.

Students will also find that they’re able practice drawing in a wider variety of ways than they have in prior courses.

“We do a lot of scenario draws,” Stamps described, “so they’re not necessarily drawing the same person every time with the same vein; they’re drawing patients who are in wheelchairs or patients who are prone to fainting.”

For students interested in getting a hands-on experience, these scenario draws can provide a great opportunity, she said, and getting a chance to work through a multitude

of scenarios with differing patients creates the closest thing to a real-life experience for students.

Advanced Phlebotomy is a full sixteen-week course and will be available for sign-up once again in the Fall of 2022.

It is offered face-to-face, and students can expect to be working outside the classroom to make sure they are keeping up with and comprehending new content.

“It is a face-to-face class, but there’s a lot of looking into your notes before you get to class,” Stamps affirmed. “Our lecture time is review of

the materials, rather than sitting and listening to me lecture.”

This is not a required class for the program, but for students who feel like they would like to further advance their understanding and become more valuable to potential employers, this course should do just that, she said.

Stamps said it is an exciting new addition to the program.

Students who are interested should remember to keep this one on their radar as sign-ups should begin during the Spring 2022 semester.

## Price continued

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semester,” he explained.

His main key to set his students up is teaching the content, the symbols and why they are doing it.

The best advice he gives his students is to do a little at a time. He explains how a little bit over time added up is a lot.

Price suggests a good study plan is key as well as reading the text before class. This ensures the material the student is presented with is somewhat familiar.

His intentions are to provide the opportunities for the student to be successful, and he is eager to teach both the student with no knowledge of the content as well as the student who is refreshing their skills.

He explains that the best gift is watching the student that gets that “spark” when they get it and everything logically comes together.

In his free time, Price enjoys hiking, particularly in the mountains.

## Raile continued

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She talked about how that’s unique to her classroom and helps her teaching style and is part of her teaching philosophy.

When asked about what her favorite part of teaching is, Raile explained, “My favorite part about being a teacher is that I get to interact with so many different students and make a difference in their lives.”

Outside of the classroom, Raile enjoys snowboarding, horseback riding and reading. She also loves spending time with her children, grand-

children and spouse.

Raile hopes to teach a wider array of classes and looks forward to helping more students down the road.

She also recommends students to go to class as much as possible.

Raile believes going to class and interacting with teachers and other students is key to learning and helps students develop social skills. She said classes also allow students to learn how to advocate for themselves, which will help them down the road, especially in the business world.

# Fresh Faces for the Lincoln Campus

## Shannon Trippier

By Paige Davis

Southeast Community College (SCC) has welcomed a new instructor to help develop the new Occupational Therapy Assistant program.

Shannon Trippier has joined SCC to help in developing a brand new Occupational Therapy Assistant program on the Lincoln campus by teaching and observing classes as well as working on accreditation and curriculum.

"We are just starting to develop the program," Trippier said. "We're just starting the process of getting the accreditation and developing the curriculum."

"I get to sit in and teach a few classes," she said, "which is really nice because I get to determine the prerequisites and determine which classes would be a good fit for the program."

Trippier noted some of the steps she has taken to develop the curriculum and accreditation.

"I'm working with the dean of health sciences with the accreditation process," Trippier explained. "She's done it for other programs, so she's been a huge help,"

"I've also reached out to a friend from a different state and some other local program directors that have all been really helpful in giving me information on textbook

recommendations and what will work well for the program," she added.

Trippier started her career in North Dakota after receiving her masters before moving to Texas and then to Papillion, where she first heard about the occupational therapy assistant instructor position, where she is now starting her teaching career.

"As part of the accreditation process, I have to have teaching experience, so I am teaching in a couple of the other programs," Trippier said.

"Since I have a master of science degree in Occupational Therapy, I can teach some of the science courses," she explained.

Trippier discussed some of her favorite activities she did for her classes this semester.

"I had heart models brought in for the cardiovascular lesson and we did some other activities with putting blood flow in order using flashcards," Trippier said. "It helped them understand it a little bit more, so that was probably my favorite part of class so far."

After receiving her master's, Trippier has spent the majority of her career working in pediatric occupational therapy before coming to SCC.

"I've been mostly a pediatric OT, but I've also worked with hospitals and adults as well," Trippier said. "I've been doing occupational therapy

for about 20 years, but I've been wanting to do academia, which is why SCC is the perfect opportunity."

Trippier first became interested in occupational therapy when her mother recommended it to her in high school, which is when she decided to observe it for another class she was taking.

"I knew I wanted to do something with helping people," she recalls.

"I considered therapy and teaching and a few other things," Trippier said. "My mom recommended occupational therapy, and I had never even heard of it before. I observed it for another class, and I decided I liked it."

When asked about her favorite part of working at SCC so far, Trippier stated that the faculty and refreshing herself through teaching were her favorite things.

"All of the faculty I have met have been wonderful; it's a really good community," Trippier said.

"I really enjoy teaching too," she explained. "Refreshing myself on all the information has been really fun. I enjoy the feedback my students are able to give me being a new instructor."

Trippier also stated that she's excited for the feedback she will receive at the end of the semester from her students.



Shannon Trippier

"I'm really excited for the reviews at the end of the semester since it's my first semester teaching," Trippier said. "It helps to figure out how I can improve. I've already started tweaking what I'm going to do differently next semester."

Outside of teaching and developing the program, Trippier likes to spend time with her family being active and traveling.

"We like to spend time outside when the weather is nice," Trippier said. "My girls love to be outside and playing, and of course they enjoy some iPad and reading time as well."

Traveling is also important because, as she explains, "My husband is from England, so we like to travel up to North Dakota to visit my mom and to England to visit his family as well, which is something we get to do



# Mary Durham

By Jeanine Akamba

The biology department at SCC has a new face whose smile graces the halls.

Researcher and teacher of General Biology, Microbiology and Biology I, Mary Durham, is opening an important page in her professional career.

At a young age, Durham had a career calling in the biological sciences.

As she explains, “I was always interested in biology because I grew up on a farm with a lot of animals, so seeing how animals interact and how they are affected by different things like nutrition and microbes in the dirt pushed me in the direction of biology, and I ended up loving biology during my college and high school career.”

Already in middle school, Mary Durham was involved in special science projects, an interest that has grown over the years.

For her, it’s something ingrained in her nature to be both a teacher and a biologist.

“Because of who I’ve been all my life and what I’ve been around all my life,” she explains, “I’ve taught people in one way or another, for example as a leader of a 4H group with younger kids that I taught, or just as a community leader as a kid.”

It was after this experi-



**Mary Durham**

ence that the idea of pursuing a career in teaching germinated and matured.

After high school, Durham attended a very small university in Delaware, Wesley College. There, she studied biology, chemistry, and psychology.

She went on to earn her master’s degree from the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC).

“I had a master’s degree in biology with a research project on visual behavior in an animal called mantis shrimp,” she said. “I studied how their visual behavior changes under different types of polarized light.”

But she didn’t stop there.

“I also got my PHD at UMBC,” she says, “in genetics and evolution, and then I went to University of Nebraska Lincoln (UNL) for my postdoc where I studied biology education research.”

Her professional career officially began after post-doctoral work.

“I was at Doane for three years where I was a visiting assistant professor in biology,” she explains.

In her teaching posture, Durham wants to make biology more accessible.

“A lot of people are intimidated by science and biology,” she observed, “but it’s not hard when you get into it.

We’re surrounded by biology, and it happens in our bodies every day. So I want students to have a better understanding of biology.”

This is an approach she also takes in her research, where, as explained, “As a postdoctoral researcher I moved from lab research to educational research.”

Durham is also the author of several research projects, including the construction of an instrument that can be used to measure the frequency of educational practices in a field to evaluate outcomes.

Passionate about biology, Durham is also a

happy mother who enjoys spending time with her husband and two children and has managed to find her balance.

“Managing my professional and personal life has always been very important,” she says.

“It’s something that has always been one of the reasons I took this job here at SCC, because there’s not as much pressure to do research, to get grants, to publish and all that kind of stuff,” she says.

She defines herself in three hashtags as an active learner, science teacher and biologist and sums up her career path as 20 years of research by saying, “Without all the experience I’ve gained, I wouldn’t be as versatile as I am. And then I wouldn’t have the knowledge, experience and research expertise that allows me to teach the way I do and continually try to improve my teaching.”

She adds, “It’s about laying the groundwork for a successful career here and seeing where it takes me.”

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# New Additions for Culinary Arts, Food Service

## Abigail Hoch

By Lucila Craft

Abigail Hoch is a new chef instructor at Southeast Community College.

She currently teaches Culinary Fundamentals, Baking and Pastry Fundamentals, Purchasing and Intro to Sanitation and Safety. This is her first semester as a full-time instructor.

The opportunity to teach came to her while she was adjunct instructing for the culinary program last year. Hoch says she has her instructors to thank for inspiring her and helping her so much when she was a student in the program years ago.

As she is getting to know a lot of her students

this semester, she has been proud of the personal growth demonstrated so far this semester.

Hoch believes getting an education in Culinary Arts and having that on a resume helps students get their foot in the door at food service establishments.

In her personal experience, Hoch says, "I have been told I made it to the next step in the hiring process because I had the education."

To that point, she says earning a diploma or a degree from SCC tells potential employers that hard work has been put in to accomplishing more, offering skills and knowledge to potential



Abigail Hoch

employers.

"One of the many things I love about the culinary program at SCC is that it offers management courses in the hospitality industry," Hoch says about the opportunities

students will have outside the kitchen.

"Students can take classes that would help them navigate what they wanted to do in the industry either in front of the house or back of the house," she explained.

There are also options available to prepare students for the hospitality industry in general.

Hoch graduated with an AA in Culinary Arts in 2010 and a BA in the Hospitality Program from UNL in 2013.

Being a professional in this field has given her expertise in answering questions about specific menu items when she is

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## Kyla Stark

By Reece Odgaard

New to the Food Service Hospitality Program at SCC is instructor Kyla Stark.

As an instructor in the program, she teaches Basic Nutrition and Health Guidelines to students, mostly aspiring chefs.

Stark was born and raised in Nebraska and said that it was not easy getting her degree

She said that she went to UNL for her master's to become a dietitian and a nutrition expert.

Stark worked at St.

Elizabeth hospital, Lancaster Rehabilitation Center and as a WIC Dietitian at Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department.

In addition, she holds a Certified Lactation Counselor certification which allows her to help moms and babies with their breastfeeding journeys.

Stark started at SCC in January 2020 as an adjunct and said she "was very excited to move into a faculty position in August."

"My favorite thing about my job is definitely



Kyla Stark

the students," Stark said. "It's great to see the different personalities every day when I teach."

When asked about

her least favorite work relating to the job though, Stark's response was simple: "Definitely the computers," she said. "I'd much rather be doing hands-on work."

Stark also explained there are two main kinds of dietitians: culinary and healthcare provider.

Stark says she feels very comfortable where she is and looks forward to the years ahead.

In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two daughters, who are active in dance and gymnastics.

## ... and Long Term Care

### Linnea Detrick

By Ashley Jacobson

Adding a new face to the Long Term Care Administration program this semester is Linnea Detrick.

The Long Term Care Administration program, where students focus on day-to-day community-based services, delivers all of its classes online.

With no face-to-face classes, Detrick says her classes are more about bringing in videos and hands on material.

### Hoch continued

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dining with friends and family.

She says, "I am able to point out what someone may like based on how the food is prepared or how it is served."

Hoch has education and experience to help her out with that. She has worked in food service since she was 16 years old from fast food to fine dining and country clubs. It has been a service she said she loves to do.

But cooking and baking has been a part of her life from an early age.

Hoch has early memories of being in the kitchen with her dad as he made breakfast and dinner and loved being in the kitchen with her mom when she was baking.

At home, Hoch is find-

Detrick states, "I have hands on experience. I was in the field for about six and a half years, and it really helps students have real life examples that I am able to give to them."

Detrick started going to college and was a long-term care giver for six and a half years, but her life went a different direction.

She wanted to be in the healthcare industry as well as a teacher so she decided working at the college would be perfect.

She is excited to help

ing time to cook a little more now that she has a "normal" job with "normal" hours. She says her family loves to eat and try new things.

A family favorite has been Hacienda Real and Blessings Thai. She would like to try Good Evans Breakfast and Lunch and Casa Bovina soon and hopes for a good experience.

When asked what diners could expect from graduates in the culinary program at SCC, she says "Diners should expect their experience to be professional, delicious and creative."

And if there is one more thing, she wants others to know, "I am an optimist. I have hope for the future of this industry."

with these programs here at SCC because there aren't many in Nebraska.

Detrick says, "I took one of these classes when I was getting my license at SCC and was very impressed because it was such an in-depth class."

Her goal is to prepare students to run as well as operate long term care facilities and added that many don't know how much leadership it takes.

She said one of her goals is to help break down all the related the rules and regulations.

Detrick said, "As the healthcare industry is mainly females, we have

### Hoffman continued

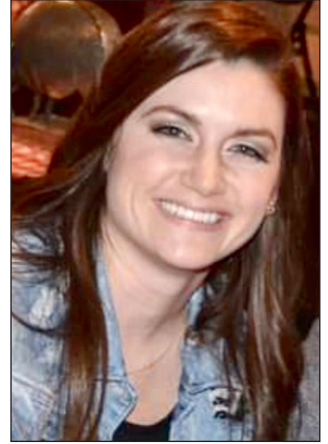
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scribes it as a "family atmosphere" and says "the small town is nice."

She also talked about how interesting it is to see so many students from different countries and various backgrounds, especially with the student athletes.

Overall, Hoffman says that she enjoys all the campuses, especially since the goals of each campus are the same.

Hoffman hopes that one day she can go back to school to get her doctorate, but right now, she is waiting to get some more teaching experience and has been experimenting with new ideas in the



Linnea Detrick

a mixture of both. With 15-20 students in each class, I am excited to get started with SCC and look forward to grow."

classroom.

Hoffman has several hobbies that take up her free time when she is not teaching. She loves to read books, one of her favorites being "Sense and Sensibility," by Jane Austen. She also likes to do crafts.

Other hobbies include watching the Great British Baking Show or re-watching "Downton Abbey."

Hoffman currently resides in Lincoln with her husband Justin, who teaches fourth grade at Faith Lutheran School, and her two children Rebecca and Isaac, who go to Lincoln Lutheran School.



# Neb. City Learning Center Moves to Bigger Building

By Ashley Jacobson

NEBRASKA CITY - As of last summer, the Nebraska City Learning Center has a new location, just a few blocks to the west on the same street.

The learning center is located at 1406 Central Avenue, on Nebraska City's main street.

The building, which was once a grocery store, was purchased a few years ago by Nebraska City Public Schools for industrial arts classes.

This year, SCC purchased the building because Meyer believed they "outgrew" the old location and needed an expansion.

There are six different learning centers in Platts-mouth, Hebron, Wahoo, Falls City, Nebraska City



photo by Joshua Whitney

**The Nebraska City Learning Center, above, moved to a new location with more space and resources.**

and York that work as an extension of the college to make sure residents of the service area are within 35 miles of a learning center or campus.

The Nebraska City Learning Center opened at the old location during the fall of 2016, offering credit as well as non-credit classes.

Meyer states, "We offer classes for people of all ages and a variety of topics, from babysitting

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# York Learning Center Welcomes New Coordinator

By Lucila Craft

YORK - Victoria Northrop has accepted a position and has joined the team as the new York Learning Center Coordinator.

She has been part of the team since July and dedicates her skills and ambitions to her position.

Northrop says she enjoys working with higher education and has been a public school teacher for 28 years. She continues to be engaged as a teacher with an online course at Concordia University.

She says helping students is her passion,

finding fulfillment helping students build self-confidence and becoming individuals.

Her days at the learning center are filled with responsibilities such as working to build new classes, looking for new instructors to broaden the base of classes offered and interacting with the community.

She is a York native and serves on different boards in the local area, so she says connecting with people and meeting their needs comes natural for her.

One of her goals at the learning center to raise

interest in leisure classes and student awareness.

Northrop says her experience is helpful for nontraditional students making the transition. She explained that was 28 years old when she returned to college and says she understands the support that's needed and can guide people individually through the process.

Northrop holds an AA from York College in York, a bachelor's in education with elementary and middle school level endorsements and an emphasis on gifted education from the University of Nebraska Kearney (UNK),

a master's from Doane University in curriculum and instruction, and a second master's degree from Doane in educational leadership. She also holds a Nebraska Administrators Certificate.

In her free time, Northrop loves to spend time with her grandkids and four sons.

"Family is my priority," she says.

Music also plays an important role in the family. Northrop sings at church, weddings and funerals, her husband and two boys are DJ's, and she enjoys listening to 70's classic rock.

# Parking Stickers Now Needed for Lincoln Campus

**By Faith Barber-Davidson**

LINCOLN - Parking stickers have come to the Lincoln campus.

The parking stickers are square and each has a number and a barcode that is scannable to identify vehicles to students here at SCC. These stickers are to be placed in the back windows of cars belonging to students and staff.

Safety and Security Coordinator Sam Loos says these stickers provide an extra level of safety and security at SCC.

Loos explains, "Whether there might be an accident in the parking lot, or a theft from a vehicle or something along those lines, we can scan to identify which student it belongs to."

The SCC-Lincoln

campus is aligning with the Beatrice and Milford campuses and considers these stickers mandatory according to Loos, although there is currently no fine or punishment so far for people without the stickers since this is the first term they've been mandatory.

Parking stickers are free to students so that it is easy for students to get one and so they are more likely to get one.

Dean of Students Theresa Webster says students haven't had an issue with the stickers.

"We did bring it to student senate," Webster said. "Their concerns were primarily cost (and) we discussed there would be no fines as we rolled parking permits out, so the students were really supportive of the stickers."

a.m. to 5 p.m., opening earlier and staying open later depending on classes.

"Just a couple weeks ago," Meyer explained, "we had electrical classes running from 4 p.m. - midnight to suit the schedule for second shifters from a local company."

"We are flexible and willing to offer classes when it works for the community," Meyer adds.

Meyers says that the learning center is always looking for ways to expand class offerings and meet the needs of the people and businesses in the area.

Webster said that there are no plans for designated faculty parking. The only designated parking would be the parking associated when there are dorms on campus.

When asked how these stickers helped parking at school, Webster explained that as enrollment increases, parking spaces decrease for students and staff. SCC wants to make sure that only enrolled students and employees are using the lots.

There are plans to include a designated

visitor lot for parents of children in childcare, Course restaurant or other visitors, but overall, the parking stickers help plan parking better, she said.

If cars are parked blocking entrances or blocking the road, if there are items in the car prohibited from campus, or if there is a traffic incident, these parking stickers make it easy to get in touch with the owner and have them move their car or notify them of the concern to fix it.

## Pandemic Dents Blood Drive

**By Kate Carmichael**

LINCOLN - The blood drive has had difficulty recruiting donors in the past, but COVID it just makes it harder.

"We've been struggling the last few years, then COVID hit and just made it worse," Mason stated.

The September blood drive collected 44 units, and the November drive collected 35.

Rachel Mason has been a part of the blood drives effort to recruit donors from Southeast Community College's Lincoln campus for 35 years.

This year, donors have been asking for appointments to help battle the spread of the COVID-19 virus to keep people from waiting in line

The Nebraska Community Blood Bank handles the donations, and SCC

provides the facilities, snacks and donors.

Precautions have been taken for safety with beds separated to provide more space between them, as well as being wiped down with cleaning supplies after every use.

Usually, the blood bank comes to SCC twice a semester, or one day a quarter for four hours due to the lack of volunteers.

Mason says the best advice that she can give to those that aren't so sure about donating, is to have everyone try one time.

"For as many students and faculty that we have, we should do hundreds [of blood donations] in my opinion, but I'm also a donor," Mason stated.

The next blood drive will be on Tuesday, Jan. 18, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. in the gym.

## Learning Center continued

**continued from page 22**

clinics to forklift operation and credit classes, too."

Most classes have a tuition attached, but Meyer says the non-credit classes are very affordable.

However, the ESL as well as the GED classes, which are offered at the learning center, are free.

As of last year, Meyer said the learning center had a total of 285 classes being offered at the center.

The learning center can also be rented out to businesses and organizations.

The office hours are 9

# Lady Storm Soccer Wins Region Championship

By Hailey Dewitt

BEATRICE - The Southeast Community College (SCC) women's soccer team is only in their second year as a program, but that is not holding them back from success.

This year, they were Region VI champions for the second year in a row and reached playoffs for the second year in a row.

Last year was a challenging year for the women's soccer team. Because of COVID, injuries and some other factors, their roster size was significantly smaller than Coach John Hakari had hoped for.

When asked what his expectations were coming into this year, especially after having such a rough season last year, Coach Hakari said that he reset his expectations to this season being their actual first year.

Assistant Coach Morgan Anderson, when asked what her expectations for this year, said that she wanted "to build off what we accomplished last year."

Anderson said the team accomplished so much in their first year, so they had a good foundation to build off.

They were Region VI champions both this year and last year, which means that they beat their rival school Central Community College (CCC). Beating Central meant

a lot to both the coaches and players.

Coach Hakari said it felt "amazing, especially as a brand-new program" to be Region VI champs again this year, which meant beating CCC.

Lexi Schroeder, one of the team-voted captains, felt the same as her coach about being Region VI champs again.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think we could be back-to-back Region VI champs," said Schroeder. "We have all put in so much work, and it's really nice to see the results from it."

Coach Hakari's play style is much different than what other schools play; he plays possession-based soccer.

"I always feel like we need the ball to score," says Coach Hakari, "and the other team needs the ball to score on us, and so why would we give them the ball?"

This style of play has proven to work for the team.

Coach Hakari has said how wonderful it is to have a sophomore class which has bought into the possession style of play.

When asked what Coach Hakari will miss most about the sophomore class, he said it would be their dedication and willingness to learn.

Coach Anderson had similar thoughts about the sophomore class.

"They are all like my little sisters," said Coach



photo contributed

## The Lady Storm soccer team celebrate a win.

Anderson. "I am going to miss the dedication, with all that they have gone through."

Schroeder, when asked how she would describe her team in one word she said, "We are so much more than just a team. Everyone has a place and a reason on our team, and without them, we wouldn't be Storm Soccer."

One of the biggest highlights for this program, both this year and last year, the coaches said, was making it to the playoffs.

Coach Anderson says, "It's amazing and it's pretty unheard of" for a first- or second-year program to make playoffs in their first year or two in existence.

Coach Hakari had similar thoughts on making it to playoffs again as well.

"It feels amazing," he said.

The women's soc-

cer team made it as the fourth seed last year in playoffs, and this year, the team made it as the third seed. There was even a point in the season this year where the team was first seeded in conference play.

The team is now in off season, after finishing season 5-10-2, and 5-4-1 in conference play.

The players are looking forward to getting better with this time off by working on "technical, tactical, and physical" aspects of the game and bonding more before the sophomore's graduate in May.

Overall, Coach Hakari and Coach Anderson said they are so proud of all this program has accomplished in the last two years.

Coach Anderson said, "They showed me how to be passionate about soccer again and rekindled my love for the game."



# Men's Soccer Plays Its Best Season



photo contributed

**Midfielder Filippo Colini of Verona, Italy, makes a play against Johnson County CC.**

**By Tim Welch**

BEATRICE - The SCC Storm men's soccer team had its best season yet and has no intention of slowing down.

Coach Alex Scheuler, who was hired in February of 2020 and is the only soccer coach in SCC's program history, leads the SCC Storm men's soccer team.

Coach Scheuler has been coaching for one-third of his life and started coaching when he was just 22.

Scheuler said the team is very young, and its biggest strengths this season were learning how to adapt and play well together.

He added that it is a very diverse squad with eight different countries being represented.

The Storm's biggest strengths this season, Scheuler said, were once the team's biggest chal-

lenges.

This year's team was left with only a few returning players from the past year and had to re-learn how to adapt to the college game, the coach said.

The Storm did a very good job learning how to adapt and communicate as a team this year, said coach Scheuler.

He said SCC's toughest opponents this year were any of the D1 teams because the Storm are still such a young D2 team.

The team is full of players with good qualities and skills, and Coach Scheuler said he sees really hard workers within the group who are good leaders both verbally and non-verbally.

The Storm had to deal with some tough losses this year, but did a good job handling them by being ready to respond during the following game, the coach explained.

# Storm Baseball Readies for Spring

**By Kobe Kritenbrink**

BEATRICE - After a series of fall scrimmages, the SCC baseball coaches said they are liking what they are seeing, but still have room for improvement.

There have been some ups and downs in this season so far, but they are just trying to get ready for the spring season.

Head Coach Dion Parks and assistant coach Tyson Parks said they are working their players extremely hard to get them in the position they want their players to be in.

The coaches have high expectations for this team because they believe they have a good amount of talent that they acquired this offseason.

They said they expect all the players to do well in the classroom, work hard in the weight room and work hard on the field.

Coach Dion Parks said, "So far I'm liking what I'm seeing from the team. Everyone has a great mindset and is keeping up the grades in the classroom, and then going hard in the weight room."

Parks said he also said he want player to keep the right priorities.

As he explained, "Family first, school second, and baseball third; nothing comes before family and school."

When players tend to understand what it means to be a student athlete, that is when Coach Parks says he notices that those are the players who also tend to be the most successful players that he coaches for.

The coach said that SCC has done a good job when it comes to recruiting new players for their team, and when looking to recruit a new player, Coach Parks likes to look at the positions that he will be losing from the year before.

Coach Parks said, "We tend to go for pitchers a lot; our main focuses are pitchers, catchers and middle infielders."

He said they love good hitters as well.

For the upcoming season, the team is expecting to have 16 returning players, 9 of them being starters. The Storm is also looking to add around 15 to 16 new guys as well.

Since this is such a brand-new team, Coach Scheuler and the Storm are looking to make some history by being the first SCC team to get a playoff win.

# Men's Basketball Off to a 'Solid Start'

## Kobe Krittenbrink

BEATRICE - The men's basketball season is young, but "It's been a solid start to the season," Head Coach Joel Wooton said.

The team currently holds a 6-6 record with double-digit wins over York College JV (84-64 and 106-80), Highland CC (70-65), Northeast CC (99-61 and 87-76) and Doane JV (85-66).

But most of the losses have been with a sin-

gle-digit difference: 76-80 vs. Johnson County; 71-74 vs. Allen County CC; 59-65 vs. Johnson County; and 91-92 in an overtime loss to Iowa Western.

Despite some success, Wooton says the players have yet to meet his expectations that he has set but are improving every other day and likes the progress he sees.

As Wooton explains, "It is a young team who will just keep improving."

Coach Wooton likes his team to stay in good con-

dition, so the team spends at least two days a week lifting during the season and four days a week in the offseason.

The team has put on 15 pound of muscle in the offseason, and Wooton said he is very impressed

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## Lady Storm



photo contributed

**Jordan Koehler of Johnson takes a shot against a Northeast CC defender. The Lady Storm is currently 4-7 on the season.**

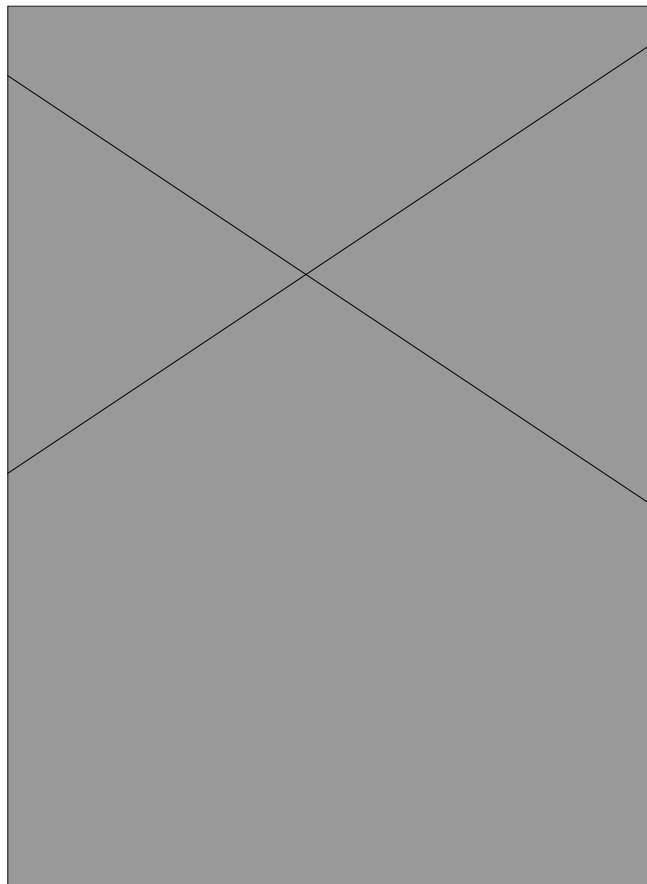


photo contributed

**Making a play past a Northeast CC defender is guard Tyson Lewis of Anderson, S.C.**

# Intramural Sports to Return for Spring

By **Kobe Kritenbrink**

LINCOLN - Intramural sports have been going on in SCC for thirty-seven years, but not this one.

Activities coordinator Rachel Mason said not enough players that signed up for intramural sports this year, and she was not be able to host it.

Mason said, "I believe we weren't able to get enough players for intramural sports this year due to COVID."

This is unfortunate, she said, because intramural sports are a great place to meet friends where everyone is wel-

come to play.

Mason is so supportive of intramural sports because she says because she enjoyed them so much in college.

For those who may be afraid of signing up without a team, intramural sports at SCC has something that they call the free agent forms, and students can be placed on a team where they are needed.

"The Free Agent form has been the best thing for this league because it has been able to get several kids on teams where they were able to meet new friends," she

explained.

Intramural sports have focused on two sports for the last thirty-seven years, five-on-five basketball and six-on-six indoor volleyball, and games are no longer than an hour.

Mason says, "I never let the games go longer than an hour because I know these kids are in college and can't spend too much time on intramural sports."

Games are just played for fun, and the team that has the best record at the end of the season will be rewarded with a t-shirt that says intramural sports.

She enjoys going and watching all the kids participate in the games, and while players use the honor system for fouls, she also will make the call if necessary.

Games normally take place in the gym, but if the gym is occupied, she will either reschedule the games or move the games to a different location.

Mason said, "I intend on there being intramural sports in the future as long as COVID has slowed down."

Accordingly, intramural sports are planned for the spring semester.



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# Criminal Justice Students Sought at Career Fair

By Paige Davis

ESQ - Southeast Community College's Criminal Justice Department held a Criminal Justice Career Fair at ESQ to allow their students some insight on possible careers in their future and possible universities for transfer.

On Wednesday, Oct. 6, SCC's Criminal Justice Department invited Lancaster County Corrections, Seward County Detention Center, Cedars, Army National Guard, Caesars Entertainment, Blair Police Department, Nebraska Department of Corrections, Lincoln Police Department and a few other departments to talk about jobs that are available to Criminal Justice students at SCC.

UNL Campus Police,

Creighton University Public Safety, Bellevue University, SCC Career Services and Nebraska Wesleyan were also invited to the fair to give information both on available jobs on campus and about their Criminal Justice programs and the benefits of working on campus.

All of the departments present at the career fair gave information about job openings, both part-time and full-time, and a few listed off some benefits of joining their department. Both Creighton University and the Army National Guard gave extra insight on student benefits.

"When you come work for us at Creighton Public Safety, you get to be a student for free," Dave Dibelka said. "It'll save



photo contributed

**A representative of the Seward County Detention Center speaks with Criminal Justice students about career opportunities.**

you a lot of money over the years; you can come work for us while getting paid and going to school for free. It's a win-win."

Similar to Creighton, the National Guard also has grants and student loan benefits.

"If you're not interested in doing the same thing Monday through Friday, we have other options," a representative from the National Guard said. "We can supplement your education. If you have some student loans, we can help pay them off to \$50,000 through the GI Bill."

Program Chair Rita Dondlinger went around the fair and asked a group of students about their

experience at the fair and what they learned by attending.

Students in the program had positive things to say about what they learned at the career fair.

"I think it was very informative and everyone representing where they work are very helpful," Criminal Justice student Tyler Rasmussen said. "I'm really interested in all three of the county corrections here."

"There are a lot of opportunities here that I didn't even know about," said Landon Chao, another student in the program.

"They give out a lot of information for sure," Chao added. "I'm pretty

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# Isemanns Overwhelmed by Generosity

By **Cameron Guenter**

The Dean of Arts & Sciences, Carolee Ritter, has organized a meal train to allow friends, family and faculty to support Dr. Jim Isemann, Southeast Community College's history professor, who was diagnosed with grade four Glioblastoma Multiforme on January 7.

Nikki Isemann, Jim's wife and SCC's political science and German professor, met with SCC's The Challenge to discuss how this meal train has helped during her husband's treatment.

Meal Train is an online service where participants can donate digital gift cards to restaurants or sign up to drop off a well-balanced meal for the family.

The Isemann's meal train has been running for nearly a year now and they have been overwhelmed with the gener-

osity of their peers.

Nikki says that on top of the delicious cooking and baking of others keeping Jim's spirits high, he has also been listening to audio books and bowling with other SCC faculty.

On Nov. 5, 2020, Jim had a seizure and collapsed during a class he was teaching.

Thanks to quick thinking, a student, a former military medic, caught Jim and began CPR under the impression he was having a heart attack while another called 911 and signaled an ambulance.

While in the hospital being checked out, they found that he had tumors on the left frontal lobe, the part of the brain that deals with analytical thinking and memory.

He was given a standard of care craniotomy, then underwent six weeks of chemo and radiation,

## Career Fair continued

continued from page 28

interested in LPD, and that's coming from a guy from Crete."

"People were nice enough to come here and talk about their careers," student Jaden Acevedo stated. "I'm really interested in UNL, so hopefully that's a place I get to go to."

The Criminal Justice Career Fair is an annual event at SCC and will be held next October.

More information about the programs and jobs can be found on the SCC Criminal Justice Facebook page under the video tab, where they went live to go in depth to talk with some of the representatives.

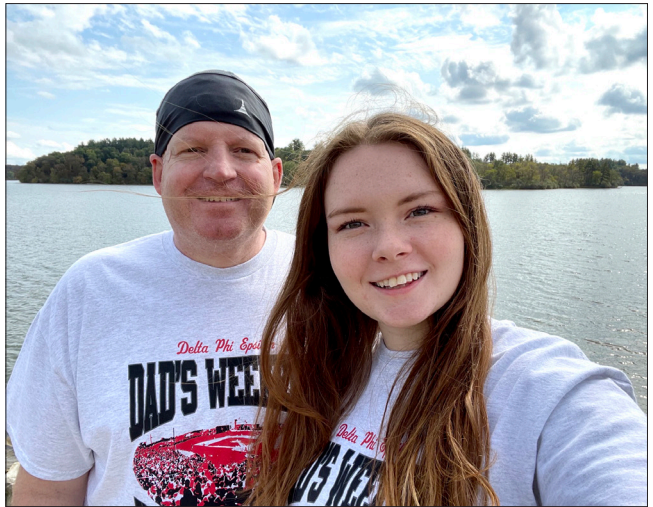


photo contributed

**Jim Isemann with his oldest daughter, Heidi. Jim is wearing the magnetic cap that is part of his treatment.**

and Nikki happily reports that his personality and humor have remained intact.

Nikki says Jim is doing well, now wearing an Optune electromagnetic cap since April, an array of nine magnets on four separate patches on the head which stop tumors from growing, and his doctor is happy with the progress of his treatments.

The Isemanns have been with Southeast

Community College for nearly 22 and 23 years, Jim beginning in 1999 and Nikki in 2000.

Nikki says, "We are so grateful to work in a community that has been so generous and compassionate".

Updates can be followed via Jim's Caring Bridge page, where Nikki documents updates on his condition along with how their family has been doing.

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# Group Empowers First Generation Students

By Samantha Christiansen

Southeast students have a new group amongst those designed to assist and uplift the student body.

Kelly Theisen and Kristlin Mogensen are master's degree students at the University of Nebraska and interns at Southeast Community College.

They are also first-generation students.

Based on their own experiences, Theisen and Mogensen decided to start Empowerment Group for First Generation Students, a support group for other first generation students which is designed to empower and offer resources to successfully transition students to graduates.

The organization is designed to offer many services for those who are the first in their families to continue their education beyond high school. The main focus is to help those who may not know how or need assistance to navigate the wide world of higher education.

As first-generation students, founders Theisen and Mogensen both found obstacles they had to navigate through. This sparked the idea that they could help and possibly leave a lasting impression on others. Their purpose is to provide students with self-efficacy and overall well-being.

The group holds activities such as peer group meetings as well as discussions on a variety of topics

that are valuable to students who may not have the support in their personal life since they are paving the way for their family as the first generation to strive to reach higher education.

Theisen states that about ninety percent of first generation students fail to graduate, and her mission is to change that statistic.

Those who don't complete their degree often attribute that to a lack of finances or not having social support.

She claims that with support most students can navigate their way through a scary situation either through support organizations or with the proper resources.

Every week, the group has been holding meetings and activities with topics covering individual strengths, identity exploration and how identity relates to success, as well as empowerment discussions on how to thrive in a new world.

Theisen and Mogensen bring their knowledge of the graduation process as well as navigating the process of continuing on to a bachelor's degree and the desire to obtain a postgraduate degree.

All students are welcome to partake in the group, and there are no requirements to become a member.

Meetings are on Mondays at 3 p.m. in room B25 at the Lincoln Campus.

# Republican and Democratic Students Come Together

By Alexander White

LINCOLN - Braeden Perkins is not only the president of the Student Senate at the Lincoln Southeast Community College Campus, but also the president of The Young Democrats and Young Republicans (YDYR).

YDYR's mission, Perkins says, is "educating students about voting and politics, with an emphasis on voting, having open discussions of political topics, and to encourage being open-minded to

opposing views."

A variety of past events that have taken place in YDYR are events to inform people about the power of the constitution, as well as help register people to vote.

The group has also held a fundraiser for SCC student veterans, hosted debate watch parties and even displayed a table for electoral college information, to which Perkins adds with a slight hint of sarcasm, "We all love the electoral college."

When asked about the overall future direction

for YDYR and just politics in general, Perkins hopes to see "togetherness; more open-minded individuals; less hate; (and) more understanding and accountability."

The YDYR, like all campus groups, is always seeking out new membership.

When asked what one must do to join, Perkins joked, "Do they have a pulse? If they have a pulse, they can join."

On a more serious note, Perkins adds that "there are no requirements to join other than

being a student at SCC. An interest in politics would be beneficial."

He says YDYR is not only a wonderful opportunity to learn, but also to educate others about our country and its laws.

Perkins hopes this will bring people together to, as he eloquently puts it, to "create a more perfect union."

Meeting times have been irregular, but any students who are interested can contact Perkins via email at Braeden.Perkins@my.southeast.edu.



# Student Senate Seeks New Members

By Caitlyn Schuette

LINCOLN - "Student Senate is not about politics; a lot of people get that confused," Lincoln Student Senate President Braeden Perkins stresses.

Student senate is a governing body led by the students on each SCC campus.

"Student senate deals with any issues that students have," Perkins summarized.

Student senate deals with various topics from COVID issues on how to protect students, to creating activities for students, to approving clubs, and minor issues like missing footholds in the bathrooms.

Perkins has been a student at SCC since 2019 a part of the student senate for over two semesters, one as its activity director and the latest as president.

Perkins first got introduced into student senate by reading one of the hand-out flyers on the tables that were advertising student senate and was interested.

He admits, "I joined this club to broaden my horizons."

Perkins claimed that what he has learned from being involved in student senate has added responsibility with balancing school and work is a great addition for his resume

and has helped him get his foot in the door.

Perkins believes student senate is important because, "It's the easiest way for students to voice their concerns, and not everyone feels comfortable to walk up to teachers or administrators and tell them what they have a problem with."

He explained that, like everything else, student senate has largely been affected by COVID-19.

COVID-19 has affected activity planning whereas before activities had to be planned a semester in advance.

A lot of these past activities involved being closer than six feet apart from strangers and didn't consider how masks would affect them, which has caused the past activities to be left on the back burner.

Perkins states, "We have to play catch up. We are only a couple of weeks ahead, and we have to schedule them as we go."

The student senate's popular activities according to Perkins was, "Kona Ice. We had Kona Ice come out to campus and every student got a free snow cone, and it was very popular, more people than expected."

One of the student senate's events included discounted tickets at Roca Scary Farm where students got discounted

tickets for \$10 dollars each and \$15 dollars each for any guests.

Additionally, the number of members of the student senate has decreased because of the pandemic. The student senate has around a total of twelve members with five executive members. The executive members are President, Vice President, Activities Director, Wellness Chair and Secretary.

To get a better understanding Perkins explained, "Activities and Wellness basically are the same things. They both plan activities for the students, but one is targeted more to the health and lifestyle of students like the blood drive. The other is more fun-based activities like Roca."

Student senate is always looking for new members and Perkins urges students to "come on down to any meeting."

To get involved, Perkins says, "All you have to do is come to the cafeteria on Mondays. That's where

we hold our meetings, and you can come as a guest, see how it goes along and see if you like it."

Next, he disclosed, "me or the vice president will give you a packet with all the student senate information and then all you have to do is fill it out."

Finally, Perkins exclaimed, "Then bring it back at the next meeting, then we will send over an email to your program chair, wait for the approval, and there it is: you're a senate member!"

Perkins declares, "There is a specific area of the meetings for non-senate members to bring up any issues they have, known as public comments. Bring the problem up to them, and we will put it on the agenda for the next meeting, discuss it and see what can be done."

Student Senate meetings are every Monday at 3:30 p.m. located at the cafeteria in the commons and is open to everyone.



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## Review

# Big Red Keno Passes the Test

By Caitlyn Schuette

LINCOLN - On every Nebraska football Saturday, Nebraskans from all over the state drive in droves to Lincoln to watch the big game and get the finest food at sports bars and restaurants. It's a Nebraska ritual.

Big Red Restaurant and Sports Bar, also known as Big Red Keno, perfectly represents the state of Nebraska and its people. Obviously, its name "Big Red" is a nod to our beloved Husker sports teams, and it has been a thriving part of the Lincoln and Nebraska's community since 1995.

My first time going to the Big Red Keno at 955 W O St. Lincoln was for my brother's birthday on a Husker football Saturday, so I got the full Big Red Keno experience.

We didn't miss the circular sign that says, "BIG RED RESTAURANT SPORTS BAR," but it was difficult to find a parking space for our car. Some of my giant family resorted to parking in the Menard's parking lot across the street.

The COVID-19 pandemic has given sanitation a whole new emphasis, and employees had to wear their masks, as did customers who weren't seated.

One grievance was that the tables were close-packed to one another which didn't follow the six feet away from all strangers. This not only could put customers and workers at risk, but also doesn't give customers a lot of privacy.

Walking into Big Red smelled like home-cooked meals that my grandmothers would make, causing me to instantly trust and eager to taste the food.

When we sat down, the surfaces of the black tables were cleaned routinely, and the black roller chairs were clean of any stains or marks. The brown, patterned carpet floors of the restaurant looked very clean without any dirt or food crumbs on it. As we were eating, waiters were constantly picking up dirty plates and cleaning up messes on tables so we could have clean and spacious table that was easy to eat on. Big Red clearly takes pride in their sanitation.

To add, the quality and quantity of the food at Big Red Keno exceeded my expectations.

Big Red offers their customers a variety of food from burgers, salads and soups, sandwiches, seafood, pasta, and dinners that include hand-breaded chicken and steak meals.



photo contributed

**Big Red Keno is located on West O St. in Lincoln.**

One of the appetizers we had was the Wisconsin white cheddar cheese curds, which were delicious way to start the dinner because of the golden bread crust and the authentic cheese.

One of the other appetizers that I would highly recommend is the Macho Nacho, which includes tortilla chips with either beef or chicken, nacho cheese, tomatoes, black olives, onions and the spiciness from the jalapeños. We got the choice to do half of the macho nachos chicken and the other half steak, and it was absolutely the best thing I ate all night.

The plate was at least eight inch rectangle plate and piled high with chips and the fresh ingredients; it created a tower on the plate.

One of Big Red's specialty burgers is called the "Big Red Challenge" that includes three half-pound lb. burgers totaling to 1.5 lbs. of fresh beef, topped with six slices of bacon. It also has the classic cheese, lettuce, tomato, and onion on it.

The challenge is that if the customer can finish it, they will get a free dessert. My brother ordered the "Big Red Challenge," but unfortunately didn't eat it all.

The diverse quality and quantity of food at Big Red separate it from other restaurants and sports bars.

Additionally, the customer service at Big Red was also excellent. Even though Big Red was packed, the waiters make sure everyone was satisfied. Our waitress was responsive and made sure everyone got

**continued on page 38**

*Review***“Annette” is a Worthy Musical**

image contributed

**Adam Driver and Marion Cotillard star in Leos Carax’s “Annette.”**

**By Nathan S. Worm**

Leos Carax’s latest film begins with the director himself sitting at a soundboard smoking a cigarette asking a band in the recording room, “So, may we start?”

The band on the other side includes Ron and Russell Mael, two brothers who also go by the name of Sparks and composed the film.

In the intro, we are guided through the streets of Santa Monica among a chorus sang by characters that will be central to the film.

The focus immediately is upon Adam Driver’s character, Henry, a shock comedian with the demeanor worthy of comparison to Dostoevsky’s Raskolnikov in “Crime and Punishment,” and his lover, Marion Cotillard as Ann, a renowned opera singer who daydreams and eats apples staring at herself in a vanity mirror.

Henry spends the early part of the picture motorcycling to shows where he performs stand up in a bathrobe. At times, the audience is amused and on his side, but as he takes his craft further/edgier and his life becomes more chaotic, the crowd fires back in what becomes a shouting match.

Ann becomes pregnant with a child whose name will become the title of the film as Henry has visions of parenthood and is frightened by them.

At one point, Henry has a nightmare that while he’s

drinking and smoking that he sits on the baby unknowingly.

A side plot to the film involves the other third central character Simon Helberg, who isn’t formally named but known as “The Conductor.” He conducts for Anne and feels inadequate in his role.

When Annette is finally born, Carax carefully and hilariously diverts the audience by casting the role as a puppet. Annette moves like a string puppet and displays wooden emotion and waddles like Charlie Chaplin.

Carax uses the character more as affect to enhance the performances of Driver and Cotillard so as not to have distraction from a child actor.

The story turns into tragedy starting when Ann is in a limo on the way to a performance and is watching a news story on California wildfires as an update comes across the screen and states that Henry, her husband, is being accused by several women for sexual misconduct.

Carax handles the subject matter cleverly by using topical problems in entertainment in the 21st century but also leaves us wanting to see how Driver’s character handles the situation.

Henry is essentially canceled, and he and Ann take a yacht trip to get away from the noise of the media.

During the trip, a rip-roaring storm is underway as Henry is fully clad in sea captain fashion, and the set that Carax chooses mimics impressionism and nods that can only be found in early silent films.

When Henry is outside drinking, insisting that Ann join him dancing, he pulls her out and loses control. It is not known whether Henry intended to kill Ann, but she vanishes into the waves nonetheless.

Henry, left to raise Annette alone, discovers her unbelievable gift as a singer and declares her a prodigy.

This sparks Simon Helberg’s character to intervene and help groom Annette as the next great international singer, and Annette’s fame rises through social media outlets and large concert venues globally.

The success is going smoothly until Helberg reveals his and Ann’s affair in the past, and the deranged and drunken Henry revolts by drowning “The Conductor” in a pool.

Driver’s character, a bit of a Caravaggio maniac type, is taken to the L.A. County jail, where he is to live out the rest of his days.

In the finale, Henry is visited by his daughter An-

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## Review

## Zucker's "Crusher": Heartbreak, Anger and Evolution

By Logan Mankhey

Jeremy Zucker's sophomore album "Crusher" delivers a Jeremy that many fans haven't seen before, resentful and irate from broken and toxic relationships.

Nonetheless, Zucker comes through with a stunning album from top to bottom, which should be attributed to its themes, the team behind him and his evolution as a vocalist.

The themes throughout "Crusher" are intense to say the least.

The album focuses deeply on the resent and anger of a past toxic relationship.

With that said, there is an unusual freeing feeling you notice as a listener, almost as if you're unshackling yourself from the things that hold you back.

It's a truly powerful thing when sound meshes with emotion and you can truly feel a hot-headed Zucker on this album.

As Zucker explained in interviews, he thought very hard about what it means to be a "crusher" and how it plays into the album's concept.

To personify such an abstract idea shows the creativity behind this album and its themes and concepts.

But what is an album without its music? Nothing, but that isn't a concern with "Crusher" because Zucker and his production team of some of his best friends and label partners did an outstanding job curating the sound for this album.

Quinn XCII and Ayokay, artists in their own respects for Visionary Music Group, a huge role in assisting Zucker with this album and taking a leap forward in production.

It's typical for Zucker to keep to himself and a few close confidantes when writing and producing, but he has somehow outdone his past work on the production front.

Smooth guitar riffs like those on the opening track "I-70" set the tone for the album in a unique way that just isn't comparable to his debut album "Love is Not Dying."

However, he was able to bring back a similar sound from his debut album with the new track "Deep End."

This track will have you screaming the chorus and dancing along to the extremely catchy pre-chorus build up. This is a song that you can feel the influence from Ayokay on very clearly if you're familiar with his music.

It's refreshing to see an artist embrace those around him to create something personal to him with some perspective from the outside. I'd imagine it'd be



very easy as a successful artist to live in an echo chamber and think your work is always perfect.

Lastly, Zucker's evolution as a vocalist plays perhaps the biggest role in tying this album together.

His vocal improvements from the days of his first EP's to his debut album left a little to be desired, but with "Crusher," listeners finally get to hear Zucker at full force.

Whether it's the scream-singing throughout songs like "Honest" and "No one hates you (like i do)" or the soothing falsetto on "Don't come over, i'm an a\*\*hole," it's an entirely new Jeremy Zucker.

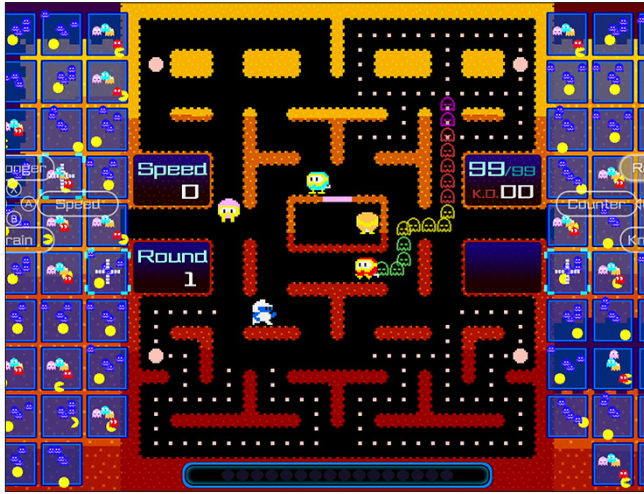
In the past, his lyrics and production have carried his work, but this time around, his voice is the focal point, and it does wonders for the ears.

He does this all while reminiscing in his roots with his soft vocals on "Cry with you."

All in all, each track is its own vocal showcase, yet they still come together to create the cohesive masterpiece that is "Crusher."

As a Jeremy Zucker fan since 2018, I have no problem declaring his sophomore album anything but a slump. It's without a doubt different from what he's put out in the past, and much (much) more intense.

Someone has to stand up and let others know that some of the scary things we feel are part of our growth, and Zucker does that better than anyone in the genre.

*Review***“Pac-Man 99” a Mix of New and Old**

**By Lucila Craft**

Let me begin by saying that I do not consider myself a modern gamer. Interestingly enough, I wanted to see what it would be like to revisit the latest version of a nostalgic childhood favorite: “Pac-Man.”

How far has the game come, I wondered. Will I experience the trends reformatting the gaming industry today?

Released in April 2021, “Pac-Man 99” is free to download for Nintendo subscribers on the Switch.

Right away, I knew this was targeting a specific audience. Luckily, here at my house, I am a mom of three full-time gamers.

At my disposal, I have the XBOX One, VR, Wii, a gaming PC and the Switch. Convergence or audience fragmentation usually pose no barrier.

I didn’t know how “Pac-Man 99” would be different, but I knew it would be.

Just as I expected, the video game lived up to the trends of the current video game industry. Off the bat, it’s a franchise title; it’s also interactive, multiplayer, online and the includes in-game purchases.

“Pac-Man 99” is still rooted to the original as you still need to avoid ghosts and eat fruit and power pellets to chomp on the vulnerable ghosts. The game is associated with familiar ideas but with modern twists.

Why wouldn’t they make a sequel to such a profitable game? Namco’s “Pac-Man” in 1980 was an instant classic.

Like many of the popular games today, this version

is an online multiplayer game. It functions on a battle royale mode, where the last one standing is the winner (this reminds me of the reputable “Fortnite”).

The objective of the game is to eliminate 98 other players from around the world in the same lobby.

Aesthetically, the arcade maze looks similar if you could ignore the busyness outside the maze: the 98 other players.

The online game is highly interactive and equipped with tools and resources that allow players to play out different possibilities and strategies, so you’re never playing the same game twice. The collaboration format makes it impossible to do so.

For me, that aspect of the game was a bit difficult because as I remember it, my success in the original arcade game was based on memorization of a route that proved highly successful in escaping ghosts and advancing to the next levels.

The interactive version of the game creates an intense feeling and the need for quick reaction.

Unfortunately, I was not that quick.

Strategy wins the game.

Every time Pac-Man eats a ghost, you send Jammer Pac Mans to other players. Jammer Pac Mans can slow down your opponents’ speed if they’re touched, making them an easier catch for ghosts.

Sleeping Ghost is another good way to attack opponents.

Sleeping Ghosts are a train of ghosts that you want to consume. Once consumed, the Sleeping Ghost attach to the closest ghost.

You’ll want to do this if you can get to a power pellet nearby, therefore sending a plethora of Jammer Pac Mans to overwhelm your opponents.

You can target certain opponents too by activating Hunting, Random, Knockout and Counter modes.

I have yet gotten used to the available options, as I’m still trying to get a hang of it.

I was feeling a bit overstimulated and was hoping I could play a solo version. But tuning it back was going to cost me – literally.

Players can spend actual money to play solo or with friends. Otherwise, the free version connects you with 98 other random players.

So if you want to play with a friend, you’ll need to

**continued on page 37**



# SCC Instructor Mixes Fashion and Fiction

By Ty Sookram and Robert Zimmerman

SCC's Cheney Luttich published her first short story earlier this year; it was the first short story she'd ever wrote.

As Luttich confesses that although she has written plenty of non-fiction, "I'd never written fiction before."

Two years ago, as she was browsing through calls for writing on Submittable, an online site that describes itself as devoted to "social impact professionals," Luttich found a call for stories that featured clothes as an essential element.

As someone who, earned a minor in textiles

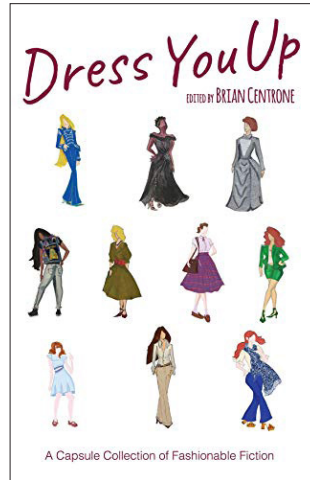
and the psychology of clothing alongside her M.A. in 19th Century Studies, this was up Luttich's alley.

"All my life, I've been fascinated by 19th Century women's clothing," she says.

The request was for stories that were 5,000 words or less, and her submission was "A Weekend with Imogen."

The collection, titled "Dress You Up: A Capsule Collection of Fashionable Fiction," was published in April.

Her story concerns a museum employee researching a dress and the woman who wore it. In the process of research, Luttich says, the woman



"does find something (that) triggers a suppressed memory."

The first part of the story, she says, she drew from first person experience, because she also did research in a museum, "but from there, it's an amalgamation," she says.

While this was her first work of fiction, she has written a lot of non-fiction and says that it plays an important role in her career.

"I think that writing has made me a better teacher," she says.

As she explains, "If we don't stay in shape, we can't show anyone else how to get into shape."

While "A Weekend with Imogen" was written for this project, she said that the publishing process has challenges.

"A lot of times these publishers are looking for a narrative that highlights an unheard voice or an overshadowed topic," Luttich shared.

The content that publishers are looking for must be well written and edited multiple times by the author before they're even sent to the editors of a publishing firm.

And even then, she explains, pieces will be modified towards the publisher's own agenda or maybe even highlight a specific tone in the story.

The specificity of exactly what to change and what to keep is strongly influenced the publisher, making for an interesting dynamic between editor and original author.

"Dress You Up: A Capsule Collection of Fashionable Fiction" can be found on Amazon and at fine booksellers everywhere.

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## SCC-Milford Concert Benefits Students and Community

By Mitchell Yosten

MILFORD - The McKenzie Jalynn Band performed at the Southeast Community College-Milford campus on Thursday, September 30.

The country and classic rock concert kicked off at 7:30 p.m., just in time to make it a night concert which lasted about two hours.

"This is the first time the Milford campus has had a concert since I have been here," said Stacey Harrifeld, the Student Life Coordinator at SCC.

This isn't the first time the McKenzie Jalynn Band has graced the Lincoln community.

"Our Beatrice campus had them play in 2018 and

had a really good turnout," said Harrifeld. "Around Lincoln, she's pretty well known."

The concert was open to both students and the public, concert-goers were encouraged to bring a non-perishable item to replenish the Student Food Pantry.

"Our Food Pantry gets used quite often, which is great," said Harrifeld. "This will be a great opportunity to replenish for the start of the fall semester."

Donation are always being sought, and it's not just food items that can be donated.

"It could be anything from personal hygiene items to laundry soap, anything that our students are in need of Harrifeld added."

## SCC Theatre Stages Two Performances

By Camron Guenter

As events begin to draw an audience again, Southeast Community College's year-round performing arts and its opportunities are beginning to make a comeback.

Dr. Jon Gruett, a full-time instructor of music and theater, is in charge of the performing arts classes, which include music, theater, choir, one act, theater production and classes about the arts.

These classes and performances are all available to sign up for on the SCC registration page or in person at the Continuing Education Center as credit classes and continuing education.

For the time being, there is no charge for signing up, and there is a scholarship given out every semester for participating.

Students can be in-

involved as cast, crew, tech or even a director, as one student is doing for one act next semester.

Gruett explains the benefit to this accessibility: "These performance arts are listed through continuing education to ensure there are enough artists because student enrollment matters."

For those interested in the performing arts, Gruett says, "I've seen it give students confidence, earlier employment in the arts from having participated, and oddly enough, several people have met and gotten married."

The fall before Covid-19, he had reached over 1,000 students in and around Beatrice with children's pieces as a part of an outreach program.

"There are going to be two performances per semester now that COVID has subsided a bit as well as one in the summer,"

Gruett said.

The first production of the fall semester, "Love at First Thought," was about a blossoming relationship among a group of four friends, and it featured the SCC theater production, SCC choir and community choir members.

That performance was on October 14 at the Academic Excellence Center of Beatrice.

The second performance of the semester, on Thursday, Dec. 9, includ-

ed two one-act plays, "Beautiful" and "A Bowl of Soup," and holiday music.

When asked about his hopes for the future of SCC's performing arts, Gruett says, "I hope to eventually see a building dedicated to the arts in Beatrice or Lincoln," but as of now, performances are held at the Continuing Ed Center, Beatrice Academic Excellence Center or the International Quilt Center.

## Pac-Man 99 continued

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pay up. There's a paywall designed into the game. Sneaky, sneaky.

The game is rated E for ages 6 and up, meaning that most everyone in the family can play with you. It sounds like a fun family

game, but you're going to have to open that digital wallet up first.

Overall, they did a good job implementing elements commonly seen in video games, and I am interested now in where Pac-Man will go next.

## Big Red Keno continued

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everything just the way they wanted it.

Big Red's prices varies similarly to their food. The meal I got was the Philly cheesesteak paired with a side that was only \$10.99 compared to the steak or chicken dinners with two sides that were up to \$26.95.

Big Red also includes a happy hour where alcoholic drinks are as low as \$4. Big Red Restaurant is the perfect place to go to for birthdays considering they give a free birthday dessert of a brownie sundae that is easy to share with the whole family or just for the birthday boy or girl.

Yes, the prices are a bit on the expensive side, but the quality and quantity of the food makes the price worth it.

## "Annette" continued

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nette a few years later, and this time, she has taken the form of a real girl, not a puppet.

Through mature and thoughtful song, they exchange discourse on their positions of their father/daughter relationship, with Annette reveling she doesn't care to ever see Henry again.

The film is Carax's musical commentary on celebrity status and the role played by paparazzi, social media and culture wars. The compositions by Sparks are minimal, and the songs ring more like stream of consciousness tone poems.

Carax, who is known for his arcane, surreal and often silly style, plays delightfully with his characters humanness. He makes Henry vulgar, selfish and a murderer, yet we are still compelled by the tragic figure.

The film has brilliant motifs and some of the cross-cutting and dual images are worthy of the greats from the silent era, clearly where Carax draws inspiration.

However, Helberg's character lacked depth and was underplayed to ill effect and unfortunately took away from stronger scenes involving Driver.

Cotillard sings beautiful as always and moves with measured body language of a well-trained dancer.

It is sort of a tradition for French auteurs to want to make a musical, especially on a Hollywood scale. This is Carax's first feature in nearly a decade and his first American film.

The audacious attempt was excellently done and may age well. Though there are minor complaints about the film, they can be reserved out of respect

The overall atmosphere lives up to the title of being the place to watch Husker games and sports in general. Everyone knows watching a football game at a bar is different experience, and Big Red has plenty of televisions broadcasting the latest NFL, college football, Nebraska volleyball and Olympic games.

Customers can also make requests for a smaller televisions. One couple was watching a symphony as they ate.

Overall, I understand that a sports bar is not every one's cup of tea, but Big Red Sports Bar and Restaurant proves that its much more than that due to its location, sanitation, quality and quantity of food, prices, customer service, and the overall atmosphere.

Big Red Sport Bar and Restaurant is truly a place for all Nebraskans to enjoy.

of such an enormous subject and genre of film being tackled.

The darkness of the Henry character shouldn't repel a viewer, but he should be examined like any literary villain. His own narcissism and toxicities reveal more truths about some factors of our own society.

Carax has made a film worthy to be seen again and hopefully revives musicals in the sense of how Hollywood used to make them with a nod to the predecessors from classical opera to the Mael Brothers.

I give Annette three and a half stars out of four.

## basketball continued

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with that.

Coach Wooten says has always seen a pattern in his successful players, who are mature not only mentally but also physically.

He says he likes to look for players who have a deep understanding of the game; he says, "You can't teach basketball IQ."

Wooten says academics for players remains a priority, so there is a study table four days a

week, and he has also provided all of his players with their own tutor.

When it comes to recruiting to continue to improve the team, coach Wooten always like to look for quick players at the point guard position and have lengthy players to help protect the paint.

Coach Wooten says he likes fast-paced gameplay and says he is a defensive type of coach, argues that defense leads to offense, and that defense wins championships.

# Lincoln Bands Returning to the Stages

**By Camron Guenter**

LINCOLN - Local bands have taken to the stages and begun to book shows in and around Lincoln more regularly as limited capacity restrictions are lifted in Nebraska

Here are some shows to look forward to in the coming months:

Friday, Dec. 17: Bass-driven emotional punk project No Functional Purpose makes their debut at The 1867, playing a 21 and up show with Baltic to Boardwalk, The World Without Us and Goosehoun with doors at 7 p.m. and music at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 18: Steady Wells will be playing an all-ages show at The Bourbon Theatre with Wavy Lady to celebrate Steady Well's EP release and Wavy Lady's debut. Door will be at 7 p.m. and music begins at 8 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 22: Rock band Pagan Athletes from Omaha will be playing an all-ages show at Reverb Lounge with Bad Bad Men and Nowhere Noise. Doors will be at 8 p.m. and music at 9 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 1: Omaha bands Sazcha, Specter Poetics and Dell Boca Vista will be playing an all-ages show at Reverb Lounge as well, with doors

at 7 p.m. and music at 8 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 20: Swaul Pope, an indie band fronted by singer and guitarist Paul Swope, will be playing a 21 and up show at Duffy's Tavern with Bear and the Beasts.

Swope says, "I just got back from playing a show at The Lyric Cinema in Fort Collins, Colo., and I am still riding that high. This past month has been great for all of us and I can't wait for the shows I am planning for this year."

Friday, March 4: Pop band The Real Zebos from Omaha will be playing The Slowdown's main stage with Noah Floersch.

Updates on times can be found on their Instagram, @therealzebos.

Gage Shiveley, a Lincoln resident who regularly attends local shows with his friends, looks forward to these shows, saying "It's great to see venues starting to fill my weekends up again. There are so many new bands that started in the midst of Covid that are finally getting to hit the stage and give us all something to do again."

Tickets for all of these shows can be found on the venues websites or bought at the door.

## New Skatepark Coming to Lincoln

**By Jeanine Akamba**

LINCOLN - A new skatepark is on Lincoln's horizon that will be much larger than the two existing Lincoln skateparks, thanks to the Lincoln Skatepark Association (LSA).

Adam Wall, a member of the project's fundraising committee and spokesperson for this non-profit association, explains that this skatepark is "a model of consultation and involvement of all stakeholders: skateboarders' associations, enthusiasts, and the city of Lincoln's departments."

"The goal," he said, "is to make Lincoln a regional center for a sport that has the power to keep people fit but also to be a positive force for change."

"Skateparks provide safe places to exercise and improve physical and mental health, which has a positive effect on academic performance," he added.

An ambitious project planned to span 38,500 square feet, "Our vision will include not only a world-class cement skate park, but also a swimming area, picnic tables/areas, green space and restrooms," Wall added.

Located on the edge of a diverse, low-income community, skateboarders of all skill levels will find

something to enjoy.

"Skateboarding is not only a sport enjoyed by young people, but a lifestyle for people of 50 years or more," he says. "It will serve children and families of all demographics. The goal is to find an area in need of urban revitalization and development."

Wall says the expected benefits of this skate park are various.

"It will bring in revenue by hosting national competitions that will attract professional and amateur skateboarders to Nebraska," he says.

The developers and the city of Lincoln are working together to find a suitable site.

As Wall confirms, "We are looking at several properties in the target area, including Peter Pan Park, Trago Park and other locations. The park will ideally be located in an existing or new city park in central Lincoln, easily visible from a highway or major thoroughfare."

The project, led by the Lincoln Skatepark Association in partnership with other associations and Precision Skateboards, has already raised \$18,000.

There is no timetable for completion, but once funding is secured, the park is expected to be built within 3 to 5 years.



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