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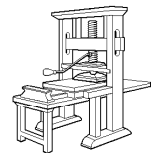
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On the cover: Connor Schutz from Elmwood wrestles a steer for the Rodeo team, which had its inaugural season this fall. Photo by Chad Greene

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Journalism courses for spring:

JOUR 1810 - Introduction to Mass Media

This class covers many areas of mass media, including music, movies, social media, books, media law, and ethics, while getting a taste of what it’s like to be a journalist for The SCC Challenge.

Woodhaven Hall to Open in January



Image from SCC webcam

The first dorm on the Lincoln campus, Woodhaven Hall, will welcome its first students in the spring semester.

By Evelina Rylska

LINCOLN - Woodhaven Hall, the first residence hall on the Lincoln campus, will open its doors for the spring 2024 semester.

The new dorm will have 135 rooms and 246 beds and two apartments for a residence life manager and an assistant manager.

"I think it is kind of cool for them as they get to actually be on the campus all the time," says Korena Varejcka, the senior director for campus operations.

The building includes a laundry room on every floor, so anyone living in the dorm will have access to the washer and dryer.

Each floor also has a lounge area with big-screen TV's, and the second floor will feature a ping pong table and a pool table. Students can get together, hang out and spend their free time with

friends.

The third floor of the building will have a kitchen where students can cook together, make up their recipes or just bake for fun.

Before moving in students get to choose their meal plan.

There are two options: a 14-meal plan and a 17-meal plan.

Great Western Dining, the current vendor, will provide meals in the main building for residents on weekdays, and Saturday and Sunday brunches will be available too.

Eventually, more dorms are planned. It is assumed that by fall of 2024 the first dorm building will be filled.

SCC athletes will move in the first week of January because they have games and tournaments that weekend. After that, anyone else who applied

can move in too.

With the 14-meal plan, housing fees will be \$4,285 for a single room in the Double style (which has two rooms). On the same meal plan, a double room in the Quad style is \$4,185. The 17-meal plan adds \$71 per semester.

The Double style has two single bedrooms with a shared kitchenette that includes a refrigerator and microwave; the Quad style includes two double

bedrooms with a shared kitchenette. The electrical load prevents student from bringing additional refrigerators and microwaves.

Each student will have a closet, a dresser, a desk, a chair, a Twin XL bed and a shared vanity area.

Further information can be found on the SCC website under "Student Life."

To apply for a dorm room, students can contact the admissions department, and it has a residence hall contract that students can review and sign. It is required to have proof of financial ability to pay.

At this time, there is not designated parking for the dorm building, but there are parking lots to the south and the west of the building.

For further information, contact Korena Varejcka at kvarejcka@southeast.edu.

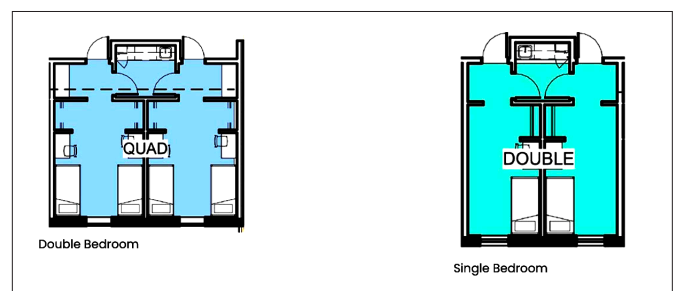


Image courtesy Clark Enerson

The new dorm will feature two different room options, the Quad, left, and the Double, right.

New Welding Center to Open Spring '26

By George Georgouloupoulos

LINCOLN – Southeast Community College (SCC) is preparing to satisfy the increasing demand for qualified welders and improve its welding program learning spaces with a new state-of-the-art welding facility on its Lincoln campus that is currently being built.

Bev Cummins, a Vice President of Student Services and Lincoln Campus Director, provided insight into a number of components of this building and how it can help the community.

Building the new welding facility is primarily intended to meet the urgent demand for qualified welders in Nebraska and the 15-county service region served by the county.

As Cummins indicated, “We need workers, and we need skilled workers. And the only way for us to be able to provide that is to get space that can do that.”

There are now capacity issues with the program, which runs in two cohorts from 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Cummins states, “There isn’t even enough space in the program to admit all of our TCA students. As a result, we can now double our capacity with the new



Image courtesy Clark Enerson

The new welding center on the Lincoln campus, as it will appear when completed, above, will great expand SCC’s ability to meet the industry’s need for welding instruction.

upcoming building.”

With two labs and over 80 welding bays on either side, “the new structure has an amazing layout,” according to Cummins.

All classrooms have direct access to the labs, and the faculty offices are in the front.

Cummins clarified, “Every classroom enters into the lab, so they can apply the learning concept, and then they’ll go in to apply it and then come back to the classroom to learn another concept.”

The structure also has classrooms reserved for industrial partners and a secure area for students to store their belongings.

The back of the structure has a fabrication bay with specialized machinery for bending and shaping metal.

With the help of business partners like Sandhills Global Technology Center and State of Nebraska ARPA grant, SCC is using funds from a number of sources for the building project.

Planning for the building has also been greatly influenced by environmental factors. Because the building is situated next to a sewage runoff area on the campus’s north side, rainwater runoff is carefully managed and doesn’t harm the surrounding

area.

Sustainability and energy efficiency are further enhanced by moving the welding department out of the main college building, which is equipped with insufficient fire suppression equipment.

The construction and groundwork have already started as part of the construction project. It is anticipated that the project will be finished by October 2025, and classes will start in the new building around January 2026.

Cummins stressed how important it was to involve teachers, students and other stakeholders in the

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Welding Center, continued



Image courtesy Clark Enerson

The interior of the welding center, above, will offer an abundance of space and natural light.

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design process extensively. To make sure the new welding building fits the demands of the program and its students, input and feedback were gathered and taken into consideration.

Cummins clarified

that faculty and students make the decisions about maintaining the most up-to-date machinery and technology in the building.

The program gets advice from industry partners on the knowledge and skills required in the workforce through annual meetings. This guarantees

that graduates are ready for the workforce and fulfill industry standards.

The program is anticipated to be significantly impacted by the new welding building, which will enable the institution to fulfill the increasing demand for welders.

It will also facilitate cooperation with local businesses for workforce training and enhance the learning environment.

Cummins also said, “The new space’s design encourages student participation and makes it possible for teachers to offer help right away any time a student needs assistance in the lab.”

When asked about any future plans, Cummins said the college “will probably do some events as we get closer to the opening

of the building, and it will definitely have a grand opening where we invite the community members out as well.”

The public will have the chance to interact with and learn more about the welding program during these events.

The building has been planned with the possibility of future extension in mind. Although there are no plans for expansion right now, the design’s flexibility enables it to be modified in response to changing requirements in the future.

With its ability to meet the need for qualified welders, improve student learning and encourage community involvement, the new welding building is sure to have an impact.



Image from SCC webcam

The construction site for the Lincoln Welding Center is well on its way.

New Dean of Students and Assistant Athletic Director Hails from S.C.

By **Evelina Rylska**

LINCOLN - Eric Small is the new dean of students and the assistant athletic director at SCC.

He was born in rural South Carolina.

Small, a first-generation college student, went to the University of Wisconsin for five years, where he majored in language arts and started playing football.

Small earned his master's degree and later on worked as a dean of students and athletic director in Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina.

He also served as head

coach for football and basketball in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and California.

In addition to those states, Small has lived in Washington, D.C.; New Jersey; and Wisconsin.

He says the decision to come to Nebraska was made with the help of God when the opportunity presented itself to be the dean of students and the assistant athletic director at the same time instead of separating these jobs.

Small says that he enjoys both positions equally because they go hand in hand.

"You have to be a



Eric Small

student in order to be an athlete in college," Small says, "So on the student side, there is a dean, and on the athletic side, there

is an athletic director."

Lincoln campus now has basketball, so Small is excited to be an athletic leader at the campus.

Community college level is Small's favorite so far after being involved in the high school and the university levels because he still gets the access to recruiting and high school, and he still gets to place them in university. He likes to be the middle person so he can get the best of both worlds.

Small and his wife have been together for 15 years and have a daughter, who is 10 years old and loves

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Pack is New Wrestling Coach, Student Development Director

By **Kohle Kerin**

BEATRICE - Southeast Community College has started a new wrestling program. Terry Pack, the new Director of Student Development and Men's Wrestling Coach, will lead the Bobcats in their inaugural season.

With a plethora of experience in administrative and athletic domains, Pack aims to enhance the students' academic and athletic experience.

When asked about being a director and wrestling coach, Pack said, "They walk hand-in-hand. It's all about ensuring stu-

dents get the experiences they need to graduate."

"My past roles, especially as the dean of housing, and my coaching experience at the Olympic Training Center have uniquely positioned me for this," he said.

For Pack, academics is paramount.

Pack says, "We stress classes first. If students falter academically, they don't travel. The ultimate goal? Ensure they graduate while also vying for national titles."

He also emphasizes the importance of fostering personal and leadership skills in athletes, stating

the necessity to understand that "we must be teammates first."

With dual roles come potential conflicts. But Pack, having held multi-

ple positions at different colleges, navigates through it, noting the essence of "time management and understanding the needs of everyone."

Pack has spent time coaching high school, youth and college wrestling. Most recently, he started the Legends of Youth program in South Dakota.

Pack identifies "performance anxiety" as the most significant challenge student-athletes face today, mainly influenced by the pressures of social media.



Terry Pack

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Small, continued

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gymnastics. He says she might do gymnastics on college level when she grows up.

Small's favorite memory from when he played sports is finishing the basketball season with a 24-3

record and going to state his senior year. His team went 18 games without losing.

As a person, Small describes himself as someone who would understand what people come from, give them grace and mercy and always look for

the opportunity to enhance somebody instead of tearing them down. He knows that people make mistakes, so he tries to show them the right way.

In the end, he says that he is who he is with the help of the Holy Spirit and is glad to be here in his

role as dean of students and the assistant athletic director.

Additionally, Small encourages students and athletes to stop in and see him if they need any help or support.

Pack, continued

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He believes in the power of perseverance, which he teaches athletes, ensuring they can navigate this digital age healthily.

Since Pack is an athletic director, he is well-versed in NCAA regulations, and his strategy for compliance is straightforward: "going after good, hardworking kids who can excel academically and athletically."

One big thing Pack has brought attention to in his

program is mental health.

He said, "We have weekly meetings discussing mental health, stress and coping strategies. The goal? Keep them informed and assure them we care."

Coach Pack values diversity, equity and inclusion. His approach is rooted in respect for each individual's cultural experience.

As the Director of development, he engages with students across campuses, striving to understand

and cater to their diverse needs.

Pack's measure of success is twofold: ensuring students graduate and molding them into good individuals.

He believes in cultivating a culture where the team thrives, emphasizing the significance of camaraderie.

Discipline and adaptation disciplinary issues are met with strict academic and athletic guidelines. But Pack also recognizes

the uniqueness of each wrestler, adapting his coaching style accordingly.

He proudly shares, "Over 80% of my athletes have gone on to earn four-year degrees at other colleges."

He says, "A solid foundation now will ensure success in the future. The vision for student development and wrestling remains the same: a wholesome experience and education."

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Beatrice Ag Adds Two New Instructors

Victoria Sales

By Gerardo Sanchez

BEATRICE - Victoria Sales, a faculty member on the Beatrice campus in the Livestock Management and Productions program, is very excited to be here.

Sales grew up in Orient, Ohio, and lived there for the first 17 years of her life. She has two older half-brothers and two older sisters, making her the youngest. When she was only seventeen years old, she moved out on her own to Haskell, Okla.

After graduating from Muskogee High School, she attended Oklahoma State University for two and half years.



Victoria Sales

She transferred and finished her bachelor's degree at University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Sales now lives in Alexandria with her husband and

daughter.

Sales chose this career path because it helps inspire people to be in agriculture for this new generation.

Sales said, "They learn life skills, and it helps them further down the road."

She said she knew she wanted to pursue this career path after transferring from Oklahoma State University, where she was originally going to pursue a vet degree specializing in Equine sports medicine. Then she met her husband, who owns land and cattle in Nebraska far away from large performance equine locations.

In Nebraska, she saw that she could do livestock production and management instead.

Kacie McCarthy, who was her mentor, asked her if she wanted to stay so she could pursue her master's. She later saw the SCC opportunity and applied.

Sales definitely had a journey to where she is today. In high school, she started taking college courses during her last half of freshman year, but when she moved, she wasn't able to take any more classes.

Sales had an internship as well where she was a

continued on page 11

Drew Obermeyer

By Jody Greene

BEATRICE - Drew Obermeyer is a new addition to agricultural department on the Beatrice campus of Southeast Community College.

Born and raised north of Marysville, Kan., Obermeyer developed his interest in farming and agriculture growing up on a farm with his family.

As he learned the ropes of industry by raising cattle and producing and harvesting, mainly beans and corn, farming became a love of his from a very young age.

Obermeyer began his

teaching journey as a high school teacher, where he introduced the basics of the agricultural industry to young students. He said that one of his best achievements has been helping a student achieve great success in the Kansas FFA Association as a high school teacher.

His successes and veteran level of experience in agriculture put him in a position to move on to teaching higher education. However, Obermeyer describes his transition from high school agricultural teacher for fourteen years to teaching at community college as a great accom-



Drew Obermeyer

plishment for him.

"It has been a great pleasure to be able to start teaching here at SCC," said Obermeyer.

When the opportu-

nity presented itself to teach within the agriculture department at SCC, Obermeyer applied, and will now teach agriculture technology, precision, and advance precision agriculture.

"I enjoy teaching and sharing my knowledge with students who share the same love of agriculture as I do," said Obermeyer.

That said, having a love for teaching kids and the agricultural industry are the two things that Obermeyer describes as his main motives for taking on his new role at SCC.

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Gross Comes to SCC as Associate Dean

By Taylor Walker

LINCOLN—At Southeast Community College (SCC) for his very first year as an associate dean, Daniel Gross is also new to the SCC community. His favorite part about SCC is “the people.”

Although Gross experienced some learning curves, like getting lost when first arriving on campus, he mentioned that it was expected.

Gross has taught in different schools and grades in Nebraska. His favorite age to teach, “would have to be junior high” because the students were fun.

Gross mentioned that he thought SCC would be a good fit. He wanted to be an associate dean because

he thought it would be something he would be good at.

He taught Social Studies, and it was his favorite subject to teach, and he was also a principal at another local school. He has only ever taught at schools in the district.

Gross is happy to endure the challenges SCC may bring and is looking forward to a great first year at the campus.

He wants to “meet challenges head on, work through them, communicate, and be proactive and not reactive.”

He decided to work at SCC since it was closer to family, other than his youngest daughter, who is moving to Arizona.

Gross has a wife and



Daniel Gross

three children, two daughters and a son who is the middle child. His oldest daughter is a fourth-grade teacher.

Gross enjoys spending his free time with his family. He also enjoys fishing, hunting and anything

outdoors.

Gross’s explained his inspiration “would have to be my parents.”

He added that his father-in law was a great inspiration for him as well.

Gross also went on to say his students have also been a great source of inspiration for him. He mentioned the way his students overcame obstacles and to see them accomplish things inspired him.

One piece of advice Gross wanted to give new students was “stick with it, go to class and do the work.”

SCC’s new Associate dean Daniel Gross is looking forward to new experiences, new people and many positive things to come from the campus.

Sales, continued

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veterinary assistant at Woodland Equine Facility in Ohio. She did hydration IVs on horses, blood draws and aided in the surgical suites.

When Sales moved to Oklahoma, she picked up a vet assistant job at East-side Veterinary Clinic, a small vet clinic where she worked with cats, dogs and even iguanas.

Some of Sale’s hobbies when she has free time are training horses and getting the yearlings prepared to be sold. One fun fact is that she grew up on a goat dairy farm, so she would

only drink goat milk when she was younger.

Sale’s biggest inspiration is her grandma because she overcame the Great Depression and was a nurse.

Most of Sale’s family would go to her grandma’s house because she would welcome everyone. Her grandmother told her that she could see her as a teacher.

Sale’s initial thoughts about Southeast Community College is that she likes how the classes are more on a one-on-one basis. Half of the class is lecture, and the other half is outside where it is more

hands-on.

Sales said, “It helps more students learn.”

Her job entails teaching Intro to Livestock Production, Livestock Management, Advanced Swine Production and Animal Health classes. Sales gives students lectures and also provides some background knowledge for when they go to the barns outside.

Sales describes the Department of Livestock Management and Production by saying that “it goes into managing our livestock as commercial operations or livestock operations.”

Sales sees herself in the

next five years hopefully still teaching. She loves the students, and she wants to get her master’s degree.

She says her main goal for this year is to have a positive impact on the students and to make sure they are in a good space with a good support system.

Her advice for students for this semester is to try something new that they would not normally do.

As she explained, “Try to do something new that might make you uncomfortable because you’ll never know if you like it.”

Beatrice Arts & Sciences Adds Four

Amber Devries

By Ivy Dahn

BEATRICE - Amber Devries is one of the new instructors at SCC Beatrice this fall.

Devries teaches three classes in total, but only two subjects. They include American History 1 and World History to the 1500s.

She is currently working on completing her own certification to teach dual credit classes and online classes.

Born and raised in Riverton, Wyo., Devries was able to get her undergrad at Boise State in Idaho and



Amber Devries

completed her master's degree at Syracuse University in New York.

During her undergrad work, Devries was able to

minor in English. Despite teaching history, she loves creative writing.

Devries actually first started teaching at a private university in New York.

"Moving from a university that expected lectures all of the time to a setting that focused more on engaged learning was encouraged is the hardest but also fun," Devries states.

The idea of working at a community college was appealing to Devries since she felt as if there was more focus on the students.

"I didn't have any big concerns, but I was more nervous moving to a new place," she says.

Devries also stated that she was anxious about working at a community college, since she's only taught at a university.

Devries has always been fascinated by history. She got to love history because of her dad and grandpa as they would take her to historical sites and tell her stories from their past.

She realized she wanted to be a teacher in high school, but convinced herself that it wasn't a profit-

continued on page 14

Stormi Moskal

By George Georgouloupoulos

BEATRICE - Stormi Moskal, an experienced communication instructor with 22 years of teaching experience, discussed her path, teaching philosophy, and commitment to empowering students in the field of speech and communication in a recent interview.

She gave insights into her childhood, teaching practices, and the delight she gets from watching her pupils succeed in their lives.

Moskal grew up amid the gorgeous landscapes of the Idaho highlands and the farmlands of Eastern

Oregon, an environment that ingrained in her a passion of communicating and understanding others.

When questioned about her journey into teaching, she recounted, "I graduated with my bachelor's degree and was considering a path in non-profit marketing management."

"It was a chance conversation that redirected me towards the communication department, where I later became a grad assistant and fell in love with teaching," she said.

Within her program, Moskal focuses on fundamental aspects of public speaking such as "structure, organization and helping them find the

courage to hear their own voice," she emphasized.

Real-world applications are included in her teaching techniques, which include presentations, seminars and group exercises, to help students

understand complex communication ideas.

Moskal elaborated on her assessment approach, likening it to learning a dance.

"I design it like learning to perform a song step by step," she explained. "Each speech has a different focus, gradually building complexity to improve their skills and confidence."

Her teaching method relies heavily on technological integration. She has used Yookli as an AI voice coach and flipped classrooms and PowerPoint for online lectures, highlighting the need of embracing



Stormi Moskal

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Emma Waack

By Kyle Vonrentzell

BEATRICE - Emma Waack is the new art instructor on the Beatrice campus of Southeast Community College.

Waack said she never really had another avenue that she wanted to go into other than art. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in art and education and said it was a pleasure to know what she wanted to do at a very young age.

By middle school, she said she felt "indebted" to art and wanted nothing more than to give back to

others on what she knew about it.

Waack said she had a very supportive backing from her family to go into art.

As she loved to create art, she also enjoyed reading and finding ways to escape and said reading can really help with art.

"It makes people think outside of the box and broaden their horizons with art," she explained.

She does not have any favorite artist that comes to mind, but she said she likes John William Waterhouse.

Waack teaches what a

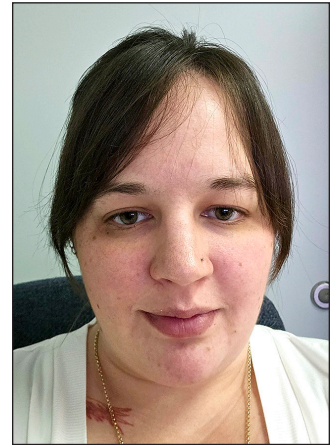
workshop class at Beatrice where one semester deals with drawing and shading and the next deals with painting.

The intro classes are open to all skill levels and focus on development and realizing the potential of art.

"No piece of art is the same, no matter how you put it," she says.

She says she is one of the lucky artists that has gotten all that she had hoped for when becoming an artist.

"Many artists don't even get any sort of income until they die," says Waack.



Emma Waack

She says she has gotten to not only do what she has loved to do since she was a child, but also has financial freedom doing it.

Reginald Boldman

By Kohle Kerin

BEATRICE - Reginald Boldman is a new mathematics instructor at Southeast Community College in Beatrice.

His first impression of the Beatrice campus was that "it feels more like a community."

He says has enjoyed his short time at Southeast.

Boldman started his education at Texas Tech University, where he majored in mechanical engineering from 2008-2013.

He started working as a plant manager from July 2014 to December 2014. Then, he started a pest control called 855Bugs as one of four founding members.

"I loved working with

those guys," stated Boldman. "They were my best friends."

His first teaching job was at Todd County High School in Sioux Reserve, S.D., as a math teacher. He taught Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Algebra II and Statistics.

"That is where I fell in love with education," Boldman said.

After that, he went on to get his master's at Texas A&M-Commerce in 2017-2018. Then he went to teach at the University of Nebraska before transitioning to Southeast Community College.

Boldman stated, "I moved over to Southeast because I wanted to build closer relationships with my students."



Reginald Boldman

Boldman was a professor in the computer science department at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He taught online and in-person classes; the main course that he taught was computer sciences.

Boldman has published

a paper on the Classification with Stochastic Learning Methods and Convolutional Neural Networks. It has been used in research papers and is also used in classes to teach the curriculum in computer science classes.

He worked on the paper with two professors from Texas A&M-Commerce, Nikolay Metodiev Sirakov and Natasha M. Astudillo. The publication came out in 2017 but didn't start getting used in classes until 2020-2021.

Boldman says he wants to stay on staff at Southeast for the long term. He loves the small-town feel and making a connection with his students to see them succeed in life after college.

Devries, continued

continued from page 11

able profession to get into. She then went to college to become a veterinarian, but later quit the program after a year.

Afterwards, she was able to work at a group home for adults with disabilities for eighteen years. At the group home, that was when she was able to fall back into her teaching groove.

In her career, her family has always been her number one supporters.

“My sister is the best editor, and she is always down to read and double check my work,” Devries claims.

In her free time, Devries loves reading. She actually has written two historical fiction novels. Although they haven’t been published and only her family has read them, she en-

joyed her time writing.

Another thing that interests Devries is scrap-booking. Though she claims that she is not very good at art, she still loves it.

Her other hobbies include going in walks with her dog and exploring new paths and trails.

She shares that she has big anxiety when it comes to public speaking, even though she is a teacher.

She states that others may not know this by looking at her, but she also has social anxiety with group settings.

Other than work, Devries describes her perfect day as a calm one. She would love it if the weather was cool and drizzly, while she sits and reads, wrapped up in her blanket.

Moskal, continued

continued from page 11

technology to educate students for the twenty-first century.

Moskal has participated in professional development and collaborative initiatives in order to always grow.

She expressed enthusiastically, “I’m always thinking of ways to improve the class. I love technology, and I think we should embrace it.”

Addressing student anxieties in general, she said, “I let them know that we all feel nervous, and with repetition and

practice, the jitters will diminish.”

Moskal says she nurtures students’ confidence by encouraging them to reflect on their strengths and areas for improvement after each speech.

Strong communication skills, in her opinion, are essential for personal and professional development.

She advised, “Relationships don’t function if you don’t communicate. You should always use your ears twice as much as your mouth.”

Moskal shared a beautiful success story about a committed student who

overcame personal hurdles to achieve in her class and eventually pursue additional degrees.

She is extremely proud of her students’ accomplishments and values the influence she has had on their lives.

Moskal likes outdoor activities such as kayaking in addition to memory and word games.

Her motivation as a communication instructor comes from watching her pupils realize their potential.

Obermeyer, continued

continued from page 10

He explains that it didn’t take long for him to adjust to his new surroundings because of the professional yet family-like environment at SCC, and the flexible

schedules allow him to pursue the interest he has outside school.

“In my free time, I still love to be on the farm while raising Charolais cattle; however, I do enjoy traveling,” said Obermeyer.

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Study Abroad Goes to Italy in May

By Ivy Dahn

Southeast Community College is offering an educational trip for selected students and staff to Italy in May of 2024.

The Study Abroad Association and Nebraska Community College Global Leadership Consortium both play a part in planning and leading this trip for several community colleges across Nebraska.

With limited space for the trip, students are encouraged to sign up early and to contact Nicole Trevena-Flores about any inquiries.

“Activities included are already planned so we can calculate the total cost,” says Trevena-Flores.

Including flights, hotels,

and more that is included in the trip, the estimated cost for the Italy trip is around \$3,900.

“These trips are all planned differently,” Trevena-Flores states. “We collaborate with four other community colleges in the state, and each school is allowed ten students and one faculty member.”

From May 18 to May 24, 2024, students will be able to appreciate art in Florence, architecture in Milan, and more. Students will also go to Pisa, Bologna and Tuscany.

“This trip was exclusively planned by Western Nebraska Community College, as they have planned these kinds of trips for several years and have an advantage of knowledge

on these kinds of things,” Trevena-Flores explains.

Free time for students to explore the city really depends on the trip.

“As long as they are with another student and they have a plan for what they want to do, we do allow students to have free time,” Trevena-Flores said.

The school Italy trip will

also include other community colleges. They include Central Community College, Mid-Plains Community College, Northeast Community College and Western Nebraska Community College.

Nicole Trevena-Flores can be contacted at ntrevena@southeast.edu.

Gene Haas Foundation Awards \$15K to SCC's Precision Machining Program

MILFORD - Southeast Community College received \$15,000 from the Gene Haas Foundation on Monday, Oct. 30, to fund scholarships as well as pay for students to enter and travel to skills competitions such as SkillsUSA

in manufacturing and machining.

“We appreciate the continued support and generosity of the Gene Haas Foundation,” said Kirby Taylor, Precision Machining and Automation Technology program chair. “We want the No. 1 priority of our students to be learning a skill, not figuring out how to pay for it.”

Since 2015, the Precision Machining and Automation Technology program at SCC has received annual grants totaling \$102,000 from the Gene Haas Foundation.

The Foundation’s primary goal is to build skills in the manufacturing industry by providing scholarships for Computer Numeric Control technology students.

Haas is the owner of Haas Automation Inc., America’s leading builder of CNC machines, which he started in 1983.

Learn about the art, culture, and history of Italy.

You will join students and faculty from across Nebraska as you explore Northern Italy and Tuscany. Led by expert local guides from the Study Abroad Association, you'll experience the art of Florence, the architecture of Pisa and Milan, the cuisine of Bologna, the picturesque hill towns of Tuscany and many other locations.

Space is limited!
Reserve your spot today.

Approximate cost: \$3900

For more information contact:

Nicole Treveña-Flores
Global Education
Southeast Community College
ntrevena@southeast.edu
402-437-2886

southeast.edu



Pride at SCC Explores Growth Opportunities

By Gerardo Sanchez

The Pride at SCC club is in the process of recruiting new members.

The main goal of Pride at SCC is to create a positive environment for diversity of LGBTQ+ people at Southeast Community College and ways to increase awareness and understanding and offers advocacy and welcoming spaces.

Kalika Jantzen is the adviser of the Pride at SCC club and organizes meetings. There are usually two advisors, but since they are lower in attendance they only have one. However, if there is more attendance then they will add one more advisor.

The club, which started several years ago, like many other clubs, has struggled with attendance since COVID-19.

The most recent event was last October, and the Pride at SCC club had a dance and the attendees got to learn some information about the LGBTQ+ community.

Jantzen really values the relationship connection this club fosters. Jantzen also likes when they get together that they are not strict and they try to be supportive to everyone and the SCC community.

She said, "We are very welcoming."

The club got started when previous students were enrolled and they advocated for a Pride Club. There were a lot of students attending when it first started because they were passionate, Jantzen said.

Pride at SCC meets every Thursday from 2:30-3:30 p.m. in C316, the conference area next to the Student Center on the Lincoln campus; there is also a Zoom link for those who can't attend.

There is no formal process, so anyone can join at any point. The administrator or contact has snacks, and they are laid back.

"Any student can show up and say hi and join the rest," said Jantzen.

Jantzen's favorite part of the Pride at SCC club would be the people.

Jantzen says she is a social person and likes to learn from and share ideas with the students.

"When we do get students in one space, it is very cool to see unfold very quickly their shared experiences whether they are positive and sometimes not positive," said Jantzen. "They end up forming friendships and socializing."

Psych/Soc Club Not Just for Psych/Soc Majors

By Gerardo Sanchez

The Psychology/Sociology club is growing and looking forward to upcoming events.

The Psychology/Sociology club was created because SCC didn't have a psychology degree until this year, and it helped students dig a little deeper for this major and help people support each other.

Nicole Trevena-Flores helped start the Psychology/Sociology club back in 2012.

One recent event was a guest speaker on Tuesday, Nov. 14, which Psychology Club is co-sponsored for International Education Week.

The events talked about grief and what other cultures do to deal with grief. Included in the discussion was Dia de Los Muertos, the Day of the Dead.

Trevena-Flores's favorite parts of the club would be that it is a mix of students.

She said, "It is never just Psychology students, but students from all sorts of majors"

"There is a big variety," she added. "(The students) all come together to work on some cool things."

Trevena-Flores said the club was started because a lot of people wanted to go into Psychology for a major and people were confused about what it specifically included in that major. She was getting asked a lot of questions so they made a space where students can ask their own questions.

The club sponsors are Trevena-Flores and Lyndie Christensen Nader because they are both co-advisors and they help students set up events. The meetings are mostly driven by the students.

Certain events they have done before are field trips, guest speakers and things like mini golf and bowling.

The Psychology/Sociology club meets on the Lincoln campus at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesdays at the bottom of the stairs of the V Section by the elevators. Zoom is also an option if a student requests it.

A student can just show up, and they don't do any fees or dues.

Trevena-Flores said, "All students who are interested are welcome."

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Lincoln Campus Adds Two Instructors

Mohammad Majid

By Aaron Dieterich

Mohammad Majid is the newest CIT instruction staff member teaching at the Lincoln campus.

He currently teaches several classes, including IT Fundamentals and PC Operating Systems.

Early in his education path, Madjid attended Lincoln High for all four years of high school. Upon graduating, he pursued a major in computer science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a double major in mathematics.

When asked how he discovered a passion for teaching, Majid explains that he participated in several clubs while in college.

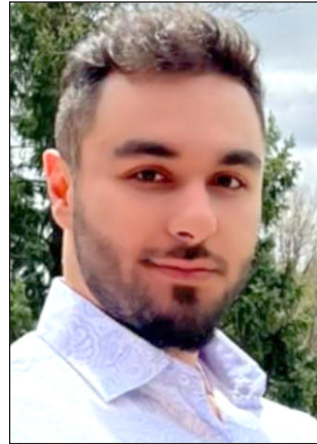
One such one included mentoring middle school students to program robots.

He describes his experiences as “very enjoyable.”

When he was offered a teaching assistance role at his college, Majid took advantage of the opportunity fulfilling the tasks of “giving lectures, grading homework and fulfilling the tasks that any other professor would do.”

Even after college graduation, Majid expressed his eagerness to teach and took a position at Southeast Community College.

When asked why he chose SCC, he explained that his siblings’ “great experiences” attending SCC



Mohammad Majid

weighed his choice.

Expounding upon the CIT program, he described a couple of different scholarships offered to students.

One such scholarship is the Sand Hill scholarship.

Majid praised this

scholarship because the Sand Hills Global company, based in Lincoln, not only funds the recipient’s remainder of schooling but also offers them an internship as they finish out college,

This lucky student, if proven to be a proficient student through college, would have a chance at being offered a full-time job upon graduation.

When away from the classroom, he enjoys spending time with his family. Additionally, he loves keeping up with athletics and helping his younger nephew in sports.

Michael Hessel-Mial

By Kyle Vonrentzell

Michael P Hessel-Mial is a new addition to the Lincoln campus, where he teaches English composition and literature.

Hessel-Mial grew up in Wisconsin in a family where his mom and dad were both journalists. His sister was also a journalist before she decided to go down another path.

Hessel-Mial went to grad school to get his PHD

at Emory University in Atlanta, where he said he found his love for teaching people what he loved.

He said chose Southeast Community College for his permanent home as an English instructor because he not only had friends in Nebraska, but he also loved the faculty and liked the direction the school was going in.

Hessel-Mial said he teaches English composition to help students get

out of their comfort zone and learn more about the real world while writing about it as well.

He also said his literature class has more fiction-based learning where students get to really dig deep.

He strives to help students at all skill levels and wants to give all students a safe space with writing and reading.



Michael Hessel-Mial

Hartig Completes First Season as Women's Soccer Coach

By Evelina Rylska

BEATRICE - In a bid to revitalize the women's soccer program at Southeast Community College, a new coach has taken the helm, bringing with him a wealth of experience and a determination to transform the team.

Coach Christian Hartig was born and raised in Beatrice, where he attended high school and started coaching his younger sister's soccer team at 15.

He went to Concordia in Seward to play basketball for one year but understood it was not his passion so he transferred to UNL. Later on, he was an assistant coach for two years.

Here at SCC, the coach faced a couple challenges such as only nine recruits at the beginning of the season, unexpected injuries and the cancellation of the season caused by lack of players on a team.

Despite all the struggles, Hartig says, the team found solace in the camaraderie and enjoyment of the sport.

"It is very different from my high school experience," the coach says. "It's really fun to get different athletes from different places and keep them together, trying to figure out what works or what does not work."

He says the women on



Christian Hartig

the team enjoy playing soccer, sharing the ideas and building the culture together.

As the coach said, "It is a really good opportunity for everybody to bring their experiences together and share them."

It is very important to have a relationship in the team between the players and coaches, he added.

The college program is looking for the skilled players and those who are willing to compete for titles. For the most part, the college is looking for those who are ready to go out, compete and represent SCC the best they can, the team and themselves at the high level.

"You can get away with not being as skilled if you have athleticism for it, if you have endurance, physicality, strength and speed," says the coach.

During the season, practices are two hours on

Bobcat Men's Soccer Finishes a Successful Season

By George Georgouloupoulos

In a season that had its ups and downs, the men's Bobcat soccer team dribbled their way around a pretty decent schedule that would ultimately lead them to get a conference win.

Under the guidance of Head Coach Kenan Sahuric, the team faced a lot of struggles early, but quickly showcased their reliance towards the end of the season.

The season kicked off with a tough matchup against Garden City CC, which ended in a 2-5 loss. However, the Bobcats quickly rebounded in their next game against them and got a 2-2 tie.

Unfortunately, their momentum was temporarily disrupted with back-to-back games being canceled. But the Bobcats

went on a nice four game winning streak, displaying their defensive power by allowing only two goals in that entire stretch.

They lost their next game unfortunately against Johnson Co.CC (0-2). But nevertheless, the team bounced back again with another nice little three game winning streak where they had scored a total of twelve goals, while only allowing one goal in that stretch.

As the regular season progressed, the Bobcats had clinched the Region 9 regular season crown, a testament to their consistent efforts on the field had finally paid off.

This season the Bobcats displayed exceptional skill and determination throughout the season as they secured a tight road victory (1-0) against Pratt CC.

continued on page 19

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

The rides on a bus on the other hand can be longer, from half an hour to 4-5 hours at the longest, but as Hartig explains, "It is super fun on the bus because bus rides are always fun."

Additionally, Hartig said that SCC has the best soccer field of all the

teams' competition and there is a great playing environment.

"It is really cool to see people who care about soccer," he said. "The campus cares about the program, so they like to give us good facilities."

Those interested in joining the team can contact coach Hartig.

Men's Soccer, continued



photo by Chad Greene

Above, Rafael Smaga Brandao goes in for a play during a 4-2 victory over Central Community College on Sept. 9.

continued from page 18

This hard-fought match showcased the team's resilience and ability to perform under pressure. However, the road to success wasn't without its challenges.

In closely-contested battle, the Bobcats faced Allan County CC in their third match, resulting in crushing 4-3 defeat. The team had previously met twice, with both encounters ending in a 1-1 draw.

Despite the setback, the Bobcats overall perfor-

mance throughout the season (8-3-4) showcased their competitive spirit and ability to contend with tough opponents.

This offseason now allows the players and coaching staff to regroup, strategize for the future, and prepare for the next upcoming chapter for next year's seasons.

The lessons learned and experiences gained will undoubtedly contribute to their overall growth as they prepare for next season.

Men's Basketball Out to Improve

By Jody Greene

The 2024 basketball season is now underway, and the Southeast Community College men's basketball team is looking to redeem themselves after a sad ending in their previous season.

Now re-branded as the Bobcats, Coach Wooton is looking to put his plans for his new team into action now that the season has started.

A veteran of the sport, Joel Wooton has been with SCC for many years and has served as not just a basketball coach, but as a lecturer here at the college alongside his wife Vicki Wooton at the Beatrice Campus.

However, now that the basketball program has relocated to the Lincoln campus, Wooton's focus is now on preparing a team in a different environment.

"We are a couple games into the season, and we are already developing a good environment around the team so far," claims Wooton.

"Although we have had some unfortunate losses, I am still confident that we will get into a good stride for the remainder of the year going into the spring," Coach Wooton explained.

The Bobcats currently sit below 0.500.

Wooton understands that it isn't the best start, but based on the arsenal of players he has put together, he explains that there will be better days ahead.

Radek Pulsipher, a shooting guard known for his jump shot and overall athletic ability, is a player that many are looking to see perform this year.

Although the team didn't get much game time in their freshman season, 6'6 center Amari Hill and 6'3 Ryan Gummer are said to have something to prove this season as sophomores.

Jaden Jenkins, a guard who is also known for his athletic ability in the paint and his creativity, is seen as one to watch moving forward as well.

As for sophomore Miles McGriff, however, his 2024 season and potentially his playing career has been cut short in the early games.

Having a history of concussions, Miles was ruled out of play this season after receiving another one in an early game of the season. He is now ineligible to compete in sport in support of his safety.

"We unfortunately lost our starting point guard Miles to an injury that has now forced us to start the

continued on page 28

SCC Baseball Players Create The Baseball House

By Drew Borner

BEATRICE – Last winter, four Southeast Community College (SCC) students created a baseball podcast. The podcast featured four members: Elliott Peterson, Avery Moore, Jaxson Cahoy and Rice Whitaker.

Each member of the podcast played for 2023 SCC baseball team. Of the four, three lived in the same dorm room.

Elliott Peterson, the creator of the podcast, was born in Omaha. He is a catcher on the baseball team and is a co-host alongside Avery Moore.

Moore was also born in Omaha. He is committed to play baseball at the University of Purdue.

Jaxson Cahoy made brief appearances on the podcast.

The final member, Rice Whitaker, also made a couple appearances. He is not expected to be featured when the podcast returns.

The members of the podcast decided on the name The Baseball House.

Peterson said, “The name came from a flag we bought as a room.”

The flag, which reads, “This is a baseball house,” hangs high on the ceilings of the podcasters’ dorm room.

After coming up with the name, the group got together to create a logo



for their podcast.

Moore said, “we wanted a logo to make our podcast feel more legit” and that the logo “was made with SCC colors and looked extremely professional.”

The logo is pictured above.

The group came across the idea of a podcast while watching YouTube one night.

Moore said, “We came across a video that showed clips of Jason and Travis Kelce’s New Heights podcast.”

Cahoy remembers Peterson saying, “Why don’t we make one?”

Moore, Cahoy and Whitaker took it as a joke and didn’t really think they were going to make a podcast.

As weeks went on, the idea kept getting brought up.

“It was like constant thought,” Cahoy said.

Eventually, it happened. On October 22, 2022, the friends created their first podcast.

The first episode was named “Ep 1 The Baseball House.”

Peterson said, “We wanted to keep it simple; it was the first on we posted.”

That is what they did. In the short 21-minute video, the group covered who they were, why they started, and their thoughts and opinions on the ongoing 2022 MLB World Series.

After posting, the members sent out the video and told people to give it a listen.

Moore said that he “sent the link to all his family members and many of his friends back home.”

It took a while for people to start listening. The group was not getting the views, likes and subscribers they wanted.

Cahoy felt that “there was almost no point in making the podcast if nobody was going to watch.”

Days after the first episode was released, Peterson and the podcasters started to get some recognition. But it wasn’t what you’d think.

Families and friends of the boys expressed they wanted more.

According to Moore, it wasn’t liked because it was an interesting or amazing podcast, but because “it put smiles on faces.”

The group decided to make another podcast on October 31, a Halloween addition.

The group made two more episodes after the Halloween edition.

Moore said, “After the first episode, the motivation kind of changed.”

At first, they wanted to start a trendy podcast, but it turned into “entertaining family and friends.”

The four episodes racked up 400 some total views, and The Baseball House channel added 49 subscribers.

It is now the Winter of 2023, a little over a year since the first release.

Weeks ago, Peterson and the group talked about maybe starting the podcast back up. On the first of November, that became reality.

The group shared that they would be releasing their new season of podcasts later in the month.

Their goal is to entertain family and friends.

Cahoy said, “We have fun doing it, and we love seeing responses from our families.”

That being said, the group still has a far-fetched goal of becoming a popular podcast.

Moore said, “There is always a chance we could get super popular.”

The final words from the group were to “Tune in to The Baseball House podcast to see what were really about.”

You can find their podcasts by searching, “The Baseball House” on YouTube.

SCC Golfers Reflect on Fall Season and Share Thoughts on the Upcoming Spring Season

By Drew Borner

BEATRICE – Southeast Community College’s (SCC) golf team is an elite squad.

The team is led by coach Calvin Freeman. In college, Freeman golfed for both Southeast and the University of Nebraska.

Two of the sophomores on the golf team are Luke Strako and Cole Fedderson.

Strako is a Creighton Prep graduate who is committed to play Division I golf at the University of Nebraska Omaha.

His personal best gold round landed him a score of 64, eight under par.

Fedderson was born and raised in Kearney, which is about two hours west of Beatrice.

He shot multiple pars (72) this fall season.

Each year, the team competes in a fall and spring season, and each season holds different challenges.

In the fall, the team stays closer to home.

Strako said that the team “plays in tournaments against NAIA and JUCO schools from the state of Nebraska.”

In the spring, the team competes against more JUCO schools, especially regional opponents.

Strako stated that the

team competes against teams from “Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas.”

Both seasons account for the national ranking system. Though the system is currently down, Strako said the team is “probably ranked around 15th.”

According to Strako, this fall, the team participated in four events.

“We played in the Hastings Invite, Doane Invitational, Central Invite and the Nebraska Intercollegiate Tournament,” he said.

The team’s signature victory was their win at the Columbus Invitational.

Fedderson also said the team “placed top four in every event they participated in.”

Fedderson also said the team’s biggest strength was that they had “four out of five guys play on the team last year.”

He added that the team benefited from the experience and has “a close relationship.”

The SCC golf team has an extremely good fall, but “there is still room to improve,” said Strako.

In the upcoming spring season, Strako and the team hope for redemption.

He said that the team, last spring, “played horrible in regionals,” which led them to missing the national tournament.

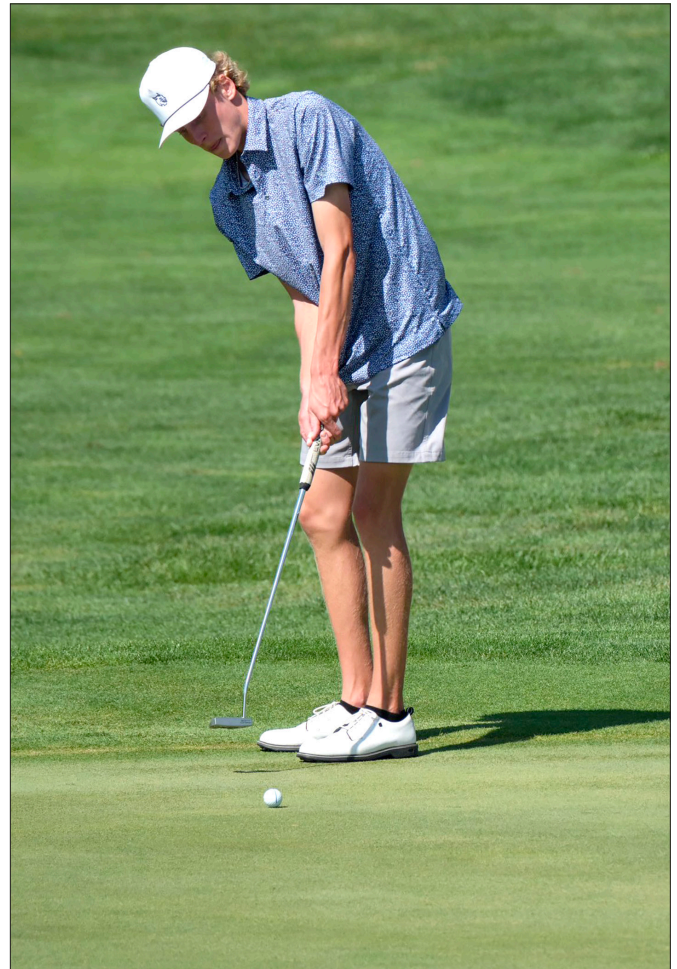


photo by Chad Greene

Luke Strako, above, puts during a fall matchup.

Fedderson said, “Our main team goal is to make it the national tournament.”

He wants the team to have a “hot start” and hope the team will “improve as the season evolves.”

The golf squad will have to overcome a short-staffed squad with only five players.

While good for the team chemistry, the team hoped for no injuries and good play from each member.

The team will participate in their first spring tournament, weather permitting, on Monday, April 1, in the SCC Invite at the Beatrice Country Club.

SCC Baseball Looks Ahead to Spring

By Jody Greene

Split into two seasons (fall and spring seasons), collegiate baseball has been deemed as a sport that is not for the faint hearted and includes the most talented, athletic and competitive athletes from all over the country.

The 2024 baseball season is brewing for the many junior college programs around the country, and the SCC Bobcats is looking to separate themselves from the rest of their competition.

Head Coach Dion Parks says the players are ready to move on from last season's successes and prepare towards exceeding expectations for the new season.

Coach Parks is no stranger to competition and success. Born and raised in Beatrice, Parks said his background played a huge role in the person he is today.

From a young age, Parks explains that his love for sports and competition derived from his relationship with both his father and his brother Tyson Parks, who he describes as his right-hand. His father was a football coach who had been a part of successful programs.

"Seeing my dad work hard towards building a successful sporting program only drove me and my brother to build something even better

ourselves," said Parks.

That said, after achieving success as athletes, Parks and his brother decided to embody their fathers' aura by applying his philosophies towards their own coaching careers.

And so it began. After a decade with the SCC baseball program, Dion and Tyson Parks have continued to sculpt the program.

"Our goal as a program is to build a team with the strongest athletes possible who are also discipline enough to withstand the demands of the season," said Parks.

Considering the baseball season can have over sixty games each year, coach Parks emphasizes his importance of recruiting players who are focused and discipline athletes.

He also believes that this attitude has proven to be the main reason for the success of the program over the years and especially last year.

Regarding the team's performance last year, sophomore Jason Juarbe shared his thoughts on a season that failed to disappoint.

Winning forty-eight games and only falling short twelve times for the year, Juarbe accredits this record to the healthy team environment that the players have built overtime.

"I would say the team environment last year was pretty strong," said

Juarbe.

Moreover, he states, "We were a tough team, and our mindset was always right because we were hard workers on and off the field."

However, after a successful season last season, the team still fell short in achieving a spot in the world series games. This left Coach Parks appreciative of their overall performance but unsatisfied with the way it ended.

As a result, with spring around the corner, Parks knows best where the weaknesses lie with the team as well as the blueprint he has to go all the way next season.

"We were weak in our depth of certain positions," states Parks.

He explains, "The team suffered many injuries to key players that impacted the selection of our lineups on gameday."

One of the team's starting pitchers, Jackson Cahoy, was one player who suffered a season-ending injury last season. Cahoy was one of the many players who couldn't take the field, and this hindered the team's strength.

Nevertheless, Parks understands that injuries are just part of the game. Therefore, he reiterates that this did not stop the team from succeeding.

"We move on to each game with our best foot forward and a strong mindset no matter the

situation," said Parks.

In addition to a successful season, the Parks brothers managed to create Division I talent within their team who will be key playmakers for the upcoming season.

Drew Borner, Landon Mueller, Jackson Kendall and Avery Moore have all committed to highly-acclaimed Division I programs across the country. They will be looking forward to their new colors soon, but for now, their focus is geared towards creating headlines for the Bobcats in the spring.

Along with those four, the team has many returners for the spring season.

Parks says this promotes the competitive nature of the team seeing the rookies aim to outperform the veterans, forcing the veterans of the team to step into leadership positions to solidify their roles within the team.

Overall, many observers of collegiate sports can vouch that the dynamic of junior college athletics can be difficult to cope with. As shown, challenges can come unexpectedly, and it can be hard to adjust.

However, coach Parks is confident that his team is more than ready to take on the new season with hopes to stamp the return of Southeast Community College into the college world series.

Review

Panera Duets Make a Great Deal

By Karla Orellana

The “Smokehouse BBQ Chicken Sandwich & Creamy Tomato Soup” is one of Panera Bread’s items available in the “Value Duets” menu which offers a half portion of a sandwich and a cup of soup or portion of salad.

The sandwich was laid on an unadorned plain white plate was the chicken sandwich with its golden-looking crusts giving the illusion of crunchiness. Peeking out of the bread’s corners were the slices of chicken breast bathed in dark brown barbecue sauce, frizzled, and red onions, covered with a slice of slightly melted white cheddar cheese.

Beside the sandwich was a medium-small sized bowl filled with velvety tomato soup of a vibrant red color, adorned with crispy-looking croutons.

The sandwich’s ingredients blend in perfectly with each other, effortlessly unifying different textures in one bite. The crisp onions complement the chicken’s tenderness, contributing to a balanced blend of its components, making it pleasing to the palate.

Even though the soup’s



image courtesy Panera Bread

The Smokehouse BBQ Chicken Sandwich & Creamy Tomato Soup, above, is offered as a Value Duet by Panera Bread.

velvety consistency and smooth creaminess contrast with the croutons’ solid graininess, the combination of both enhances the quality of each by offering a contrasting texture that complements the other.

The sandwich was well-balanced in flavor, with each of its ingredients blending in to create a fusion of tastes appetizing to the palate; equally delectable, the tomato soup was savory and well-seasoned, flavorful as if it was made out of freshly cut tomatoes.

Correspondingly, the flavor of the sandwich’s

ance the overall temperature of the meal.

The “Value Duets” are the most affordable options on the menu, taking into consideration that the cost of the soup individually is \$8.69 excluding taxes, and the sandwich alone costs \$9.99. Getting an item from the “Value Duets,” which usually costs \$6.99, allows customers to get two different items for a few dollars less.

The “Smokehouse BBQ Chicken Sandwich & Creamy Tomato Soup,” is a delightful meal, rich in flavor, and the ingredient’s consistency enhances the overall quality of the dish, served sufficiently warm to evoke the feeling of coziness on a rainy day.

Although it is true that the dish stands out in quality and flavor, at first sight, its price doesn’t seem to be much of a deal; however, it is less expensive than the average cost of other dishes, and it offers a combination of two items from the menu.

Thus, this meal remains as a good option for people who are on a budget and want to eat something healthier.

barbecue sauce integrates perfectly with the tomato soup creating a harmonious savor rich in flavor and appealing to the taste.

The soup was served warmly enough to bring a sensation of comfort and coziness after one sip, it had the right temperature to enjoy the soup at a steady pace before it cooled down.

On the other hand, the sandwich was lukewarm, still pleasant, and enjoyable but not as much as I would’ve liked it to be, although eating the soup and sandwich together allowed the warmth of the soup to distribute and bal-

Review

“Wednesday Addams” Takes Character in a New Direction

By Taylor Walker

The *Wednesday Addams* Netflix original is something you may have never seen before. The storyline will keep you on the edge of your seat, unsure of what will happen next at Nevermore Academy.

The TV show *Wednesday Addams* is a series based on the original *Addams Family* film in the 1900’s. The series is a show that generates laughter, confusion and attachment.

The everyday life of Wednesday Addams is captured in the style of her being a teen and living in a dorm room at her school, Nevermore Academy.

Some viewers who love the original *Addams Family* movie seem to have issues with the setting, an academy, where the original was in the Addams Family house.

The Netflix series *Wednesday Addams* captures the values of the character from the original *Addams Family* film but shows her in a new creative way.

On the other hand, the school of course is not your average school; it is filled with other “outsiders” like Wednesday. The school has students who are werewolves, vampires, ghouls and many more



image courtesy Netflix

Jenna Ortega, above, plays Wednesday Addams in the Netflix original series of the same name.

monstrous creatures.

The TV show is different from the original movie, and some fans of the movie have noted that the details of the series are different from the film, and certain characters would act differently, such as the “hand” that follows Wednesday around the series.

The silliness and outlandish events that take place keep you on your toes.

In the show, Wednesday does not have friends, nor does she want to make any; she doesn’t even want to be at school, which is the same school her very own mother, Morticia Addams, went to and

graduated from, many years prior.

This rendition of the Addams Family adheres to a younger audience, than the original film, the *Addams Family* film was intended for all ages and audience members. The Netflix show’s audience seems to be intended for teens and young girls.

The rendition seems to pertain to a younger audience due to the younger characters, animation and word choice.

Older viewers wanted more of an “original” feel rather than an animated rendition.

Throughout the series, Wednesday makes friends and becomes best friends

with her roommate, Enid Sinclair, who is a werewolf.

The friends end up uncovering mysteries about the school and uncovered crimes. Twists and turns down secret hallways, uncovering unknown messages, and finding poisonous plants may be part of a secret plan.

Wednesday and her friends solved the mystery and know who the murderer is, but is it too late?

You will have to find out for yourself and watch the series.

Season 1 is out now for all to see, but season 2 is soon to be aired around mid to late 2024, according to Netflix officials.

Review

Swift Concert Movie has Diverse Appeal

By Ivy Dahn

As a casual listener before, I can attest that this experience will change your whole mindset on Taylor Swift and her music.

Raking in about \$96 million in the box office for its opening weekend, Taylor Swift's concert film, *Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour*, became the highest grossing concert film.

The 2 hours and 49 minutes film captured Swift at one of her LA shows back in August, the last stops in America for the year.

As someone who saw a performance on this tour, I gladly put everything down to buy tickets for this film so I could experience it again. The live concert was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that everyone should go to.

Before going to her concert, I was more of a casual listener and never really listened to her because I never really got the hype. Now, I have listened to all her songs and albums and have fully become a Swiftie.

The Eras Tour is a tour that consists of songs from all 10 of Swift's albums throughout her 17-year career. For each era, or album, she includes a transition time in between to have an outfit change for each era. The actual live show itself was over



image courtesy AMC Theaters

“Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour” broke records and will be available for streaming on Wednesday, Dec. 13, Swift’s birthday.

three hours long. Despite how long it was, the actual experience itself felt too short.

This tour is known for the ecstatic fans showing up in bedazzled outfits, friendship bracelets to trade with others and some fan chants that go with a couple of the songs.

When I arrived in the theater, I felt a genuine feeling of eagerness, just like I did for the concert. We were able to purchase cups that were made for this film and even traded some friendship bracelets with some of the other audience members.

As the film started, the crowd roared and cheered to show their excitement. The chills that I got before the concert were unreal, and I didn't think I would feel anything like that again until this film.

She included a remix of some of her songs at the beginning in order to hype up the crowd for her entrance, which was so fascinating to watch.

The film had some amazing shots that made me feel overjoyed for the singer. Her performances also deserved a standing ovation because of her stage presence and her

passion for each song was amazing.

An outstanding performer hypes up the crowd and can interact with them naturally, and this film really showed how appreciative she is of her fans. It included scenes where she would just stop and take a look around her, and it really shows that she is grateful for everything and everyone.

The concert and film really showcases how much of an amazing performer and singer she is. With a three-hour long show, Swift does not show that

continued on page 28

Review

Bloom Coffee Hits the Right Vibe

By Kierra Ostrom

Driving my now normal route to school, I see this bright minimalist coffee shop on my way. As I decided to stop by one day after my classes, there were tables with chairs right outside the door with people working.

If people are sitting outside of a coffee shop, it's either because it's a beautiful day with the weather or because it is busy inside with tables filled.

On this day, it happened to be both.

As soon as I walked into this precious hidden gem, I was flooded with joy, comfort and a home-like feeling.

This coffee shop, Bloom Coffee, on North 27th Street in Lincoln, is an excellent location between both O and Vine streets in Lincoln.

All throughout the interior are pastel walls, hanging décor and luscious green plants with hanging string lights that reminded me of an outdoor patio.

And big, small, short and tall tables filled the room.

There were also large comfortable chairs in the corners with people reading.

The walls were filled with beautiful art by local artists for purchase, adding to the beauty of the shop. There was also a lot

of merchandise such as candles, mugs, glass cups, coffee, cards, stickers, apparel and jewelry.

Something that I loved was that they had a book and board game collection for customers to enjoy.

Upbeat, relaxing, and positive music filled the room, which I thoroughly enjoyed.

Of course, when attending a coffee shop, asking the employee what their favorite drink is a necessity. A Shaken Maple Brown Sugar Oat Latte was this worker's favorite fall special drink, except she substitutes pumpkin for maple. I also asked for a blueberry muffin from their wide variety of breakfast foods and pastries.

My coffee was served in a cute twelve-ounce glass with their logo, and my blueberry muffin was served on a sturdy but adorable ceramic flat plate with a metal fork.

Everyone tends to praise or complain about customer service, but Bloom Coffee should have no complaints. At the time of arriving that late Monday morning, I was welcomed by the only worker there right away, who turned out to be the owner of this shop.

I have to get oat milk with my drinks, and I like to not include that when ordering at shops to

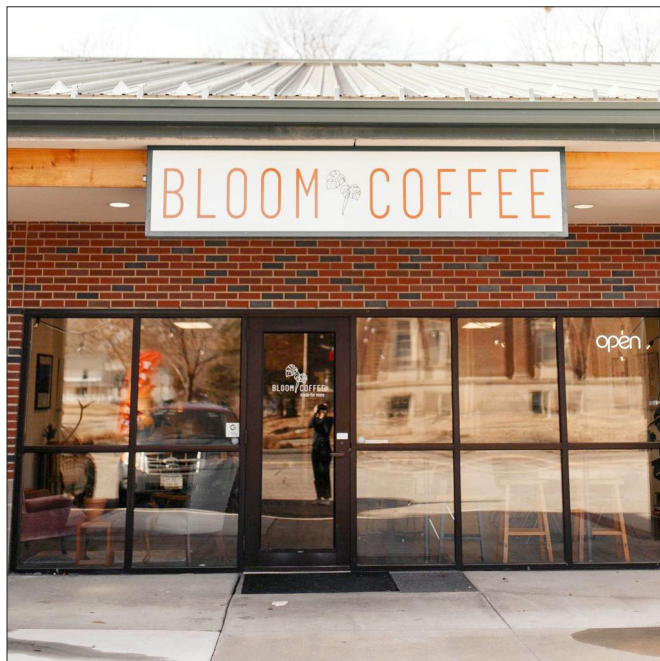


image courtesy Bloom Coffee

Bloom Coffee, above, is located on North 27th Street between O and Vine streets.

see if they ask if I would like a certain milk. Right away, she asked if whole milk would be okay or if I prefer a different option. I thanked her for asking because most places I have been to do not ask.

She also asked if I would like my muffin warmed up, which was a perfect addition. Overall, I was very pleased with the service.

I enjoyed the muffin that came out to me as it was warm, moist and sponge-like. After I was done with my plate and glass, I took it to a tub and set them in so that they do not have to. I love places

where I can help them clean off the table. Having worked in a restaurant, I loved it when customers would help in bussing the tables.

Bloom Coffee, being a coffee shop, needs to have a wide range of items on their menu. They came out with seven fall specialty drinks, a Pumpkin Pie Latte, Pumpkin Chai, Cinnamon Brown Sugar Breve, Maple Cream Cold Brew, Cinnamon Roll Latte, Shaken Maple Brown Sugar Oat Latte and Caramel Apple Cider.

They also offer smooth-

continued on page 30

Illuminations: A Magazine for All SCC to Enjoy

By Taylor Walker

Illuminations is a literary magazine at SCC for all students, staff and faculty to enjoy and celebrate their fellow SCC members' work.

The magazine was founded in 1999. The current person in charge of this magazine, Tammy Zimmer, has been working with *Illuminations* since 2020.

Zimmer added, "It is a celebration of art and writing at SCC."

This year, most of the works provided in *Illuminations* are students, ranging upwards of 25-30 students across the different art forms.

The magazine includes poetry, academic writing, prose, photographs, paintings and any other creative outlet submitted.

Zimmer mentions, "Some literary magazines

have their own themes, like death; our literary magazine doesn't have a theme."

Anyone at SCC can submit their photographs, drawings, essays or any other creative outlet via the form available on the *Illuminations* webpage.

She also goes on to say, "*Illuminations* publishes work by people within the Southeast Community College community. Current students, continuing education, faculty staff, administrators and retired faculty and administrators can all contribute to the magazine."

There is also a "How to Submit" page for help submitting works.

The page can be found by typing "How to Submit to *Illuminations*" on the SCC website's search bar. The identification of SCC credentials is needed to complete the form.

Zimmer mentioned that the form "makes it easier than ever to submit."

Anyone who submits a work of art can choose up to five in that department.

The different departments covered in *Illuminations* are art, poetry, and prose/short stories.

Students have the benefit of receiving cash prizes and awards for the works that are submitted to the magazine. The cash prizes and awards are only for students. The first-place prize is \$100, and the second-place prize is \$50.

The award that can be earned is a regional prize. This award serves as a chance to become a "regional, award-winning author."

Anyone at SCC and anyone who was a part of the SCC community can choose to submit their works.

Zimmer's favorite part

of *Illuminations* is the launch party. The launch party is held towards the end of the spring semester. This gives anyone who published works in the magazine a chance to see the magazine before it is released.

She mentioned she loves seeing the students' reactions at the launch, and that's why the launch party is her favorite part of the magazine.

Zimmer said, "It's worth it at the end of the day, even if the labor that goes into it is not visible to everyone."

Whether it's a photograph of a sunset, or something cool, Zimmer wants to see it, and include "whatever it is" in the *Illuminations* magazine.

The magazine gives SCC members the possibility to become a published author or artist.

Zimmer explained that "there are lots of opportunities, and this is a great avenue to share with entire SCC across all campuses and learning centers."

Funding for the magazine is provided by SCC. SCC provides a budget for the magazine, which allows them to produce around 500 high-quality magazines a year.

The deadline to submit works is May 21, 2024, for the spring 2025 magazine, so SCC members should start to submit works now.



Submit your creative work for the next volume!

 **illuminations**

Submission Deadline: May 31, 2024

- SHORT STORIES
- POEMS
- ACADEMIC ESSAYS
- ARTWORK
- PHOTOGRAPHS
- GRAPHIC DESIGN & ILLUSTRATION

Copies of the latest volume are available in all campus LRCs
If you have any questions, email: illuminations@southeast.edu

 Cash prizes are awarded to top student submissions

View past volumes and submit your work at: 

Taylor Swift, continued

continued from page 25

she is tired once and performs with her whole body and soul. Her emotions and facial expressions could be seen and felt through the screen.

I also enjoyed Swift showing her gratitude and appreciation of her dancers, vocalists and band, as

they are a huge part in the show. They all put in a lot of work to highlight Swift, and she makes sure to give them some of the spotlight throughout the film and show.

Although the film was absolutely extraordinary, I did feel like she should have included the entire setlist. For the film, Swift

decided to cut out some of the songs she performed. Although I did know this before seeing the film, each transition from each song was so smooth, I forgot that she even had it on the setlist.

At the end of the film, where the credits are shown, her song “Long Live (Taylor’s Version)” is playing in the background as one side has the credits and the others show some “bloopers”/accidents that happened during a couple of the live shows, which the audience loved watching.

I just wish that there was more behind the

scenes and her process of creating the setlist and show. I think that would be a cool concept for something else that she could work on. Also, showing how she prepares and gets ready for these long concerts would be interesting to see.

All in all, I believe that this film should not be unseen by any music fans. Her music is outstanding, and she is a great lyricist and performer. As someone who didn’t get into her music until recently, I truly regret all the missed opportunities I would have had if I was a listener earlier in her career.

Basketball, continued

continued from page 19

season on a weaker foot,” says Wooton.

Nevertheless, these are the Bobcats five sophomores who will look to perform at their best to attract the interests of four-year programs when looking to move on.

Although the team is mostly freshman, Wooton believes his sophomores will play a crucial role in leading the newcomers in the right direction.

“I have brought in many new players this season and it’s an opportunity for the sophomores who stayed on to step up,” says Wooton.

“Although our weakness lies within the department of experience due to us having many freshmen, I believe that we have decent size and inside play that will give us a great advantage,” Wooton explained.

The team did not reach the national tournament last season in which Wooton describes as their main goal.

“This season, we must surpass the expectations of the of last season,” he said. “We are looking to go all the way, without any more injuries and this is just the start.”

Psych/Soc Club, continued

continued from page 16

“The club is a more collaborative setting because the students get to drive it,” she explained.

She added that the club only meets for 20 minutes on Tuesdays because they understand students have

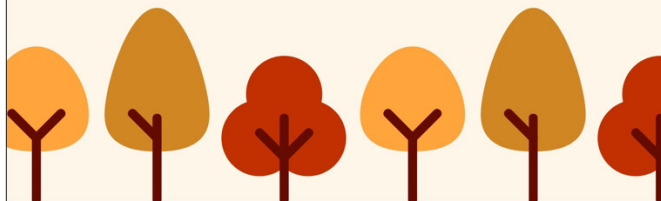
classes, and the advisors want the students to be as successful as possible.

“Students don’t have to have a psych major to join,” Trevena-Flores added. “It is more of a club to be social and meet new people and explore.”

DONATION REQUEST

SCC’s Food Panty is in need of the following:

- **Grab & Go Items:** chips, granola bars, fruit snacks, applesauce cups, fruit cups, pop-tarts, breakfast bars
- **Heat & Eat Items:** easy mac cups, cup noodles, canned ravioli, ready to eat canned soups
- **Toiletry Items:** tampons, pads, toilet paper, shampoo, conditioner, body soap, laundry detergent, dish soap
- **Please Check** expiration dates on items and consider cans that have pull tabs.



**DROP OFF DONATIONS IN
STUDENT SUPPORT CENTER 204**

SCC Apprenticeship Program Celebrates Kawasaki Partnership



image contributed

Kawasaki apprenticeship students with SCC President Dr. Paul Illich from l-r: Gary Baxter, Khalid Ibrahim, Jonathan Lass, Dr. Paul Illich, Beni Buzi Mbo Nta, Aaron Rios, and Pio Tayphen.

MILFORD - The Southeast Community College Apprenticeship program and Kawasaki Motors Manufacturing Corporation, U.S.A., celebrated their partnership on Wednesday, Nov. 15, at the Eicher Technical Center on the SCC Milford Campus as part of National Apprenticeship Week.

“This is an historic day to celebrate. This type of partnership is very important to Southeast Community College as it fulfills one of our strategic goals,” said Dr. Paul Illich, SCC president.

“We have this tagline at SCC to guide what we do at the College, and it’s called your path to possible,” he said. “When we talk about path to possible, we focus on the student, which is extremely important.”

“Today we are broadening that path to possible to include our industry partners,” Illich explained. “We want our partners to be thinking about what are the possible pathways for them to have a quali-

fied workforce and how we can help.”

Kawasaki is the first employer to utilize SCC’s apprenticeship program by signing on seven employees to upskill at SCC. The employees in the apprenticeship program are:

Beni Buzi Mbo Nta – Electromechanical

Gary Baxter – Electromechanical

Khalid Ibrahim – Electromechanical

Jonathan Lass – Electromechanical

Humberto Ornelas – Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning & Refrigeration Technology

Aaron Rios – Electromechanical

Pio Tayphen – Professional Truck Driver Training

“Today is all about the people at Kawasaki and their hard work,” said Jim Townsend, corporate manager of safety/training and development/wellness at Kawasaki.

“I really do believe when they matriculate, it forces us to raise our game,” he explained. “We need to be the employer of choice and this partnership with SCC is going to help us.”

“I’m a person that likes to blow the model up and be the first,” Townsend said. “That’s what we are doing here, and we are honored SCC chose us to be the first company in this program.”

SCC received \$4.8 million in American Rescue Plan funds in 2022 from the city of Lincoln to create an office of work-based learning which includes the Registered Apprenticeship Program.

This program meets the needs of both employers and job seekers by allowing individuals to earn a salary while they learn, gaining skills and knowledge in the classroom and on the job.

Additionally, an apprenticeship offers employers the chance to strengthen and build their workforce by providing a high-quality talent pipeline.

Salestrom Named SCC's Outstanding Faculty Member

Nicholas Salestrom was named the 2023 Nebraska Community College Association Outstanding Faculty Member for Southeast Community College.

He received the award on Sunday, Nov. 5, at the Annual Conference in North Platte, Nebraska.

"It's deeply, deeply humbling to receive this award," Salestrom said.

"Every day I work with students who face more challenges than I could have ever imagined facing when I was in college, and yet, here they are, showing up and working hard," he said.

"Every day I work with educators who teach courses and create programs to help students in ways I never would have thought of," Salestrom added. "I'm elated when I can point at our students and teachers and say, 'Look at what they're

doing! Isn't that amazing?' I'm fortunate because I have reason to say that all the time."

As an undergraduate, Salestrom studied fine art and has a Master of Arts degree in Teaching, Learning and Teacher Education as well as a Master of Fine Arts degree in Creative Writing and Media Arts.

He began teaching at SCC as an adjunct instructor in 2013. In 2015, he applied for a full-time position on the Beatrice Campus and has been there ever since as an English instructor.

He also serves as the program chair for the Beatrice English and Humanities programs.

"The best part about working at SCC is the students," he explained.

"I grew up in the same region of Nebraska that SCC serves, so I share common experiences with



image contributed

Nicholas Salestrom, left, receives the Outstanding Faculty Member award from Dr. Paul Illich, SCC President.

many students with whom I work," he said. "Every time I meet a student from a background different from my own, my perspective of my community is enriched immeasurably."

Always wanting the best classroom experience for his students, Salestrom was working on enhanced digital learning spaces before the COVID-19 pandemic, which proved beneficial when the College went remote with certain classes in March 2020.

He explored and piloted a number of courses taught via Zoom to facilitate collaboration opportunities between the Beatrice Campus and the six SCC Learning Centers.

Through this process, he developed classroom etiquette norms for digital learning spaces which he presented to the SCC Board of Governors in

2018.

"A community college's role is to serve its community," Salestrom said. "When someone is there ready to further their education, we're there, ready to help them along the path."

Dr. Carolee Ritter, dean of SCC's Arts & Sciences Division, praised Salestrom for his passion and commitment to excellence.

"I hired Nick as an adjunct English instructor nearly 10 years ago, and it became apparent very early on that he was someone I wanted to bring on board as a full-time permanent faculty member," Ritter said. "His demonstrated excellence and innovation in the classroom, on top of his initiative and service to the College, make him stand out as an extraordinary faculty member."

Bloom Coffee, continued

continued from page 26

ies, matcha, tea, La Croix, hot chocolate and juice. Having this many options, someone of any age is sure to find something that they would enjoy.

And I was surprised with how many options for food they offered. Their food options are three types of muffins (blueberry, chocolate and banana nut), a breakfast burrito, breakfast sandwich, strawberry cream cheese pastry,

chocolate croissant, avocado toast, apple turnover and a strawberry danish.

Having these options made it difficult to decide what to order and made me want to try a new thing every time. I like that they are innovative and provide so many options that anyone is sure to find something they like.

Bloom Coffee was a precious environment that was inviting and cozy and certainly worth the visit.

SCC Interns Succeed at State OCIO

The internship program at the Nebraska Office of the Chief Information Officer started in 2015 with several SCC students taking advantage of the experience.

Stacey Warner graduated from SCC’s Computer Information Technology program in December 2020 with a focus in PC and web design.

She started as an intern with the state and is currently a senior Java application developer. She felt SCC prepared her for her internship with the state.

“Through my educational journey at SCC, I was equipped with a strong programming foundation, particularly in the areas of database management and back-end frameworks,”

Warner said. “The solid groundwork laid by SCC has empowered me to quickly acquire any necessary skills and knowledge I may need throughout my career.”

The web team at the state currently has five interns, and Warner is in a unique position as a recent intern who is now a team leader. She knows the value of the internship in shaping a full-time employee.

“The OCIO has cultivated a longstanding partnership with SCC, having collaborated closely for many years,” Warner explained. “This first-hand experience has enabled us to recognize the exceptional quality of SCC’s curriculum, which equips their

students with the essential groundwork necessary for a prosperous journey within our organization.”

Jonathan Walrath joined the state as an intern in December 2022, working with the Finance team. He is part of a four-member team working on the Communication Billing System.

“I am honestly learning something new every day, and cementing previously learned knowledge double as much,” Walrath said. “One non-programming tidbit I learned from this experience is how important it is to not only be able to program well, but also to pick up and understand business environments and projects.”

Because he sees the

benefits of his internship, Walrath encourages other students to take advantage of their opportunities as well. He was worried his skills were not polished enough to be a productive team member. He quickly realized this was not the case.

“It’s important to remember that interns are not expected to be experts in the field, but students,” he said. “You are not required to pull up from memory incredibly specific information about some programming language oddity. You are expected to use the resources that are available to find an appropriate answer. Further, you will have many incredible teammates who will help you when you need it.”

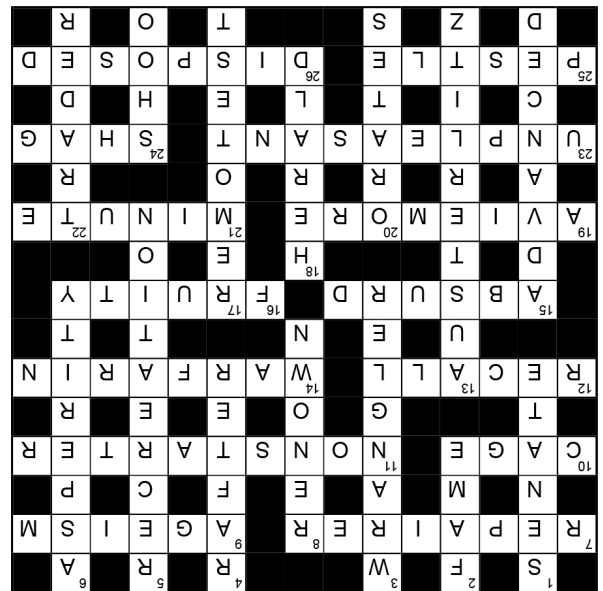
Fun and Games Solutions

Tricky

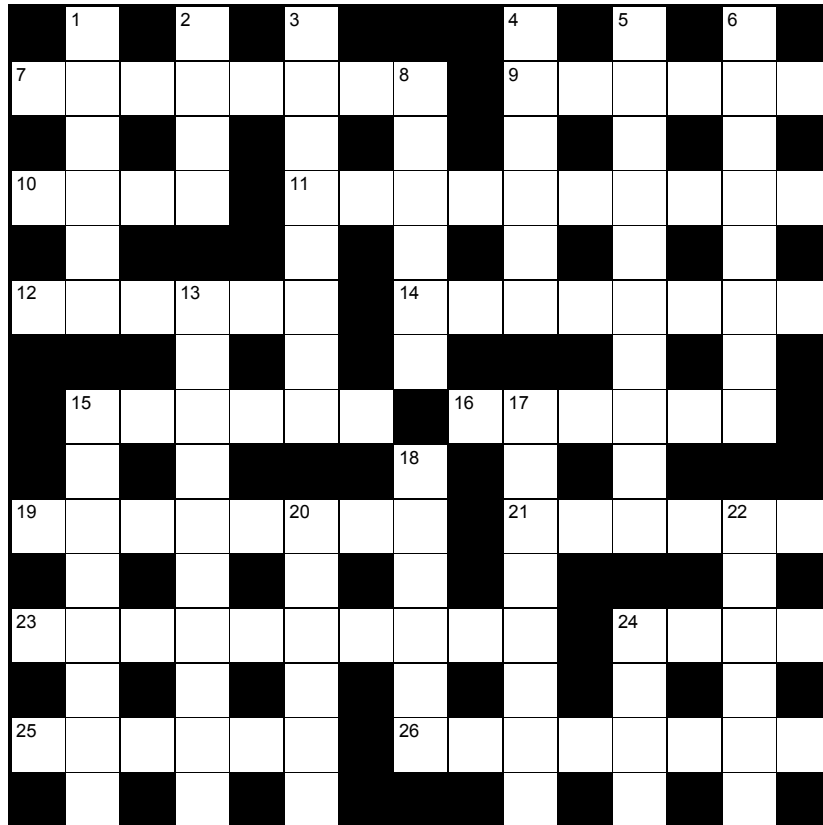
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Fiendish

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4	2	1	3	9	7	6	8	5
5	7	3	1	6	8	4	9	2



Fun and Games



ACROSS

- 7 Marriage guidance counsellor? He fixes things (8)
- 9 Game is ruined by prejudice (6)
- 10 Caught, getting time in prison (4)
- 11 Time invested in errant son failed – he has no chance of success (3-7)
- 12 Remember to visit again? (6)
- 14 Drug creating endless conflict at home (8)
- 15 Jack wants us back on road – ridiculous! (6)
- 16 Saucy. tasting of apple perhaps (6)
- 19 A struggle increased in Scottish town (8)
- 21 Note very little (6)
- 23 Nasty criminal upset Alan around start of November (10)
- 24 British agents keep hold of this tobacco (4)
- 25 Remove centre from pellets and grind – using this? (6)
- 26 Woman’s worked as model, having inclination (8)

DOWN

- 1 A teen’s represented in governing body (6)
- 2 Right away, plant evidence against celebrity (4)
- 3 Mathematician, one engaged in noisy dispute (8)
- 4 River subsequently needed for one travelling by water (6)
- 5 Changing to career in leisure activity (10)
- 6 Harshness, like compassion, the Queen embraced (8)
- 8 Owner adapts to new celebrity (6)
- 13 Uzis rattle violently in battle (10)
- 15 Lent progressed (8)
- 17 More will fail exam, being most aloof (8)
- 18 The woman’s lad upset the announcer (6)
- 20 Speaks of old values (6)
- 22 Communist art is brought back for businessman (6)
- 24 Fire gun, having no time to drive away (4)

Tricky

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Fiendish

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sudoku puzzles courtesy of sudokuoftheday.com

For solution, see bottom of page 33

SCC Receives Need-Based Scholarship Funds from EducationQuest

Southeast Community College is one of 30 Nebraska colleges and universities receiving scholarship funds from the EducationQuest Foundation for the 2023-2024 academic year.

The Foundation distributed \$1.57 million across the state.

“Access to higher education is a cornerstone of a prosperous and equitable society,” said Eric Drumheller, vice president of grants and scholarships for the Foundation. “Scholarships are important in breaking down

financial barriers, empowering deserving students to pursue their dreams, and fueling innovation and progress. By investing in scholarships, we invest in a brighter future for everyone.”

The EducationQuest Scholarship Program was established in 1999 to provide funding for Nebraska undergraduate students who demonstrate financial need.

Since the program began, the EducationQuest Foundation has awarded 28,000 scholarships worth more than \$30.4 million.

SCC received \$108,300 for the 2023-2024 academic year and has received funding since 1999.

“We are so grateful for this partnership with the EducationQuest Foundation,” said Michelle Birkel, executive director of the SCC Educational Foundation. “Their continued support makes a college education affordable for so many of our students. This past year, thanks to their investment, we gave 103 awards to 64 students. They are making an impact.”

The SCC Educational

Foundation was established in 1975 as a separate, non-profit, tax-exempt corporation whose purpose is supporting SCC’s mission as a fundraising organization.

This is accomplished by assisting students, staff and our communities through the development and wise use of financial resources.

In 2022-2023, more than \$2.5 million was awarded to more than 3,000 students by the Educational Foundation.

Submit your creative work for the next volume!

illuminations

- SHORT STORIES
- POEMS
- ACADEMIC ESSAYS
- ARTWORK
- PHOTOGRAPHS
- GRAPHIC DESIGN & ILLUSTRATION

Copies of the latest volume are available in all campus LRCs

If you have any questions, email: illuminations@southeast.edu



Cash prizes are awarded to top student submissions

View past volumes and submit your work at:



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