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BEATRICE LINCOLN MILFORD ONLINE

### The SCC Challenge

#### **SPRING 2024 - VOLUME 29, No. 2**

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*On the cover:* Woodhaven Hall on the Lincoln campus open up for students this semester. For a story on the new residence life manager, Preston Miller, see page 11. Photo by Joshua Whitney

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### www.sccchallenge.com



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# Write for The SCC Challenge and get class credit!

#### Journalism courses for fall:

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.

### Opinion

# Media literacy more important than ever

#### By Rylee Campbell

In the modern day of fast media consumption, college students are reminded to remain cautious of the reliability of the news they are reading, while being able to maintain their daily social media habits.

New technology makes the spread of news much faster than once formerly possible. With many of today's teens and adults finding most of their time being spent scrolling through a social media platform, they tend to fall into the habit of believing the news that will be most convenient.

In a 2022 survey conducted by Caitlin Carlson, an associate professor and chair of the communication and media department for Seattle University to further investigate the varieties of news outlets utilized by individuals, 74% of college students answered they receive their news from social media.

In a 2020 survey conducted by the National Library of Medicine, 483 students were asked to determine the credibility of fake news. Out of these students, only 116 were able to distinguish the difference between real news and false media advertisement.

If college students are not confident in their ability to determine the accuracy of the information they are receiving, they are left to fill those gaps by indulging in the comments of other people's opinions about the subject, often resulting in a highly fabricated story, with

### Recommended reading:

# Nebraska Examiner

https://nebraskaexaminer.com/



https://flatwaterfreepress.org/



mixed and possibly untrue details.

Cooper Weeks, a co-editor and copywriter for the Nemaha Country Herald, based out of Auburn, Neb., is hands on in the process of writing, developing and editing local newspapers. As a young and fresh face in the industry of journalism, Weeks will admit that he receives the bulk of his news through social media platforms as well.

"I get most of my news from Twitter and the internet," Weeks said. "Just getting the headline, getting the basic information of the news, I get most of it from social media."

Although social media proves to be a convenient form of news. ensuring official sources are utilized within a platform will help filter out irrelevance.

"If you're on your following page, I'm going to follow reliable sources for the most part," Weeks said. "If I see a news story, I always scroll to find a second news story to see if somebody else backs it up."

Before social media allowed us to be informed of major news within minutes, breaking news was spread by live broadcasts and printed newspapers from publications, taking days to develop to ensure full reliability.

"Those publications have a responsibility to be accurate with their news, where you and I could tweet something that would be completely wrong and there would be no backlash for us," Weeks said.

While most technology users today have developed a filter for detecting unreliable information within media, there are a wide variety of resources that can be utilized by the average individual that wants to stay up to date

### Opinion

# Reading helps treat Alzheimer's Disease

By Lauren Ginn

Alzheimer's Disease is on the rise, but there is one tool that can help with preventative care: reading.

"An estimated 6.9 million Americans age 65 and older are living with Alzheimer's in 2024. Seventy-three percent are age 75 or older" according to the Alzheimer's Association. Unfortunately, this number is set to increase to 14 million people (about twice the population of Arizona) by 2060.

The number of people with Alzheimer's per year is alarming, and big; fortunately, giving yourself time to read at least once a week can decrease these numbers.

Reading is an activity that requires concentration and comprehension, making the brain more resilient, strong and active. The cognitive reserve is the part of the brain where we store most information, being one of the major components for Alzheimer's Disease.

The cognitive reserve is where we do most of our learning as we grow up, which is why a patient with Alzheimer's will remember more from their childhood than adulthood.

According to the Rush University Study, "After the death of each adult



in the study, at the average age of 89, autopsies showed that those who were avid readers experienced 30% less memory loss and had the least physical signs of dementia."

Not only does reading prolong memory and work that part of your brain, reading requires interpreting the emotions, mental state and feelings of characters in books, which can help aid the longevity of being able to recognize and interpret social ques, as well as their own emotions and feelings.

Reading is believed to be beneficial at any age, but especially those in their 20's, 30's, 40's and so on. This is because as someone ages, the brain stays constantly active and learning.

Just because one gets older, does not mean it is continued on page 5

### Media literacy, continued

continued from page 3

with news.

The easiest way to know what is going on around you is by reading your local newspaper. Developed by teams of journalists, local newspapers contain information that is more likely to be relevant to readers than social media. In the age of "news deserts," and less printed material, local newspapers have the purpose of serving a community, with less of a reason for fabrication within stories.

How reliable a source is to an individual will

depend on their views socially.

The Associated Press is a credible and neutral form of fact-based online media that is of easy access to college students.

In the opening statement from the "About Us," page on The Associated Press website, they state the claim, "AP today remains the most trusted source of fast, accurate, unbiased news in all formats and the essential provider of the technology and services vital to the news business."

While surfing the web, students can further test

the reliability of an article using online resources such as the website, MediaBiasFactCheck.com, where bias from within any article can be detected.

When on platforms such as X (formerly Twitter), you can do yourself a favor by following reliable profiles and resources that will contain a blue verified checkmark. Individuals may also find useful information in the "News," category under the search tab, as that will be more likely to contain posts from verified individuals discussing current events.

While college students

are scrolling through Tik-Tok, they should ensure news related videos are uploaded by official media accounts, as videos from other user accounts may contain opinionated information and leave out key details of a story.

With these tips in mind, college students are encouraged to expand their variety of news intake by utilizing local news and online media publications, while ensuring the news they absorb from social media is reliable and safe to be spread.

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# Nebraska Hall is getting an overhaul

By Mikayla Teet

MILFORD – The building once known as the Roosevelt Building, the Nebraska State Trade School, and eventually Nebraska Hall, is getting a makeover.

Because of donor support, SCC has raised \$1.5 million in pledges for the Nebraska Hall Project. The projected cost is estimated to be \$7.4 million, with a fundraising goal of \$2 million. Donations can be sent through the SCC website.

Located on the SCC Milford campus, Nebraska Hall has been an unoccupied building since 2019 according to Ed Koster, Vice President for Research, Planning, and Technology and Milford Campus Executive Director.

"Hampton Construc-



photo from SCC web cam

Nebraska Hall on the Milford campus, above, is undergoing a major renovation expected to be completed by the end of the year.

tion began working on the project already," shared Ed Koster.

He added that "The building is projected to be finished by December of 2024."

Architects at Sinclair Hill have worked with SCC and found a way the building can functionally serve the college in three different ways.

A student union space is being designed on the main floor of the building. This space will give students the opportunity to work on group projects, a study space and access to technology after instructional buildings have been locked for the night.

The second floor of the building will be transformed into a hub of administrative offices, including Admissions, Registration, the Business Office and Financial Aid. These offices will be thoughtfully organized to ensure prospective students can visit each office in a logical and efficient order.

Nebraska Hall's third floor will be dedicated to student success. Here, students will find advising offices, the testing center, counseling and career services, as well as the office of the Dean of Students.

In addition to remodeling the three floors, a main door will be to the north of the building with better access to the visitor parking lot. An elevator will also be installed near this entrance to comply with ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) regulations that accommodate students with special needs.

Nebraska Hall is the oldest building on the Milford campus, having been built in 1920. The building was called the Roosevelt Building and was first used as a hospital and housing unit for sailors and soldiers.

In 1941, the building was transitioned to a trade school after legislative bill 148 was introduced by Senator Stanley Matzke.

Lastly, the building was eventually converted into a dormitory for male students in 1941 until 2019. At this time, the building was renamed Nebraska Hall.

"It is important to note the history of this building," said Koster. "Many of the students who have graduated from the Milford campus have lived here."

These renovations will preserve the history of the building and still be able to serve students for many years to come.

### Alzheimer's, continued

#### continued from page 4

unnecessary to stop learning. Books provide seniors with Alzheimer's the ability to continue learning.

If a loved one is already diagnosed, a rapid decline can still be reduced. They may get distracted easily, but the effort required to read a few short words is still going to prolong and preserve memory and language.

Most doctors recommend short stories for patients who are still able to read but are on the decline. And once they are unable to read themselves, it is recommended that family or nurses read to those with Alzheimer's to keep the decline as slow as possible.

### Beatrice Ag hosts more than 300 for FFA contest

#### By Bradley Blakemore

BEATRICE – The FFA contest for Nebraska high schoolers of district one was held at SCC at the Beatrice campus, and over 300 students competed for a variety of awards throughout the day.

FFA is an organization for students enrolled in agriculture classes at their high school that the organization says "makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for Premier Leadership, Personal Growth and Career Success through Agriculture Education."

Teams of four or five from many schools across District 1 competed on Tuesday, March 5, on the Beatrice campus for the livestock management contest.

Other competitions

offered included Ag Biotechnology, Sales, Ag Mech, Environmental and Natural Resources, Farm Management, Floriculture, Nursery Landscape, Food Science, Livestock Management, Meats and Veterinary Science.

According to FFA organizer and SCC Ag instructor Travis Pralle, this large variety of competition is what allows the school to attract so many possible future students to the events.

"Every year, we are happy to host judging competitions for the 19 schools within District 1 of Nebraska FFA," said Pralle.

He also stated that the Career Development Events or "CDE's" are an extension of what students learn in class.

### Ag Seminar honors Ag students, fosters community connections

#### By Karley Rupprecht

BEATRICE – On February 13 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m., Southeast Community College held an Ag Seminar on the Beatrice Campus with guest speaker Eric Snodgrass.

This seminar was held by the Ag Committee of Beatrice, and it included Southeast students to older community members.

Lynn Schlake, a member of the committee stated that it made sense for him to be the MC for the day as he was on the committee and on the Beatrice Campus that day.

According to Schlake, "Ag Seminar is an event to feature a keynote speaker who provides information current in the agriculture industry. The event also recognizes the top students within the SCC Ag

Program."

Schlake continued, "We announce the students of the months and announce the student of the year. Currently the Ag Chamber committee also awards two scholarships to SCC Ag Students."

This year's speaker, Eric Snodgrass, provided insight on how weather effects the commodity markets. He also provided trends of commodities based on historic weather patterns.

When asked to note his biggest takeaway from the guest speaker, Schlake stated, "The weather is impossible to predict."

When asked what top three things a student wishing to participate within the seminar or the ag program in general would be, Schlake listed, "Apply to be an Ag student, know that the seminar is not only for ag students, but anyone can also attend, and all students are encouraged to participate."

According to Schlake, his favorite part of speaking with college-age students is, "A big difference is that the older generation is aware of world events whereas the younger generation really doesn't know about the world, they are more so worried about where they grew up."

Schlake resumed, "I feel that I am opening the eyes of younger students with events going on in the outer world such as Ag prices, the Ukraine war, China who is a large importer of markets and struggling with the economy, the new government, different weather effects, etc. The older generation

is more aware, the younger generation needs more education."

Schlake explained that a lot has changed in agriculture over the last couple decades.

Schlake explained, "Our generation loves technology and its advancements. In agricultural we see a lot of technology like drone usages."

"Farms were much more diversified when I was grouping up," he added. "Now what you see is one large farm and livestock operation where people specialize within one animal, getting away from a diversified family operation into one large, specified operation."

Finally, Schlake added that the job opportunity within agriculture is fantastic

# Milford campus hosts Casino Night for gambling awareness month

#### By Nikolas Ostrowski

MILFORD – Wednesday, Feb. 28, SCC Milford Campus hosted its annual Casino Night for all students. The event displayed card games that lasted from 6-9 p.m.

Stacey Harrifeld, one of the people in charge, said it is a "very interactive event, a good way to meet people."

Casino night was held in the Dunlap Cafeteria on the Milford campus.

Participants were playing with chips; no actual money was involved. The upside to this, players were allowed to win various prizes depending on how they played/won.

Games that were offered were poker, blackjack and roulette. Players chips were added up at the end of the event, and prizes were distributed from smaller prizes to bigger prizes.

Harrifeld said that there were many prizes given away including a "43-inch TV, gift cards, a corn hole set (donated from Building Construction), tools donated from MAC and many other prizes" to encourage students to come out, win prizes and interact with new people.

Student Life and Resident Life were the ones that put together this event. They even had the RA's and Student Senate Officers as the dealers for the night.

Student Life and Resident Life promoted this event, putting fliers around campus, social media posts, emails and reminders in class.

SCC hosted a surprise guest speaker. Mike Sciandra, an addiction recovery advocate, attended the event to speak with the students about gambling awareness.

"Gambling Awareness Month is a nationwide campaign that is held annually in March [and] is something everyone should be aware about," said Harrifeld.



Photos contributed

# Casino Night on the Milford campus features games and prizes. Above, Devin Blankenbaker deals the cards, and below, Preston Metzger keeps the game running smoothly.

Harrifeld said that "Students agree that this is one of their favorite events. It is very competitive and you get to meet new people."

"Casino Night, this year had a lot to offer," said Harrifeld. "From games to a guest speaker to prizes, it had it all!"



### Ag seminar, continued

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"There is a large growth in student populations of females," he explained. "The pay and career options are great in agriculture. There is a shift of student body because of the great job opportunities when they graduate."

### UNL Transfer Advisor Fair hosted in Lincoln

#### By Mikayla Teet

LINCOLN — On Tuesday, Feb. 13, Southeast Community College in Lincoln paired with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to host its biannual UNL Transfer Advisor Fair.

This event was located in the U section in rooms 102, 114, 115 and 117 from 10:30 in the morning to 1:00 in the afternoon.

This event has been taking place for 25 years, according to Michele Richards, who started putting together this event in 2006 with UNL. This transfer fair takes place every spring and fall semester, and planning begins about four months prior.

All Southeast Commu-

nity College students are invited to attend these transfer fairs if they are interested in attending UNL.

Richards says this would be a good opportunity for students "who may not know what major to declare" and recommends attending to ask questions and taking an opportunity to meet advisors and explore career and major options.

Typically, 50-80 students visit with UNL advisors for their potential majors or meet with financial aid advisors. If needed, students can stroll over to the booth for military and veterans' affairs. A student could also find value in speaking with the Center for Academic

Success and Transition (CAST) support group. All these tables were eager to assist students.

According to Richards, students spend an average of 20 to 30 minutes at the fair, and when students enter, they can check in by scanning a QR code at the front table.

Then they can meet an admissions advisor, speak to someone with financial aid and fill out an application. Meeting with a college or two is typical.

To help be prepared, Richards suggests students bring laptops to quickly reference classes or Transferology. It would also be helpful to bring a list of questions.

Richards says attending the transfer fair is "a great event in your first semester at SCC. The sooner you make contact, the better," says Richards.

She also emphasized the importance of building relationships with advisors.

Working with advisors early on can help students avoid taking classes they may not need, like an extra math class or classes that won't transfer to the intended program.

Anyone who was unable to make it to an advisor fair can find UNL on Mondays from 1:30 to 3:30 across from the cafeteria.

The next UNL Transfer Fair will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 18, from 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

# Milford campus hosts career fairs

#### By Aaron Dieterich

MILFORD – The College Career fair days were a valuable opportunity in March for students.

While the events took place at the Welsh Center Gym located on the Milford campus, all students were encouraged to attend.

There were four different fairs on March 5, 6, 21, and 27, each ranging in length from about 2 to 3 hours.

Each fair day is meant to appeal to a different major or career field each time, so students can attend as many of the days as they would like.

For example, March 5 and 6 pertained to the construction and transportation divisions while electrical and electromechanical technologies were a strong focus for the March 21 fair, and the March 27 included the manufacturing division.

Anywhere from about 70 to 80 companies attend each fair. Most are from Nebraska. However, geographically, these companies hail anywhere from Iowa, South Dakota, Kansas and Missouri.

In addition to location, companies also range in size, really allowing students customizable options to choose the perfect job.

Shelly Tolle, SCC Career Services Specialist, encourages students to "take advantage to network with a variety of companies."

She also mentions that students should take advantage of the Career Services office free services to best "set themselves apart to employers." Help includes printing free student business cards and resume assistance where there was a drawing for a \$50 gas card and two \$25 campus store gift cards for those who took advantage of the resume assistance.

While these fairs occur on regular class days, students are still encouraged to appear as formal as they are able. Business casual is best for positive impressions. However, companies are understanding of student circumstances.

# SCC Pride hosted Day of Silence

#### By Ashton Sheely

LINCOLN – SCC Pride celebrated its Day of Silence event on April 12th in room U102/104.

The Day of Silence is a form of protest, allyship and comradery.

"The students found information on websites about the Day of Silence," said Kalika Jantzen, the SCC Pride advisor at the Lincoln campus.

"The Day of Silence is Friday, April 12, and the students wanted to highlight that here at SCC," she continued.

Students, traditionally, put together a slideshow that displays queer art,



history and words of affirmation with resources, fun giveaways and snacks along the way.

The annual event is open to any and all faculty, students and staff, and being a part of the club is not a requirement to attend. Many faculty and staff were able to drop by on Friday, Jantzen highlighted.

To promote club activities, Jantzen said that events are displayed at any pride events, student newsletters, or on the SCC website. In fact, SCC Pride has had the opportunity to partner with other LGBTQ+ organizations like OutNebraska.

"Last fall, we had an event and invited OutNebraska," Jantzen explained. "They had a table and promoted what they were working on."

The future of SCC Pride is something that Jantzen looks forward to, stating that it's important to include an LGBTQ+ safe environment.

"For the time I've been here, the benefit is inclusionary and free from discrimination," she explained.

"To have those dedicated, recognized times, spaces and meetings are valued by students," she accentuated.

Jantzen strives to see more students joining in on the festivities, and although her group of students is small but mighty, she'd love to have more opportunities for idea sharing and bonding with a larger group.

Students who are interested in joining the club can sign up via QR codes posted around campus or through a physical sign-up sheet. Jantzen asserts that a student may also email her with any questions.

## Ag Olympics offers end-of-year fun

#### By Ellie Haas

BEATRICE – The SCC Ag program in Beatrice has an annual April tradition called the Ag Olympics that gives students a fun, end-of-the-year event where they can relax and have fun.

This year, the Ag Olympics were held on Monday, April 1.

While the events are just open to college Ag students, all students can watch the Ag Olympics, which is hosted at the Beatrice campus farm.

The Ag Olympics are put on by the Ag club each

year, and a team of elected officers oversee the planning of events that take place during the Olympics.

The Ag Olympics include a series of different events, and the officers vote and decide on which ones they want to include in the Olympics that year. Each elected officer gets the chance to pitch and vote on ideas before selecting the events that will be featured.

Ag Club president Dawson Mollendor said some of the usual activities include bale tossing, catching a greased pig and goat-roping. These events have "been going on for a while," says Mollendor.

While each year the events change, Mollendor says they still bring the same amount of fun and relaxation to the Ag students after a long year of hard work and dedication to their program.

He said here is also not much teacher involvement with the events; they are there to monitor and help out when needed, but most of the Olympics are planned and put on by the voted officers.

# SCC begins prison education program

#### By Aaron Dieterich

This year, Southeast Community College Lincoln campus expands their academic inclusiveness in a unique way. This 2024 Spring semester saw around 229 enrollments from incarcerated students in the new UPWARD prison education program.

The goal of this new program is to help these individuals transition back into life on more than just an academic level.

Rob Jeffreys, State Corrections Director, mentions a correlation between higher education and a significant decrease in recidivism.

He says that "forty three percent of inmates are less likely to return to prison within three years" when they have access to college.

As Amy Doty, dean of correctional education at SCC, explained, "This enhances public safety and increases the skilled workforce in Nebraska."

Within these academic endeavors, Jeffreys said, these students gain valuable skills like discipline and endurance that prove to be beneficial for a successful life.

"SCC is teaching in person at this time to give students the same access to high quality instruction the college offers on all its campuses and learning centers," Doty said.

To accommodate the obvious security measures still needing to be upheld with respect to the incar-



photo contributed

NDCS Director Rob Jeffreys, left, and SCC President Dr. Paul Illich sign a Memorandum of Understanding for the partnership.

cerated students, a team of 30 SCC faculty teach on sight at prisons in Lincoln and York and are actively reconstructing parts of coursework to meet these security needs.

Doty added, "Coursework is being modified, so students can have secure access to Canvas."

Additionally, laptops are provided by SCC to ensure technological equity.

As of current, classes being offered through the prison education program include Introduction to Psychology, Public Speaking, English, Business, Success at SCC and Microsoft Applications.

In the fall of 2024, SCC is expanding this pool of offered classes. Students enrolled in this program can expect career options available through academic transfer, business and technical education programs.

As Doty explained, "Bringing education into carceral spaces in the college's 15-county service area is another way SCC accomplishes its open-access mission and helps meet the needs of the learners, community and employers it serves."





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# Lincoln adds residence life manager

#### By Rylee Campbell

LINCOLN - With Southeast Community College being over halfway through the 2023-2024 school vear, a member from the new Lincoln campus staff reflects on the work ethic and values needed to establish the success of a new housing program.

Preston Miller, the Residential Life Manager, took on this role starting January of 2024, prepared to face new challenges and experiences.

Miller graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Studies in December of 2023.

While at Mississippi State University, Miller received a "Day One Leadership Award" for his participation in a class community service project for the Salvation Army.

During this assignment, his group created a more efficient way of organizing their canned food so the Salvation Army is able to provide for more people and avoid having cans expire.

Graduating on a Friday, Miller drove 13 hours to an interview for a new position that following Monday.

Growing up with his father in the Navy, the

concept of moving was frequent to Miller, and he was familiar with the state and cities surrounding the capital.

"Being moved around so much. I'm less set on geography, and more just looking for a position, and I really was interested in something in housing," Miller said.

Being a former Residential Advisor for his own University, the opening of SCC's new housing unit brought forth a career opportunity for Miller. With the consistent intentions of informing students on res life, Miller found this position appealing.

"The thing I like most about housing is connecting with residents and helping them have a right hand, whether that's trying to teach skills somewhat taught, whether that's connecting with students to resources like the tutoring center or career center," Miller said, "just making sure you know about your resources that are available."

As the first Residential Life Manager for the Lincoln campus of SCC, there are many duties that Miller must fulfill, some of which are still proving to be a learning process.

Miller is responsible for supervising other residential advisors, resolving student issues of conduct.



**Preston Miller** 

coordinating to fix maintenance issues, processing student housing applications and a wide variety of other tasks. He also plays a major role in being an approachable figure to residents.

"I see myself as a connector," Miller says. "I enjoy knowing that students have someone, because I know that not everyone has that support unfortunately."

On top of the tasks that Miller fulfills daily in his position, he is working on finding ways to overcome the obstacles he finds challenging. Two of the biggest challenges are managing the budget and dealing with student conduct.

"I've never been over a budget before, so I'm just learning all the accounting and how to split, and all the purchasing restrictions," Miller said.

If a student is not

obeying a housing policy, Miller oversees the solving of that issue.

"It takes time getting used to learning how to navigate those conversations about addressing correcting behavior," Miller said. "It's something that I don't have experience with, and it can be a bit weird, a learning moment."

Miller gives credit to other residential life professional staff that have dealt with conflict, who he turns to for advice when needed.

With the new housing unit being recently built and welcoming students, there is still frequent construction on the SCC campus, which Miller believes has its pros and cons.

"With students here, construction has half its crew, so it takes longer to get things done," Miller said, "so sometimes if there's an issue, construction has to fix it. It's also been really nice because there's things construction can easily fix while they're here."

In January of 2024, SCC opened the building, Woodhaven Hall, to welcome all students. With single and double rooms, each unit is connected by a kitchen, with same gender roommates on either side,

## Lincoln Nursing Adds Four New Instructors

#### Chelsea Rudloff

#### By Lauren Ginn

LINCOLN - New nursing instructor Chelsea Rudloff is moving from a caretaker in medical care to an educator.

Rudloff is from Mitchell, which is right outside of Scottsbluff. She enjoys playing golf and taking care of her 10-month-old son.

She attended and graduated nursing school at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and worked in the ICU for a few years after she graduated. Most of Rudloff's nursing background is in critical care.

Rudloff and her husband relocated to the Lincoln area where she took classes on infusion and



Chelsea Rudloff

oncology in nursing.

"I decided that I wanted to turn around and do that as an educator, become a nurse educator or nurse instructor, and I found myself here at SCC," she said.

Rudloff is a nursing instructor with the associate degree nursing program in

the Health Sciences building on the Lincoln campus. She chose SCC by working alongside SCC alumni and hearing them talk about how they felt that the "faculty really cared about them and their success."

"I too believe in my students, and I want them to be successful and watch them grow and contribute to the great profession of nursing," said Rudloff about her students.

A typical workday for Rudloff looks "very complex in the nursing department."

She does not do a typical lecture in the classroom; instead, she puts together skills labs, stages simulations for students to work with mannequins that breathe and talk, and she also takes students to hospitals to get real life experiences with real patients.

Rudloff's considers herself a student as well, saying, "Each and every day, I'm learning something myself because the students turn around and teach me so much about how to be a good educator and how to be a good nurse."

Rudloff said she was fortunate enough to be able to learn that she could take her degree in nursing and become an educator. She says that not many people know that they can do that with a medical degree, which is something she describes as a "hidden gem" and is grateful that she was able to do.

#### Erin Lammie

#### By Sam Moedy

LINCOLN - Erin Lammie is a new full-time Instructor of the Associates Degree Nursing Program at SCC in Lincoln this semester.

Lammie described herself as "from everywhere," as she very often moved around growing up in a military family. However, she calls Georgia home because of her relationships there.

For Lammie, impacting the next generation of nursing students is one of the great allures of her position.

Last semester, working as an adjunct instructor, she was able to foster a bond with her students. Now, with more time, Lammie has high hopes for building relationships and hopes to hear stories of success in the future.

As SCC makes its first impression on Lammie,

she mentions that by far, the people she has met here have been the best part of her work. Conversely, she says she has no love for the SCC parking situation.

Initially unsure of what she wanted to be when she grew up (momentarily wanting to be an archaeologist) her mother encouraged her to be a nurse as she was a nurse.

As Lammie studied, she



**Erin Lammie** 

#### Rachel Parks

#### By Karley Rupprecht

LINCOLN – Rachel L. Parks, instructor in the Southeast Community College ADN program, brings several years' experience to her new career.

Parks attended Nebraska Wesleyan University where she achieved her Bachelor of Science Degree before working at Bryan East for three years as a labor and delivery RN and then traveled for two years as a LDRP RN (labor, delivery, recovery and postpartum).

Parks felt drawn to OB nursing and decided to pursue a career in healthcare. She was aware of a few bad experiences with deliveries involving people she loved, and she wanted to help others feel protected and taken care of during this difficult experience.

What Parks enjoys most about being a college

instructor is "being with students and doing what I can to help them think like a nurse."

She explains, "I hold expectations for my students. They will be caring for lives here soon, and that is not something to be taken lightly."

Parks continues, "It is incredibly rewarding but also incredibly taxing; I want to make the infor-





**Rachel Parks** 

#### **Amber Propst**

#### By Lauren Ginn

LINCOLN – Amber Propst, a new nursing instructor on the Lincoln campus, hails from Fayette, Mo.

She and her husband, who was in the military, have traveled and lived in many places including Texas, Hawaii, back to Missouri, and then to Lincoln to be closer to their families in Nebraska and Kansas.

Propst enjoys reading, watching movies with her husband, spending time outside with her two children and was a part of an axe throwing league for a while.

After graduating high school, Propst attended Central Methodist University in Fayette, Mo., to pursue her bachelor's degree in psychology. After receiving her bachelor's in



**Amber Propst** 

psychology, she went back to CMU to get her bachelor's in nursing.

Propst is currently working on applying to get her master's in nursing at Methodist in Omaha.

She is part of the Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) faculty at SCC involved with helping nursing students achieve their degree.

Propst said that she

chose to come to SCC because "everyone wanted the same thing. We all want the students and others to succeed."

She added that she loves "seeing the light bulb go off with students."

Propst said that she never has a "typical" workday. Some days she will come into the office for grading and teaching in the classroom, and sometimes, she takes "students to hospitals around the Lincoln area to help them with patient care, giving medications, and helping students improve their skills."

She says the most enjoyable thing about her job is that she loves all the people that she works with and gets to see every day, as well as knowing that the students want to be there and really take in everything that she can teach them.

Propst recommends to anyone thinking about entering the nursing field to start with a medical terminology class and possibly work to become a certified nursing assistant (CNA).

She said that becoming a CNA opened her eyes to what she would be doing as a nurse and helped assure her that nursing is the right path for her.

Some advice that Propst would give to students looking to take any nursing class would be to "really look at information before you come in."

It is important, she stated, to "know what you are getting yourself into and all the hard work that it will take to succeed in the medical field."

# Welton is new HR coordinator

#### By Kal O'Bryant

LINCOLN – Typhannie Welton is a new Human Resources Coordinator at Southeast Community College.

She began her time at SCC in December of 2023, after seven years of HR experience in the medical billing field.

A typical day for Welton doesn't really exist; she may start her day by checking emails or her office phone, but her daily tasks vary from attending meetings, to reviewing applicants, to collaborating on projects with her coworkers.

Welton graduated from

SCC's human services program, which is part of what drew her to her current job.

She sees SCC as warm and inviting.

Recalling a story from her first day, she said, "An instructor—not even from the Lincoln campus, but from Beatrice—called my office to welcome me."

She and her coworkers also have very supportive relationships, both professionally and personally.

Welton's passion for people and her want to fill others' needs are why she's a good fit for HR. Even through challenging days, knowing that she was able to help someone keeps her



**Typhannie Welton** 

motivated.

Though she's not as involved in campus life as some students or educators, Welton feels that SCC has been an environment that is always teaching her something new.

"I don't feel like I've ever stopped learning," she explained. "I'm broadening my horizons every day."

Welton also mentioned that her favorite part of her job is that she's able to work and communicate with a wide variety of people.

Welton lives with her husband and their dog, and she's very close with her sister. She spends the bulk of her free time reading and playing video games, and she also enjoys hiking and spending time outdoors.

#### Lammie, continued

#### continued from page 12

came to enjoy the vast versatility of nursing, saying she loves that she is able to switch the things she does every few years.

As a mom and full-time worker, Lammie devotes most of her free time to her children, her friends and reading, but hopes to explore new hobbies as her children grow more independent. She wonders if she could be a hidden artist or poet.

To rest, Lammie likes to

read and to "lay in the sun like a lizard." Lammie also has a love for camping, especially when she gets to smell like a campfire.

Lammie has two dogs, a husband and four children. She and her husband have shared a very special bond; Lammie described them as having "parallel lives." Lammie and her husband met in the third grade and both grew up in the military. Often, their families were stationed in similar places.

While in Nebraska,

Lammie hopes to explore Nebraska and especially looks forward to visiting a few of Nebraska's unique features, especially seeing the sandhill cranes and Carhenge. Lammie also has an appreciation for the Nebraska sunsets and sunrises.

She also stressed the importance of expanding peoples focus to the community and relationships that can be fostered outside of one's self.

Mentioning the isolationist dangers of social

media, Lammie invited the youth of today to look beyond their devices to connect with others, saying "there is a lot of value in investing in other people... you need to do both: invest in yourself and invest in other people."

No matter where she is, Lammie values connection and her relationships, and hopes to share her deep love for investing in others with her students.

# Bobcat wrestling succeeds on national stage

#### By Karley Rupprecht

BEATRICE - SCC Wrestling found success on the national stage this season with one national champion and seven more who placed at the national championship.

According to head coach Jacob Hamilton, the team's strengths included being well-conditioned and battle tested. He stated that learning to stay poised when they are down in matches and finishing take-downs are some areas of improvement for the team.

The hardest matches, Hamilton says, are "the ones at the National Tournament. Everyone is on the same level playing field, and it's a matter of who wants it more."

Overall, for men, Isaac White finished second at 174 pounds, Jordon Oehme finished third at 133 pounds, and Ely Olbering finished sixth at 149 pounds.

For women, Eve Herlyn was a national champion at 143 pounds, Kiara Boldridge finished third at 235 pounds, Talia Lee finished third at 130 pounds, Nevaeh Leonard finished fourth at 143 pounds, and Jocelyn Ambriz finished fifth at 170 pounds.

Isaac White and Jordon



photo contributed

Fr. Eve Herlyn, above, became the schools first national champion with her win at Nationals. Herlyn is from Kansas City, Missouri, where she wrestled for Park Hill and had 2- second place finishes at the prep level.

Oheme are two of the male wrestlers that Hamilton pointed out that had great success this year.

Kiara Boldridge, Nevaeh Leonard, and Eve Herlyn were three of the female wrestlers that Hamilton said had considerable accomplishments throughout the season.

Hamilton's advice on wrestling is simply that wrestling is about building character, getting to know your body and how to maneuver it, and how to handle life in general.

"I don't know how many other sports teach you how to handle life because with wrestling it's just you out there on the

mat. You can't blame your teammates for the outcome," Hamilton declared.

He continued, "Wrestling is like an art. You are free to be creative and do what you want out there on the mat. With wrestling, there's a lot of freedom to create different moves and see what works best for you."

To keep his wrestlers motivated. Hamilton explains that he has an open-door policy so that his team knows they are always welcome in his office.

He explains that building relationships is also very important.

As he illustrated, "If

someone had a rough day out on the mat during practice or a match, it's important to be able to wrap your arms around them after and tell them that they are doing great and to keep working at their goals."

Hamilton explains that the most important way to keep the wrestlers on task is to keep their practices structured. Even with a regular job, there must be structure for success. and the same goes with wrestling practices and matches.

The thing Hamilton enjoys most about working with both men and women is "seeing a wrestler meet their goals, gain maximum confidence in themselves, go out and perform to the best of their ability and make it up to the National Championship."

He explains that wrestlers face countless battles, adversity, ups and downs of the season, and much more during the time he is working with them, so seeing them achieve their goals is the reason he does what he does.

Lastly, Hamilton describes that wrestling is a very goal-oriented, fun sport, but "you have to be willing to put in the work in both the off season and during the season."

# Volleyball makes move to Lincoln campus

By Mikayla Teet

LINCOLN – Head coach Carolyn Campbell is developing a volleyball team for Southeast Community College's (SCC) Lincoln campus.

The SCC Bobcats previously played from the Beatrice campus, but the college is moving the team in hopes that the Lincoln campus will improve recruitment. The team should be moved into their new location by the second week of August, with the preseason starting the next week.

The first home game will be played on Wednesday, Aug. 28, vs. Union College. The team will compete against other schools in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

Campbell is tasked with scheduling those games and getting official approval. Around twenty teams are in the NJCAA, including Central Community College, North Platte Community College and McCook Community College.

"I am really excited to be in Lincoln and build a fan base here," said Campbell.

Campbell is no stranger to Lincoln's love for volleyball, having coached at Nebraska Wesleyan for three years and for Lincoln Public Schools for two years.

She also coached in various schools throughout Omaha and has seventeen years of experience coaching for clubs.

Having those connections in the Omaha and Lincoln areas will be helpful to recruitment for the SCC team, she feels.

"Volleyball in Nebraska is crazy! There is no other state that has volleyball programs like Nebraska," Campbell shared in another interview with SCC Sports Information.

When it comes to recruiting, Campbell is hands-on.

"Recruiting is a big



**Carolyn Campbell** 

thing and something I have done a lot in the past," she shared. "I am big at being in the gyms and going to tournaments."

Campbell attended an Omaha tournament over President's Day weekend, where she was coaching and watching players from club teams for recruitment.

The team will consist of 14 players, 10 of whom have already been in the gym with Campbell practicing, and she says all have great potential.

Campbell said she is excited to start practicing and getting an idea of what the team has for talent and what the team needs to be successful. She added that she will be offering camps this summer for players, with more details to come.

### Men's basketball claim Region IX title

By Bradley Blakemore

LINCOLN – The Bobcat basketball team was able to find a way to come home to Lincoln with the hardware that is the Region IX tournament championship after beating Central CC in the final game of the year.

Entering the game, the Bobcats had played the Raiders of Central CC twice prior and lost both; however, the Bobcats won the big one.

"The biggest thing was we looked at how we could defend better. We really did a good job of defending," Head Coach Joel Wooten said about the win.

Freshman Justin Bolis, the team's leading scorer, had a double-double in the game with 24 points and 11 rebounds while being very efficient shooting the ball.

Other key contributors in the championship included sophomore Collin

continued on page 18



photo contributed

The Bobcat basketball team defeated Central CC in a 77-69 win to claim the Region IX title.

## Softball earns regional title with new coach

#### By Ellie Haas

BEATRICE – The new school year has brought many changes to The Southeast Community College athletic department: a new mascot, new sports and a few new coaches.

One of the teams that received a new coach this year was the softball team.

After Jodi DeBoer resigned as head coach for the Lady Bobcats at the end of last year, Gary Lytle stepped up to the plate.

Coach Lytle has experience coaching his own children's softball team as well as high school softball for Beatrice High School.

Lytle said this position

is "a new challenge and opportunity to work with young individuals and teaching the game."

The team had a rough start to the season, but as the team got used to playing with each other, the players were able to pull out a few wins.

Along with the new coach, the team also acquired some new players.

One transfer for this season is sophomore Kendyl Schmitz, who decided to transfer to SCC after playing a year at Highland Community College in part because of the coaching change.

"I knew that Gary had gotten the job," she said, "and I have played their team for a long time and knew he was a good coach."

"This coaching staff is very supportive," she added. "If I am struggling, they are always there to help me out."

This type of coaching seems to be very influential and has made a big impact on this team.

The team also lost seven graduating sophomores at the end of last season, leaving only three returning players from the previous season. One of these returning sophomore is second basemen Emma Jenson.

"The new coach defi-



**Gary Lytle** 

nitely gives us a lot more feedback," said Jenson.

The team is still in season and working on improving every day and with this new staff many team members. The coaches have been working hard in developing this team.

"Overall, its consistency is what we need to work on, coming out and bringing the enthusiasm and the consistency," said Lytle.

The Southeast CC Women's Softball team captured the Region IX regular season and the post season with a pair of wins against Central CC.

The Bobcats took the best of three series by the scores of 2 to 1 and 6 to 1 on Saturday. Southeast improved to 18 and 18 for the season.

First year Head Coach Gary Lytle was named Region IX Coach of the year for his efforts.

# Focus pays off for men's soccer

By Ellie Haas

BEATRICE – The SCC men's soccer team has focused a lot of attention in their sometimes-four-hour practices with a key focus in defensive strategy and keeping the ball on their side of the field.

"As long as we keep the ball the other team couldn't do anything," said Sophomore captain Joseph Valler.

The season was full of highs and lows that in the end earned them a Region 9 title.

"From where we were in preseason to where we

got to was just incredible," said team caption Lewis Jacklin.

The team didn't start out as well as they had hoped going into the season, Jacklin said, but as they played together more, they began to see some big improvements.

"The season started off quite slow, and we didn't think we were going to do to well to be honest, but as the season progressed, we felt like we were becoming a better team," explained sophomore captain Josef Holmes.

The team has many things they consider

strengths, but when talking to the team, their biggest strength is their discipline.

"I think we are very disciplined; we maintain a high standard for ourselves," said Jacklin.

Holmes added that the team puts a lot of effort into making sure they are game day ready before each match.

"We would make sure we were eating the right things three hours before kickoff," he explained.

In addition, he said, "We would play many different genres of music

### Parks earns 400th win in standout season

#### By Bradley Blakemore

BEATRICE – The SCC Bobcats were on a heater entering April 9 on an 11-game win streak after sweeping their last two series against Northeastern JC, (Sterling, Colo.) and Luna CC (Las Vegas, N.M.) as well as a few scattered mid weeks and the last game against Otero CC.

After starting the season 7-13, the Bobcats found their way back over the .500 mark.

Led by Coach Parks, who when asked about the team's slow start, and sudden fix, stated, "We were cliquey off the field, and it made us worse off the field. Once we began forcing [players] to be in randomly-assorted hotel rooms is when we seemed to figure it out."

The team's leader is catcher Elliot Peterson, who enters the day leading the entire NJCAA Division I level across the nation



Photo contributed

Head Coach Dion Parks, center, earned his 400th win during the spring season, which found the team going into the regional tournament as the No. 1 seed.

with a .523 batting average. Coach Parks spoke of him as a lead by example type of guy who is willing to be vocal when necessary.

Southeast CC is the No. 1 seed in the Region IX Championship Tournament in Colorado Springs.

The Cats finished off the regular season with a four-game sweep of McCook CC and entered the post season with a 38 and 16 overall record. They blasted the rest of the conference with a 25 and 3 mark.

Associate Head Coach Tyson Parks said "Anything can happen in the postseason. As a player, this is why you play."

Parks added, "We are looking forward to being out there and competing. We know every team deserves our respect and our attention."

"Our kids have really come together," he added. "They've done a great job of handling and fighting through adversity and answering the question of 'could they rebound after starting the season 9 and 15."

This season's success has been a product of hard

work and commitment by the players on the field and the coaches on the bench, according to Parks.

"We as coaches are as proud of this group as we've had here," he said.
"But we're not done yet.
Our team has goals. They have expectations. We are all going to continue as hard as we can to work to try and meet them."

On coaching this year, Parks adds, "I would like to shine some light on our coaching staff. Coach Varley and Coach Davis have had a huge impact on this group of kids, and they both deserve a lot of credit for their hard work this year."

Head Coach Dion Parks eclipsed the 400 win milestone this season.

Tyson Parks says his brother never wants to make a big deal out of those things, but it's a big deal, he says.

"It's 10 years of hard work with lots of great players and families by our side," he explained. "We are very appreciative of the support we get from our fans," he added. "We are looking forward to seeing all of you in Colorado, Springs. It's always tough to win in the post season and of course, we are looking forward to that challenge."

### Men's basketball, continued

#### continued from page 13

Tarver and Freshman Carson Brown who had 18 and 13 points respectively.

Coach Wooten praised the team's resilience and the players' ability to win games despite a slew of injuries, as they only had eight of their 16 rostered players available for the game.

The team made the trip to Bismark, N.D. for the district championship game, and as coach Wooton put it, "We lost a hearbreaker by 3 points."

# SCC esports continues growth

#### By Nikolas Ostrowski

Southeast Community College (SCC) has a competitive esports team for students to join and compete.

Esports is a growing sport that many people are getting into, and leagues are forming as well as being introduced into colleges sports.

SCC offers 10 gaming PC's and gaming consoles to be used by members of the esports team. The Lincoln, Milford and Beatrice campuses all offer this equipment and are in the process of getting racing simulators.

The SCC esports team has 42 participants that stretches out to 30 teams.

Each team is made for different games, and players are able to join as many teams they like, with multiple teams for the same game if there are enough players.

Each team is equipped with the number of players used in the game and one captain, and esports is a



photo contributed

#### SCC eports is found on the Beatrice, Milford and Lincoln campuses.

co ed sport, so that allows anyone to join. The league they play in is called the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJ-

Christopher Cummins is in his second year as head coach of the SCC esports team, and he is enthusiastic about the team and program as well as the growth of esports.

Cummins said, "This

sport has allowed so many new opportunities for kids that found an interest in video games."

He explained that it allows kids to meet new people, and be a part of a team which is good for their personal lives. Personal health is something taken very seriously in this world, he said, and the feedback from people involved in something tends to be better than people who are not.

SCC's esports team practices two to three times a week as a team when in season on the campus which they attend. Esports at SCC started out as a club, but as it got more attention, and as the sport grew, the team

joined a league.

Not only is the team finding a lot of success in player involvement, but it is also finding talented players as well, Cummins observed, and he added that SCC has been having success while competing including having sent multiple teams and players to nationals.

SCC competes with other junior colleges around the area and many outof-state two-year junior colleges.

Players and coaches market events by setting up information tables around campus where people can go and learn about esports. They are also on Instagram @SC-CEsports, where they post about their progress and other information about the team.

Recruiting has been a huge step in the growth of esports along with the growth of SCC's team. Cummins said having the resources like social media and setting up information tables on campus has made a huge impact on their team.

Cummins said, "Students enjoy being a part of this team because it allows them to take their past hobby as in video games and go into the real world and compete."



### Illuminations celebrates 25th edition

#### By Kal O'Bryant

Illuminations is Southeast Community College's literary magazine, accepting poetry, prose and visual art submissions from current SCC students, faculty, staff, and administration.

Illuminations has been at SCC since 1999. Tammy Zimmer is an English instructor at SCC's Beatrice campus, and she is the editor of Illuminations. Zimmer became the editor in 2019, taking over from Kim Vonnahme.

Since taking over as editor, Zimmer has updated *Illuminations* in many ways. First, she had a new logo made. Then, she revamped the magazine's structure.

Previously, there had been art scattered throughout each issue, but it has since been conglomerated into its own section in the middle, flanked by poetry and prose.

To ease the submission process, she did away with the previous email-submission system in favor of a dedicated form online.

Zimmer thinks that *Illuminations* is important because art can be hard to show off, no matter who is making it.

"A literary magazine makes it possible for these brilliant students, or whoever they may be within the community, to share their art more widely," Zimmer said.



photo by Robert Zimmerman

The latest edition of Illuminations, which includes work from students, staff and instructors, is available around SCC campuses. Submissions for the next edition are open until the end of May.

Most issues of *Illuminations* receive anywhere between 75 to 100 submissions, not all of which are published. This often results in issues of around 200 pages, about 30 of which tend to be non-written visual art.

Because it is a literary magazine, most submissions are poetry and prose. But paintings, drawings, photography and digital art are all commonly submitted as well.

Outside of the typical mediums, *Illuminations* also receives numerous unique submissions. Protest signs, Native beading, a letter and drawing produced while incarcerated, the epilogue to a later-published novel, and a first-prize winner in songwriting for the Community College Humanities Association Central Division were just a handful she could recall.

"We're very open-minded to what art is," she said while reflecting on the variety of *Illuminations* submissions.

Submissions are accepted year-round, with May 31 being the deadline for each issue.

The early fall semester

is when the editorial team reviews submissions, and throughout the fall and into the early spring semester the graphic designer, Nathan Comstock, prepares the issue.

There are typically four to five drafts produced before a final draft is settled on and published. New volumes are distributed towards the end of the spring semester.

Members of SCC can submit for the 26th volume of *Illuminations* online until Friday, May 31. SCC's website has the *Illuminations* timeline, a link to the submission form, and PDF versions of past volumes under the Student Life page.

The 25th volume of *Illuminations* is available now in Library Resource Centers at each SCC location. The launch party was held on April 26, 2024.

"I think that sometimes Community Colleges get sold as 'you come here, you do your gen eds., and then you move onto something bigger and better...' but I think having a literary magazine shows that the college is more than just this vessel to the next thing," Zimmer said.

"Part of being a Community College is having communities," she said, "and I think *Illuminations* is a community where students can find a little bit of a home."

### Faculty and staff book club provides information on global education and social issues

#### By Rylee Campbell

LINCOLN - A current **Southeast Community** College (SCC) book club brings educational outlets and opportunities to learn about other individuals' stories during monthly meetings, open to all facultv and staff of the Lincoln location.

With isolation from the 2020 pandemic being the cause of many terminated activities, Nicole Trevena-Flores, an instructor of social science at SCC, knew a global education resource was needed for teachers. As a result, an in-person book club was a way to consistently keep events occurring once school was back in session.

In the 2022-23 school year, information within the club consisted mainly of autobiographies, with the purpose of spreading the difficulties authors may have experienced. Books relevant to heritage are also a main focus during their months of celebration.

Stories read by the club, such as "Be the Refuge," by Chenxing Han, "You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey" by Amber Ruffin and Lacey Ramar and "The Far Away Brothers" by Lauren Markham, all target issues of social injustice and the fight against discrimination.

This year, the structure of the club shifted to a media format, with meetings being held on the first Friday of each month during the school semester. Discussions are divided into sessions consisting of a wide variety of activities.

"In the first month that we'd meet each semester, we would do a quick TED talk or a quick film or something that we could all watch together," Trevena-Flores said. "No more than 20 minutes, and then we would talk about it for the last 30-40 minutes, all aimed at global ed."

The second monthly session consists of the bulk of the reading portion within the club. Participants can pre-read a book already chosen ahead of time, although there are no set requirements.

"We try to keep it as open as possible," Trevena-Flores said. "If you've read five pages or fifty, that's okay, still come join 115."

Members can locate books for the club at local bookstores, with certain stores having connections that will allow proceeds to be donated to the SCC travel abroad program, also run by Trevena-Flores.

While most meeting discussions are led mainly by Trevena-Flores, members are encouraged to voice their input and transition the conversation where they would like to go.

"It's very unstructured; we want everybody to share," Trevena-Flores

said. "We don't want it to feel like homework or stressful. We just want people to feel the conversation."

Although this club tends to be targeted towards faculty and staff, student participation is an option for those enrolled in the Student World Denizen Project, which focuses on embracing new and diverse cultures.

This program consists of class and activity-based credit, which can be achieved through attendance of a book club meeting.

With the attempts to get new individuals involved, Trevena-Flores sends out an email to every faculty and staff member at the beginning of each year. She hopes her efforts will be reflected in more than just a statistical outcome.

"From a global ed standpoint, when we hear and witness other people's stories, we're more likely to build connections with people different from us, and we're more likely to be kind and empathetic to people that are different than us," Trevena-Flores said. "When you can see their experience, that's kind of the goal in general."

### Men's soccer, continued

#### continued from page 17

to get us ready and hyped up for the game."

This routine seemed to work well for the Bobcats as they not only managed a region title, but a winning record of 8 wins, 3 ties and 4 loses.

For the region game, the Bobcats were set to play the CCC Raiders who they beat 4-2 just a few weeks before.

The Bobcats came out on top with a 1-0 score winning their first ever region 9 title on Oct. 4, 2023.

"I felt amazing; I remember dropping to my knees and thinking my god we've done it," said Jacklin.

#### Review

## Dune: Part 2 has something for everyone

#### By Kal O'Bryant

Dune: Part Two is director Denis Villeneuve's ninth feature film and is the sequel to 2018's Dune. Both movies serve as halves of Villeneuve's adaptation of Frank Herbert's first book in his classic Dune series, and this latest installment is well worth watching.

Dune: Part Two picks up a short time after the events of Dune. Timothée Chalamet returns as the lead, playing Paul Atreides, and the film follows Paul as he rebuilds his life among the Fremen, which are the indigenous people of Arrakis, the desert planet on which he lives.

Paul must grapple with his prophesized fate that intertwines with Fremen religion, despite his disbelief. Throughout the film, though, forging his own path becomes harder as he rises as a leader among the Fremen working to free Arrakis from its militant occupiers.

One thing the film does very well is the interactions and relationships between characters.

Despite the movie's grand scale and wide ensemble of characters, the dialogue and the acting let the audience know where allegiances lie, as well as



image contributed

Javier Bardem, left, and Timothée Chalamet star in Dune: Part Two.

who is feeling what emotions and why.

Paul and Chani's relationship exemplifies this. Chani is a Fremen woman Paul meets, and through their mutual respect and admiration, they form a romantic connection.

However, as Paul slips closer towards his prophesized fate of messianic leader, Chani respects and admires him less, and their relationship fades away.

Another thing *Dune:* Part Two does well is visuals.

There are countless moments in the movie that are gorgeous to look at, but one that deserves being highlighted is the scene in which Paul rides his first sand worm, giant serpent-like creatures that live under the sandy surface of Arrakis.

Paul is shown climbing a mountainous sandhill, awaiting the arrival of the whale-sized sand worm, which splits the massive dune under Paul's feet in two. The sequence achieves a sense of scale that makes the events on screen feel like real life, despite taking place in a far-future science fiction universe.

The action in the film is also worthy of high praise.

Not only are the action scenes in *Dune: Part Two* exciting to watch, they progress the plot in meaningful ways.

Take the Fremen attack on a Spice Harvester, where a giant machines that collect said Arrakis-exclusive resource. The scene is tense, showing main characters face life-threatening danger, but it also shows Paul can lead the Fremen through dangerous situations, which progresses his ascent through Fremen society.

Or take Paul's battle with Feyd-Rautha Harkonnen, the nephew of the leader of Arrakis's occupying force. This scene is visceral and anxious, as the men fight to the death with just knives, but it's also a battle that determines the future of Arrakis, as the winner of their fight decides who is Emperor.

Dune: Part Two also communicates several complex themes.

Environmentalism is reflected in the different societies' treatment of both water and Arrakis's Spice. The Fremen revere water as sacred and conserve it in massive quantities for religious purposes, while the Harkonnens, Arrakis's militant occupiers, recognize its significance and destroy the Fremen's religious reservoirs.

Similarly, while the Fremen use Spice for cultural and religious reasons, the Harkonnens commodify the substance and kill for their exclusive right to

Review

# Ariana Grande writes a love letter to herself with Eternal Sunshine

By Ashton Sheely

Pop superstar Ariana Grande released her brand-new album on March 8, titled Eternal Sunshine, a concept album loosely based on Michael Gondry's 2004 film Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.

She had quite the shoes to fill following the release of her lovestruck album, Positions, in 2020 and didn't disappoint one bit. Grande produced the quintessential breakup album of all time, spinning heartbreak into liquid gold. She's still got it.

Grande paired with Swedish record producer and songwriter, Max Martin, who has previously worked on several popular songs like "God is a Woman," "Into You" and "Break Free," to work on this album.

Since her last LP, Grande recently went through a divorce from her husband of two years, Dalton Gomez, whom this album is thought to be about according to the context clues woven throughout the track list.

Rather than namedropping, as she did in the 2018 song, "Thank U, Next," she lets raw emotion do all the talking, and



without a doubt, it shows.

In a short introduction. titled, "Intro (End of the World)," Grande expresses uncertainty about a relationship.

In a breathy tone, she asks the question: "If it all ended tomorrow, would I be the one on your mind?" The answer, that is, is embedded in the second track, titled "Bye."

"Bye," a disco-heavy inspired track, features Grande's vocal range in a mix of high belts and delicate head voice. Her agility is front and center as she accepts the fact that her relationship with her lover is over in this pick-me-up

dance track.

Grande even mentions her childhood best friend, Courtney Chipolone, in the pre-chorus: "So I grab my stuff, Courtney just pulled up in the driveway, it's time."

Although Martin's production is revered by many, it's Grande's ability to manipulate and weave her voice into the instrumentals that make this album worthwhile.

Her gut-wrenching falsettos and clear enunciation make this album quite a departure from her previous works. She doesn't stray too far, however, adding the occasional trademark "yuh" that fans vearn for.

Toward the middle of the album is where it truly shines, leaning fully into the RnB, Britney Spears-esque sound that fans speculated it would sound like prior to its release.

On "True Story," Grande truly showcases her low register with a 90's-inspired instrumental that melts into the ears of listeners. Here is where she sings about the labeling stage of a relationship: "I'll be the bad girl if you need me to, if it makes you feel better."

"The Boy Is Mine" follows the 90's theme, being named after the 1998 song "The Boy Is Mine" by Brandy and Monica. Grande sings of a provocative, yet forbidden crush with a slowdown/speed-up chorus effect that has left listeners wanting more. The production on this track is pure Max Martin, leaving an ode to his early 2000's hits.

Grande sprinkles in a bit more nostalgia with her lead single to the album, "Yes, and?" a song that directly speaks to both critics and the public. It's a nod to Madonna's

#### Ariana Grande, continued

#### continued from page 23

"Vogue," with a house-inspired instrumental and spoken-word bridge.

"Don't comment on my body, do not reply," Grande says, talking directly to the tabloids. "Yes, and?" is one of Grande's most experimental and forward songs, a quick departure from the rest of the album.

Grande closes the album with breezy falsetto choruses in "Imperfect for You" and a heartbreaking ballad titled "I Wish I Hated You." These songs, although appearing one after another, are night and day.

In "I Wish I Hated You," Grande sings of grief, loss and guilt, wishing she hated her past lover and wanting them to give her a reason to. It ends with Grande's voice breaking in the final chorus, making it clear that she was quite emotional during the recording of the track.

The final track, titled "Ordinary Things," features Grande's grandmother, better known as Nonna.

This is the only feature on the album with Nonna answering the end-all question Grande proposes at the beginning: "If you don't want to kiss your partner good night each evening, you're in the wrong place, get out." The final moments of the track end with Grande laughing, a reassurance that it's not the end of the world, but rather, just the beginning.

Eternal Sunshine encapsulates a thematic story of love, loss, self-discovery and resilience. The album's expansive sonic variety, whether that be emotional ballads or infectious pop hits, has a spot for anyone and everyone regardless of musical preferences.

It provides a soundtrack for any occasion and allows for deep self-connection, certifying it as a must-listen for all music lovers.

#### Dune: Part 2, continued

#### continued from page 22

harvest it.

The film also questions the impacts of organized religion and prophecy, which is reflected in Paul's journey.

Throughout the movie, he is said to be a messiah for the Fremen, who will lead them to rule Arrakis. Paul begins the movie as a non-believer who just wants the respect of the Fremen, but as the film progresses, his own actions and submission to this prophecy lead him further down his messianic path. In doing so, he betrays those he loves and wages war on those who oppose him.

Dune: Part Two is a

well-rounded film, with solid drama and character relationships, as well as visually stunning imagery and nail-biting action. It sports a wide cast of veteran actors, all of which give solid performances. The movie also tells a nuanced, thematically rich story.

Fans of character dramas, action movies, sci-fi, and social commentary all have something to appreciate in *Dune: Part Two*.

### 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.



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# SCC Students Earn PTK Honors

Two Southeast Community College students were recognized as members of the All-Nebraska Academic Team at the annual Phi Theta Kappa Recognition Ceremony and Luncheon as part of Community College Month.

The ceremony was held on Wednesday, April 24, at the Warner Chamber in the Nebraska State Capitol followed by the luncheon at the Cornhusker Marriott in Lincoln. Governor Jim Pillen delivered the keynote address prior to the presentation of the All-Nebraska

Each student named to the All-Nebraska team received a \$1,000 scholarship. The SCC students honored were:

- Caidyn Delosh of Grand Island, Nebraska is a Land Surveying/GIS/Civil Engineering Technology student in Milford. He graduates in May and has accepted a position at Olsson, Inc., in Grand Island. Delosh was the SCC speaker at the luncheon.
- Robert Reese of Fallon, Colorado is a Land Surveving/GIS/Civil Engineering Technology student in Milford. He graduates in May and will work in the land surveying profession after he graduates.

"I would like to thank the person I feel helped me





photo contributed

Robert Reese, Dr. Paul Illich and Caidyn Delosh at the PTK Recognition Ceremony on April 24, 2024.

achieve this honor and that is my professor Dylan Campbell," Delosh said.

"He's helped push us all by bringing new programs into the class and helping us all study for them," he added. "This year he brought in the Fundamentals of Surveying Test so we could take it before graduation which is a huge step towards your professional licensure. He's been an amazing mentor and I'm proud to learn under him."

On Tuesday, April 23, the Beatrice Campus inducted nine members into its PTK Chapter. These students were:

- Joe Bardsley from Castleblaney, Ireland in the Academic Transfer program
- Caden Beck from Bennington, Nebraska in the Agriculture Management & Production program
- Rayanne Bedlan from Fairbury, Nebraska in the Academic Transfer program
- Kenzy Drain from Bertrand, Nebraska in the Agriculture Management & Production program
- Jamie Jones from Alexandria, Nebraska in the Nursing program
- Autumn Lane from Wymore, Nebraska in the Academic Transfer program
- Kaylin Smith from Sterling, Nebraska in the Health Sciences program
- Crystal Steelman from Beatrice, Nebraska in the Accounting program
- Carson Unick from Pleasonton, Nebraska in the Agriculture Management & Production program

### SCC Sees 12% Spring Enrollment Increase

Southeast Community College achieved an enrollment of 9,505 students for the 2024 Spring Semester, a 12% increase over the 2023 Spring Semester and the highest spring enrollment since 9,067 students were enrolled for the 2020 Spring Semester.

"This is the largest increase in enrollment since I arrived in 2014," said Dr. Paul Illich, SCC president. "This increase is consistent with our transformative initiative to expand our capacity to produce a skilled workforce and strengthen our communities."

Of the total spring enrollment, 94% of the students are from Nebraska, with 83% from SCC's 15-county service area, an increase of 13% and 14% respectively.

Since Spring 2020, the Milford Campus has seen the greatest enrollment increase at 48.9%, going from 998 students in 2020 to 1,486 students in 2024.

This is particularly timely given that the Milford Campus consists of heavy technology programs related to the high demand, skill, and wage industry sectors.

Enrollment on the Lincoln Campus is 6,816 students, while the Beatrice Campus has 1,042 students.

"The enrollment increase is a powerful reminder of the importance of ensuring everyone in our service area has access to the life-changing benefits of higher education," Illich said.

Overall, 18 programs saw increases in enrollment of more than 14% this spring. This includes an increase in the career/technical programs in Computer Information Technology (19%), Business (17%), Welding Technology (18%), and Manufacturing (11%).

Neal Stenberg, a member of SCC's Board of Governors, said, "This is an amazing development under our administration's leadership. A lot of credit has to go to past Boards (of Governors), the current Board, and to our dedicated and talented faculty and staff. It's been a great team effort."

"SCC has remained committed to directly addressing the skilled workforce gap in the College's 15-county service area by pursuing its strategic initiatives to expand its capacity to produce a skilled workforce to support its employers, communities, and students," said Illich. "We have been very fortunate to have a number of community and industry leaders champion the College in these transformative efforts."



# Merv and Sally Fleming pay it forward

Mery Fleming married Sally Jo Taylor on June 16, 1968, in Blair, Nebraska.

Soon after, they loaded their car with wedding gifts and took off on a 48-year adventure which started and ended in Oregon.

Sally had accepted a dietetic internship at the Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, and since neither of them had seen the ocean, they planned to spend a couple of years in the area and move on.

"They both grew up in Nebraska. After they married they moved to Oregon just kind of as a let's go out and see," said Sally's cousin Bob Bosak. "They fell in love with Oregon and ended up staying. They started near Portland and eventually moved to the Bend, Oregon, area."

Mery grew up on the family farm and was active in 4-H. After graduating from Herman High School in 1961, he enrolled in the Nebraska Vocational Technical School in Milford. He graduated in 1963 with a Diesel Technology degree and joined the Army National Guard.

In May 1965 he started six months active duty and was extremely proud of his military service. In Oregon, Merv worked for "Ma Bell" (AT&T) as a microwave technician specialist until he retired in 1999.

"His education from Milford gave him a start in something he enjoyed doing," Bosak said. "Milford gave him the confidence to go forward. He was a farm kid, and something about Merv which sticks in my mind is



Sally and Merv Fleming

his belief in rejuvenating the soil. Take a step back and he also believed in rejuvenating people."

Merv and Sally were unable to have children, but they paid it forward whenever they could. They volunteered at the Deschutes County Fair & Rodeo, with Merv serving on the fair board for several years. In 2005, he was named the Grand Marshal of the Deschutes County Fair. For nearly 30 years, the Flemings awarded \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors in 4-H raising non-market animals like rabbits and birds. All



### Flemings, continued

#### continued from page 27

applicants had to do was submit a letter stating their goals and how the scholarship would help them achieve it. Sally and Merv would then interview each applicant and award scholarships.

"Everything they did was to build up and encourage others, but always behind the curtain," said Chris Bosak, Bob's wife. "They did not seek any acclaim or praise for anything they did."

They were also frugal and organized. Sally loved garage sales and finding a deal. (Pro tip from Sally: a real garage sale has a box at the curb with free items.) She organized her closets with detailed notes on each item so she didn't wear the same outfit twice in a year. Merv's shop included every type of tool you could ever need, which made it easy for him to fix anything.

Their organization skills in life continued on after they died. They met with accountants, investment managers and lawyers to put an estate plan in motion before Sally passed in 2016. Merv then worked with the Oregon Community Foundation to administer the estate with Bob Bosak as the executor.

"The whole process of giving back and paying it forward is what Merv and Sally did all their lives," Bob said. "They were very giving, loving people. They were always thinking about other people and how they could help."

Southeast Community College is one of nine long-term beneficiaries of the Fleming's generosity. The Mervin K. and Sally Jo Fleming Memorial Diesel Technology Scholarship will annually award scholarships based on financial need to students enrolled in the Diesel Technology-Truck or Diesel-Ag Equipment Service Technology programs with a

cumulative grade-point average of 2.0 or higher.

"Merv did not want this scholarship to be about grades, because you never know when a shining star will reveal itself," explained Chris. "You never know what is going to speak to their soul and inspires them. Merv and Sally believed in giving people those chances. That is what this scholarship will do."

The SCC Educational Foundation was able to award seven \$4,500 scholarships for the 2023-

2024 academic year to the following students: Gabriel Neeley, Dallas Donovan, Shawn Kuehn, Grant York, Spencer Laurance, Jared Griffin, and Elliott Robotham.

"That's the generosity they did all their lives. If they saw somebody who needed something, they were there," said Bob. "I'm sure Merv and Sally are sitting up there looking down and are gleeful as can be. Things are working out just as they had planned."





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#### Parks, continued

#### continued from page 13

mation they are learning interesting and engaging because they are more likely to retain it."

She added, "I expect them to take accountability, I can only do so much. They need to find out what is going to motivate them to finish their education and pursue their career."

Parks continued, "with the short time I have been faculty here at the college, being able to interact with the students in clinical and seeing how their brains have adapted to clinical thinking has been incredible rewarding."

What she misses from working in a clinic/hospital to now being an instructor, "I enjoyed working bedside with patients."

She continued. "Missing that aspect of being a nurse has been the only downside of being an instructor."

Parks explained what her life might look like if she was not a nursing instructor as possibly pursuing a DNP and working with postpartum patients. She explains that she would enjoy working to help patients through psychological changes and processing birth trauma.

A day in the life of Parks would be her, "getting up, heading to campus for about 6-8 hours, going to the gym, then getting back home to make dinner and relax."

Her hobbies included working out 4-5 days a week, as physical fitness is highly important to her, and visiting with family

and friends because maintaining those relationship is important to her.

Parks reflected on how she sets priorities, work or personally, explaining, "Work wise, I am still learning where to set priorities, and I am trying to place more emphasis on what can benefit the students the most in the work field for knowledge and skill."

Parks continues, "Per-

sonally, I have just learned to evaluate my personal wants and beliefs and how certain things in my life will serve me."

She declares that the top three most important lessons she has learned from being a nursing instructor and working in the healthcare field are "to listen to your body, to value personal time, and to approach life with curiosity."

### Miller, continued

#### continued from page 11

although the opposite gender may live on the same floor.

Woodhaven has no age restrictions, but students will be roomed with someone close in age to them. Basketball is also included

in this unit, with track, volleyball and a few others joining them.

Despite any obstacles, Miller feels confident in the new housing program.

"We're working out everything, and I'm getting excited for the fall," Miller said.

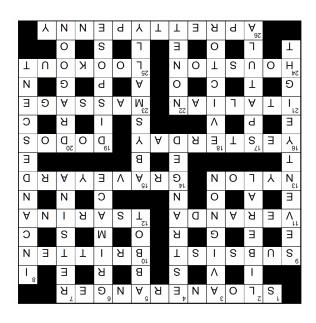
# Fun and Games **Solutions**

#### **Tricky**

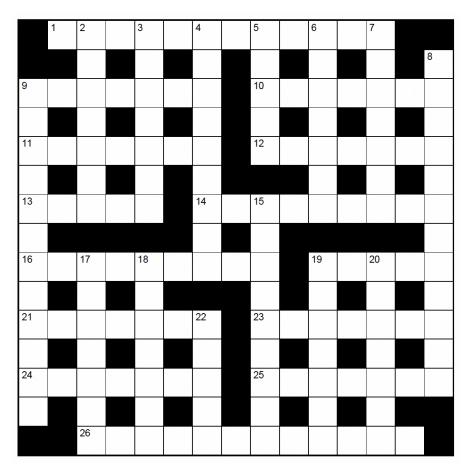
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### Fun and Games



#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Posh sort needs place to shoot in New Orleans
- 9 Have means to live, needing loans first (7)
- 10 Composer from this country given a hearing (7)
- 11 Terrace of museum sheltering the Queen (7)
- 12 Empress from Amritsar in Asia (7)
- 13 Performing only new material (5)
- 14 Where people are late for party in good measure
- 16 Past agreement affected trade at start of year (9) 15
- 19 One party then another beginning to search for extinct birds (5)
- 21 I chat endlessly with Scotsman from Naples perhaps (7)
- 23 Mother's wise to get this treatment (7)
- 24 Shout about working in US city (7)
- 25 Sentry shows concern (7)
- 26 Article by attractive woman makes a considerable sum (1,6,5)

#### **DOWN**

- Politician is mostly reliable, if eccentric (7)
- Go in van, moving around French city (7)
- European wandered around street when alienated (9)
- He's top of the order (5)
- 6 Pull a face as Bill is covered in dirt (7)
- Tries an exotic wine (7)
- Old Peruvian ancestry is brilliant (12)
- Triple score with three sixes it's a record (7-5)
- Jack mistreated my Sally dreadfully (9)
- Row over university student with a blade (7)
- 18 One turfs out English champion (7)
- 19 Get rid of Diana's attitude (7)
- 20 Be boring about old soldier (7)
- Music group turning joint upside down (5)

Tricky

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soduko puzzles courtesy of sudokuoftheday.com

### Milford campus hosts successful blood drives

By Ashton Sheely

MILFORD – Southeast Community College's Milford campus is hosting its 2024 blood drives at the beginning of the year for students, faculty and staff in the Welsh Center.

The first event took place on Thursday, Feb. 22, and the second was on Thursday, April 25.

These events are coordinated with the Nebraska Community Blood Bank and organized through the college by Student Life Coordinator, Stacey Harrifeld.

"Every two seconds, someone needs blood," Harrifeld states. "There is no substitute for human blood; if you are able, you should donate."

For a student or staff

member to participate in blood donation, there are a few precautionary requirements that must be met.

"When a donor comes in to give blood, they have to register with the host site, Nebraska Community Blood Bank," Harrifeld explained and added "There is a set of questions that donors must answer."

Registration is not the only requirement. Donors must be in good health. To donate one must also be 17 or older, or 16 with a parent's consent.

All male donors must be 110 pounds or more, depending on their height, but females tend to have fluctuating restrictions due to certain situations, as pointed out by Harrifeld.

Being well-rested, well-

fed, and well-hydrated is vital for blood donation, she notes. Harrifeld states, "It's important to drink enough water and have a good meal before you donate."

If a donor has not had proper food intake, however, Harrifeld assures that snacks will be provided at the donation sites. The health and well-being of donors is the top priority.

"The faculty do a great job when students tell them they are going to donate; they know where they are and will not count them absent from class," Harrifeld says.

She, too, is present during the blood donations, actively helping donors.

"I always have my laptop

with me, so if a student is not feeling well after their donation, and asks to stay a little, I will message their instructor that the student isn't feeling super well," she says.

The drive on Feb. 22 was nothing short of a success according to Harrifeld.

"During the previous drive my goal was 42 and I got 51 donors," she says. "I was only given a certain number of spots, but we added extra to get more donors in," Harrifeld continues.

Harrifeld adds that she actively tries to get students and faculty to give and continuously donate throughout their time at the college.

