

Pilot-Tribune

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ONE DOLLAR



COLLECTING TROPHIES: AHS boys secure Class C runner-up trophy. **9**

Final phase of Veterans Tribute Plaza Memorial comes together

BY CHEYENNE ALEXIS
features@enterprisepub.com

One of the key, and final, elements to the 20-year-old Veterans Tribute Plaza Memorial project was installed Friday morning.

Former Dana art professor Milt Heinrich designed a sculpture, titled "Stars and Bars," more than 20 years ago at the start of the project.

"I'm very excited," he said Friday morning. "This is a day that's been a long time coming."

Located at 13th and

Washington streets in Blair, the wall was conceptualized in 2002 by its original co-chairs, former Sen. Bud Robinson and former state Sen. Mick Mines.

Carl Lorenzen and Jim Ryan replaced the co-chairs in 2003, and, presently, Lorenzen is the sole chairman.

The first two phases of the project consisted of constructing the wall that contains more than 7,000 names of Washington County veterans who served from the Civil War to today.

The pieces that surround the tribute include a flag island, engraved bricks from donors, a pollinator garden, four large lights surrounded by eight smaller lights in the center and above-ground lights by the flagpole.

With a donation from Donna Stork in honor of her late husband, Roger, the final phase includes the addition of Heinrich's sculpture and fountain.

Heinrich said he designed the sculpture 22 years ago out of cardboard.

"When we didn't have

the money to finish this job, I thought I'd just store that model," he said. "As delicate as it was, I kept it for those years. When this donation became available, I pulled out the model and started to do revisions of it."

Friday morning, with the help of Hempel Sheet Metal Works of Omaha, who built the sculpture, the art piece was put in place at the center of the wall of veterans' names atop the fountain.

"They were responsible

SEE **FINAL PIECES**, 2



JOE BURNS | PILOT-TRIBUNE

Jarod Casey, a member of the Hempel Sheet Metal team and a veteran, was chosen to install the final piece of Milt Heinrich's sculpture at the Veterans Tribute Plaza Memorial Friday morning.

Bears class of 2024



PHOTOS BY JOE BURNS | PILOT-TRIBUNE

Blair High School seniors turn their tassels during the 2024 graduation ceremony Sunday afternoon.



BHS class speaker Caleb Funk has fun with classmates as he pulls out his closing speech.



Seniors take a selfie with friends as they get ready for commencement to begin.

graduates Sunday

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 16

CLASS OF 2024 EAGLES FLY THE NEST



PHOTOS BY CHEYENNE ALEXIS | PILOT-TRIBUNE

Arlington High School graduates throw their caps in the air at the conclusion of graduation Sunday afternoon.



Aiden Borhart receives his diploma from Arlington Board of Education member Jason Arp.



Arlington High School vocalists perform with the choir for the final time. Singing her own solo is Kayli Praus.

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 15

OBITUARIES

Sharon Siert Madsen, 83

BRIEFLY

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WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE REPORT

MAY 13

ARLINGTON: 1:40 A.M. BUSINESS CHECKS; 15 checked.
FORT CALHOON: 1:56 A.M. BUSINESS CHECKS; 16 checked.
ARLINGTON: 7:45 A.M. SCHOOL PATROL; 1-WW.
PBX: 11:02 A.M. POSSIBLE FRAUD; Info obtained.
WCSSO: 12:03 P.M. FOLLOW-UP; Info obtained.
8000 BLK CR 37: 1:10 P.M. MOTORIST ASSIST; White Toyota Camry went up minimum maintenance portion of CR 37 and buried in mud.
BLAIR: 2:08 P.M. FOLLOW-UP; Delivered Subpoena.
8600 THOMPSON DR: 2:24 P.M. FRAUD; Report.
FORT CALHOON: 2:50 P.M. SCHOOL PATROL; All okay.
PBX: 3:19 P.M. RP WAS SEXUALLY ASSAULTED 17-20 YEARS AGO; Will be at the office 05/14/2024 to file report.
12300 IRMA AVE: 4:21 P.M. FEMALE PARTY - SUICIDAL LEFT RESIDENCE IN A VEHICLE; Had contact by PBX. Not suicidal.
PBX: 5:30 P.M. EX - OPENING UP MAIL; Son with same name lives with Ex. Ex returns all mail that is not for the kid.
HWY 30 & CR 21: 6:17 P.M. MOTORIST ASSIST; Have help. Vehicle is off the hwy.
4300 CR 40, OMAHA: 7:11 P.M. MAIL THEFT; Report.
PBX: 8:08 P.M. WELFARE CHECK; All ok.
2100 HWY 75, OMAHA: 8:45 P.M. CAR VS DEER; Report.
HWY 30 & CR 21: 9:08 P.M. M/A; 24 hour red tag, black Kia Optima.

MAY 14

ARLINGTON: 1:11 A.M. BUSINESS CHECKS; 12 checks all ok.
16300 DUTCH HALL RD: 2:25 A.M. SA; All appeared ok.

BLUE'S SPIRIT LN: 3:23 A.M. SA; All appeared ok.
FORT CALHOON: 3:44 A.M. BUSINESS CHECKS; 13 checked all ok.
FORT CALHOON: 7:40 A.M. SCHOOL PATROL; All okay.
ARLINGTON: 7:45 A.M. SCHOOL PATROL; All okay.
ARLINGTON: 7:10 A.M. PARKING COMPLAINT; RP stated vehicle was "illegally" parked, it was just poorly parked. Vehicle was moved.
444 S 16TH ST: 9:54 A.M. FOLLOW-UP; Info obtained.
HWY 91 & CR 9: 2:36 P.M. SINGLE VEHICLE PD ACCIDENT; Report taken.
ARLINGTON: 3:05 P.M. SCHOOL PATROL; No issues.
SKINNY BONES PUMPKIN PATCH: 3:37 P.M. 9-1-1 HANGUP/WELFARE CHECK; Everything okay.
1500 CR 49: 4:52 P.M. IDENTITY THEFT; Report taken.
HWY 133 & TODD DR: 4:49 P.M. RESCUE CALL; Assisted FCVFD and KVFD.
ARLINGTON: 9:05 P.M. HIT & RUN, PD ACCIDENT; Report.
PBX: 10:55 P.M. FOLLOW UP; Info obtained.

MAY 15

13500 CR 7: 1:07 A.M. 3 VEHICLES AT TOWER SITE; N/C, tower site was checked and secured.
FORT CALHOON: 2:37 A.M. BUSINESS CHECKS; 14 checks all ok.
ARLINGTON: 2:42 A.M. BUSINESS CHECKS; 14 checked all ok.
FORT CALHOON: 7:45 A.M. SCHOOL PATROL; All ok, no issues.
ARLINGTON: 7:45 A.M. SCHOOL PATROL; All okay.
FORT CALHOON: 11:10 A.M. SCHOOL PATROL; All ok, last day of school.
4500 HWY 133: 11:22 A.M. PBX; Ref illegal tree

dumping in ditch. Special Attention created.
ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL: 12:40 P.M. PARADE DUTY; Traffic Control for seniors last day of school parade. No issues.
BLAIR CLINIC: 2:53 P.M. ANIMAL BITE; Report.
ARLINGTON: 2:56 P.M. ANIMAL WELFARE CHECK; No signs of abuse.
PBX: 4:59 P.M. FOLLOW UP; Info obtained.
FORT CALHOON: 10:15 P.M. T/S; Driver Samuel Walocha (11-11-03) and front passenger Kylie Westphal (03-22-04) both cited for possession of MJ less than 1 oz and drug para. Walocha also cited for speeding 42 in 25.

MAY 16

16300 DUTCH HALL: 1:09 A.M. S/A; All ok.
ARLINGTON: 2:08 A.M. BUSINESS CHECKS; 15 checked.
FORT CALHOON: 3:10 A.M. BUSINESS CHECKS; 15 checked.
ARLINGTON: 8:10 A.M. SCHOOL PATROL; No issues, all ok.
HWY 30 & CR 8: 9:01 A.M. MOTORIST ASSIST; Help on the way.
HWY 75 & CR P16: 10:50 A.M. RP ADVISED TURKEY APPEARED TO BE HIT AND SUFFERING; Animal dead on arrival, removed from roadway.
ARLINGTON: 2:50 P.M. SCHOOL PATROL; No issues, all ok.
4900 CR 40: 2:55 P.M. ASSIST IDA UNITS; Standby while IDA units post uninhabitable structure signs.
15500 CR 34: 9:22 P.M. DOG BITE; Report taken.

MAY 17

FORT CALHOON: 2:19 A.M. BUSINESS CHECKS; 16 checked.
BLAIR: 6:00 A.M. ASSIST BPD AND OPD WITH SEARCH/ARREST WARRANT; Tactical Team used to secure residence.

Sharon Siert Madsen, 83

Sharon Siert Madsen of Surprise, Ariz., passed away on April 1, 2024, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Sharon was born Aug. 25, 1940, to Robert and Dorothy Siert of Blair.

Her life's passion was for the love of her husband (and their 66 years of marriage) and the love of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She also loved photography and travel.

She was preceded in death by her daughter Susan Madsen.

She is survived by her husband Robert; her two sons, Mike of York, Neb., and Jeff of Blair, Neb.; her grandchildren, Kylie (Travis) Stuhr of York, Neb., Bryan (Kirstie) Madsen of Lincoln, Neb., Jake (Katie) Tiede of Fargo, N.D., Justin (Sydney) Caldwell of Blair, Neb.; and her five great-grandchildren, Tavin, Leland, Henri, Sullivan and Karson. She also has one sister: Barbera Sandvold of Blair, Neb.

She also leaves behind many relatives and lots of great friends.

A memorial service will be held at Campbell Aman Funeral Home Saturday June 1 at 1 p.m. Graveside service will be at Blair Cemetery immediately after the memorial service.

There will be a celebration of life at the Blair Legion on Saturday, June 1, also at 2 p.m. Come and help us celebrate Sharon's life.



Sharon Siert Madsen

CORRECTION

In the Blair High School graduation tab, a graduating senior's name was spelled incorrectly and one of her guardians was not listed. Stephaine Deemer is the daughter of Janet and Steve Deemer. The Enterprise apologizes for the error.

FINAL PIECES: Final phase of Veterans Tribute Plaza Memorial coming together

FROM PAGE 1

for actually building the sculpture under my direction — they did a wonderful job," Heinrich said.

Titled "Stars and Bars," the sculpture has several meanings, Heinrich said.

"It's the focal point of the Veterans Plaza, which I helped design two decades ago," he said. "The sculpture actually is the two walls and the piece that we are installing today.

"The bars in this particular case are the slender pyramidal pieces with the crowded stars at the top. That gives a nod to our flag — the flag is very important to veterans. It's important to all of us. The second meaning is a celebration of the names that are on the walls."

Heinrich said the sculpture is also a nod to the Fourth of July, the National Anthem and even to war.

"Because the bombs bursting in air," he said. "And that's why the bars are not straight up — they're at an angle, they're symbolically an explosion. That explosion, in particular, has a nod to the gold names — those that passed away in service."

At the final stage of installing the sculpture, Jarod Casey, a member of the Hempel Sheet Metal and veteran, was chosen by the company to place the final spire atop the sculpture.

A public dedication will be held on June 14, Flag Day.



PHOTOS BY JOE BURNS | PILOT-TRIBUNE

One of the final elements of the Veterans Tribute Plaza Memorial, a sculpture designed by Blair artist Milt Heinrich, was installed Friday morning.



Hempel installers move the sculpture into place Friday morning.



A final polishing completes the sculpture installation Friday morning.



EARLY PRINT DEADLINES

Due to the upcoming Memorial Day Holiday, the May 28th Pilot-Tribune and Clipper editions will be printed early. Deadlines are as follows:



Ad proof deadline: Wednesday, May 22nd, 5 p.m.
News submissions: Thursday, May 23rd, 11 a.m.
Legal deadline: Thursday, May 23rd, 11 a.m.
Final ad deadline: Thursday, May 23rd, 11 a.m.
Classified deadline: Thursday, May 23rd, 11 a.m.
Obituaries: Thursday, May 23rd, 3 p.m.

Our office will be closed Monday, May 27th. Have a safe Memorial Day Weekend!



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Blair Information • By the Numbers
Schools • Recreation • Attractions

Direct Links to: City of Blair
News • Chamber of Commerce
Area Dining • Forecast



THE BLAIR CEMETERY
The Blair Cemetery would like to inform patrons that all Memorial Day decorations may be set out beginning May 23, 2024 and remain out until June 3, 2024. Glass or ceramic jars are not permitted at any time in the Cemetery. This does not include flowers that are in permanent vases or decorations/mementos that are attached to the head stone.
The cemetery and its employees are not responsible for any items that have been removed, damaged or lost during this time, either in the performance of their duties or by other third parties. If you need more information, please contact the cemetery at: 402-426-5244.

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Blair teacher makes quarterfinals in America's Favorite Teacher contest

BY CHEYENNE ALEXIS
features@enterprisepub.com

A Blair High School math teacher made it to the top 1% of the America's Favorite Teacher contest through the help of community votes.

Heather Hayduk, a second-year teacher at Blair High School, placed 11th in the quarterfinals of the contest.

The annual contest is held to honor teachers across America through a voting system. The winner of the contest will win \$25,000, a trip to Hawaii and will appear in Reader's Digest.

Hayduk said her philosophy for teaching is making math enjoyable and easy to understand for each student.

"When I was younger, we used to have indoor recess and we would play school, as all little kids do," she said. "And I always enjoyed teaching the math. I had a brother that struggled with math, and I liked to teach it to where he understood it. I always thought it was so fascinating how different students learn. That made me want to go in education to teach to the student's ability—not just teach the basic formulas, but teach what they know."

Prior to teaching in Blair, Hayduk taught for five years in Cedar Bluffs, Iowa.

"I got a random message from a past student who said, 'Hey, I nominated you, you're going to get an email. You don't have to fill it out if you don't want to, but you touched my heart so much teaching,'" she said. "I said, 'OK, I'll fill it out, we'll see how it goes.'"

Hayduk filled out the questionnaire and began waiting to see how far she would make it into the contest.

Every week, in her group of 50, more and more teachers were cut from the competition, but Hayduk was surprised to see she kept advancing within her group until she ultimately placed first in her round.

Hayduk said the Blair community surprised her every time she advanced.

"My husband was asking people on the Blair gossip page (on social media), 'Hey, community, go vote,'" she said. "And there were so many people commenting, 'We love Mrs. Hayduk, she does a great job.' It was very heartwarming to see that, to make it known that I really am making a difference and helping out



CHEYENNE ALEXIS | PILOT-TRIBUNE

Heather Hayduk is a second-year math teacher at Blair High School. She recently finished in 11th place in the quarterfinals of the America's Favorite Teacher competition.

these kids."

Hayduk made it to the semifinals in her group and kept bouncing from second to first before she ultimately made it to the quarterfinals.

Though Hayduk did not advance to the final rounds of the competition, she said she is humbled by the community support and making it as far as she did.

"I love Blair because it's a bigger community, but it

still has that small town feel, the support," she said. "I think it goes to show that building relations with the students and being able to make that connection with them also goes with their parents. They see that, they see you care for their child outside their home. The fact that I've gotten this much support from the community just blows my mind. I never imagined making it this far."

New Fort Calhoun High School Students (9th-12th Grade) Registration Dates for the 2024-2025 School Year

Wednesday, May 22; Thursday, May 23; Wednesday, May 29.
9am-3pm.

Please call the schools' office at (402) 468-5591 to schedule an appointment.

WE SALUTE OUR TROOPS & VETERANS

MCH salutes the men and women who have served in our Armed Forces, those who serve today, and the future generations who will carry on the honorable duties of protecting and preserving America's freedom.

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GOOD SHEPHERD CONCERT



PHOTOS BY CHEYENNE ALEXIS | PILOT-TRIBUNE

Rustic Gold performed several classic hits Friday afternoon at Good Shepherd Lutheran Community in Blair in celebration of National Nursing Homes Week.



Good Shepherd Lutheran Community residents rest in the shade and enjoy music by Rustic Gold Friday afternoon.

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NOTICE

BLAIR CITY COUNCIL WARD 4 VACANCY

Notice is hereby given that a Vacancy exists in Ward 4 of the Blair City Council due to Council member Katelyn Ferrari resigning effective May 7, 2024.

Mayor Rump will make a nomination for appointment to fill the unexpired term ending December 2026 at the City Council Meeting on June 11, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Blair City Hall Council Chambers, 218 S. 16th Street, Blair, Nebraska.

All Interested persons who wish to be considered for the appointment should complete the interest form found on the home page of the city website blairnebraska.org in the "SPOTLIGHTS" section or by using this link blairnebraska.org/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID-41

This form is due no later than noon on June 5, 2024.

Brenda Wheeler, City Clerk

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Reflecting on last week's election

BY KEVIN BUMGARNER
 editor@entrprisepub.com

Rarely does anything fail for only one reason. Life just isn't that simple.

And I don't think the decision by Blair voters not to approve a ballot initiative in the June 14th election that would have increased the local sales tax by a half cent was any different.

I supported the initiative because it would have generated money that Blair could have used for housing and transportation infrastructure, and spread the cost of those improvements over the entire group of people who benefit from Blair's infrastructure instead of only those who call 68008 home.

As we've reported, more than 30,000 people come to Blair to do at least some of their shopping. I'm glad they do. They keep our economy going. But they also use our streets, water and public facilities, and I thought a very modest increase in the sales tax was a fair and equitable way to have all those who benefit from what Blair offers pay part of the bill.

And, if the city of Blair is able to do what this mayor and city council wants to do, that bill is going to be sizable in the years to come.

Among the proposed improvements is a North Highway 75 pedestrian bridge, water, sewer and street improvements, a north bypass, a remodel of the city pool to include a zero-depth entry feature, fire hall renovations and south fire station expansion, a new dog park, and expansion of parks and trails.

I could make the case that our neighbors in Missouri Valley, Logan, Tekamah and Lyons who come to Blair to shop will benefit from all of those potential improvements.

In addition to those things, Blair's tight housing market is no secret, and Mayor Mindy Rump has put together a Housing Advisory Committee that right now is in the process of deciding on potential sites and types of housing to recommend to the full City Council for potential expansion.

The city of Blair is not going to get into the housing business, but part of that sales tax increase was supposed to

help pay for some of the housing infrastructure and potential enticements that would bring home builders to Blair.

But here we are, a week after the state primary election, coming to terms with the reality that some of these things may not happen, or may not happen as soon as they could have.

As one of the Monday morning quarterbacks looking at these election results, I think there are at least a handful of reasons that Blair finds itself in its current situation.

The first two are related: Tax increases are never an easy sell, and Nebraska's current mood makes that job even more difficult. You don't have to look any further than Lincoln to realize that. And the residents of Bellevue also said no to a half-cent sales tax bump on May 14th that would have put more money into parks and infrastructure. And, just as Gateway Development Corp. was trying to do in Blair, promoters of the tax hike in Bellevue were pointing out that those improvements could be paid for by people who benefit from the city but don't live there.

Beyond that, I think some Blair voters didn't understand the potential benefits. The phrase "housing and transportation infrastructure benefits" doesn't typically get the blood pumping.

I'm sure a fair number of voters understood exactly how the money was going to be spent, and they saw no need for a pedestrian bridge, north bypass or city pool upgrades. Others, no doubt, thought — incorrectly — that private funds are paying for all of the proposed dog park improvements, so why does the city need the money?

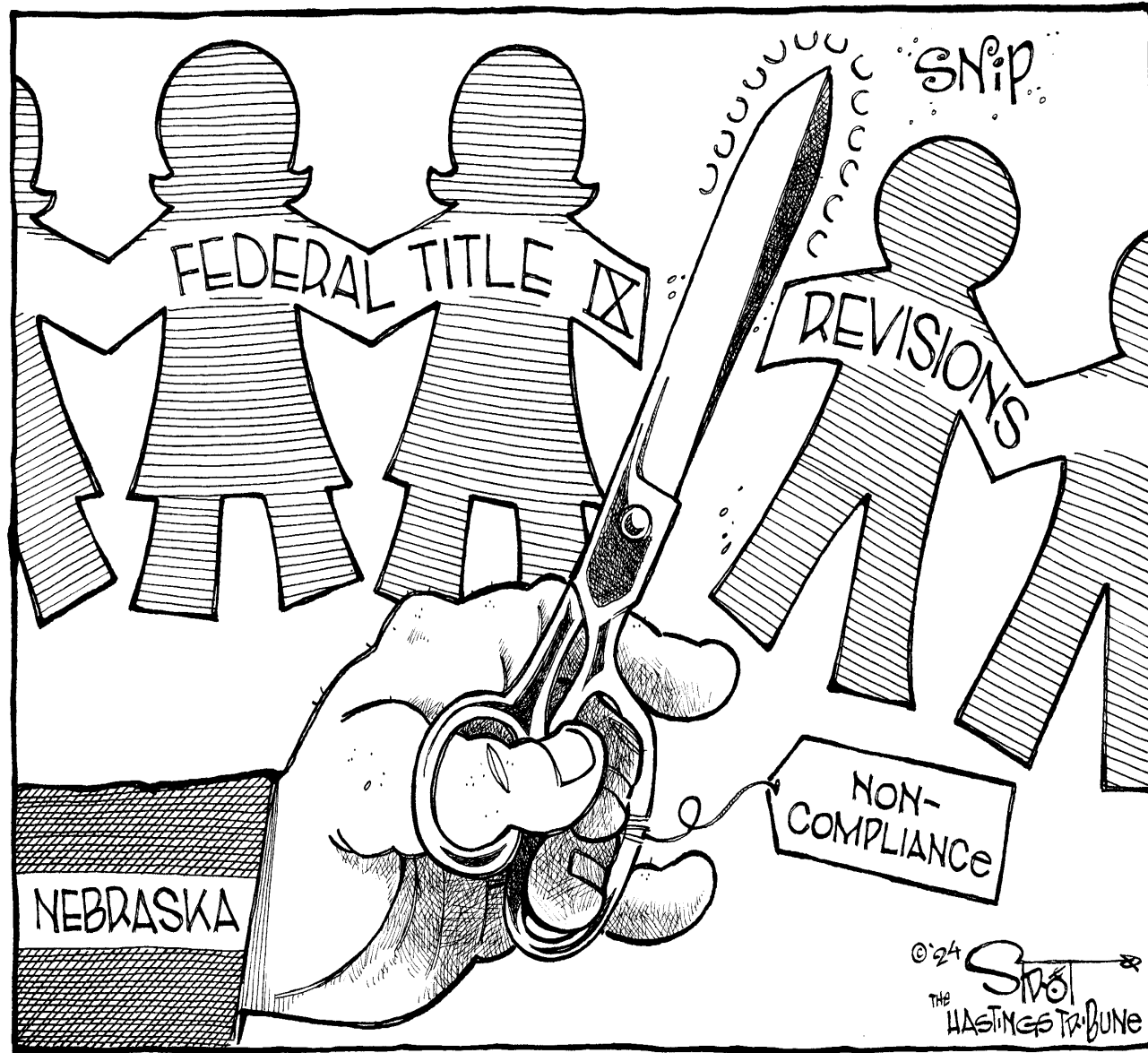
Finally, there is the whole issue of how many people voted. County-wide, only one in four of the eligible voters in Washington County went to the polls. And people who don't want something to happen always seem more motivated to get out the vote than those who want something to go forward.

I respect the right of voters and residents to let their voices be heard, and I will continue to support the leadership in Blair that is following its vision of how to make this town a better place to live, work and call home.

KEVIN BUMGARNER is the executive editor for Enterprise Media Group. He may be reached at 402-426-2121 or editor@entrprisepub.com.



Kevin Bumgarner



OUR MISSION

Our journalistic Mission for the Washington County Pilot-Tribune is to bring local, relevant information to our readers in an effort to keep our communities engaged and aware. We are committed to print only the truth and be the trusted source for local news, to shine a light on local government entities, and motivate action when necessary on crucial civic matters. We will document history as it happens, and help readers re-live the history of the past. Our belief is that a strong newspaper is the glue that holds a community together.

POLL RESULTS

ARE YOU PLANNING TO TAKE A SUMMER VACATION THIS YEAR?

YES, I'M GOING OUT OF STATE: 39%
NOT THIS SUMMER: 31%
YES, I'M GOING OUT OF THE COUNTRY: 17%
YES, BUT STAYING WITHIN THE STATE: 7%
YES, BUT IT WILL BE A "STAYCATION": 6%

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION: Why do you think Blair voters said no to a half-cent sales tax increase in the May 14 primary election?

"Building Main Street, not Wall Street"

Power of Micro TIF Districts in Revitalizing Small Communities

In the arena of community revitalization and development, smaller communities will often face significant challenges in attracting investment dollars and revitalizing their local economies. Traditional methods of revitalization, such as large-scale infrastructure projects or tax incentives, will not always be feasible or effective for these communities.

However, a relatively new tool known as Micro Tax Increment Financing (TIF) districts has emerged as a promising solution. Micro TIF districts can be a lifesaver for many smaller communities attempting to revitalize their communities, they can provide the means by which projects can be undertaken and completed.

Before we discuss the benefits of Micro TIF districts, it's crucial to understand what they entail. TIF districts, in general, are designated areas where property tax revenues are redirected towards funding economic development projects within the district. Unlike traditional TIF districts, which often encompass large swaths of land and involve substantial investments, Micro TIF districts are smaller in scale and tailored to the needs of small communities.

One compelling example of the success of Micro TIF districts can be found in the town of Paw Paw, Michigan. As with many small towns or communities, they were facing economic decline and struggling to attract businesses, Paw Paw implemented a Micro TIF district focused on its downtown area. By leveraging tax increment financing, the town was able to undertake beautification projects, support local entrepreneurs, and attract new businesses. As a result, Paw Paw experienced a revitalization of its downtown, with increased foot traffic, job creation, and economic activity.

Similarly, in Iowa, the town of Waverly utilized a Micro TIF district to rejuvenate its historic Main Street. Through targeted investments in infrastructure improvements and facade renovations, Waverly was able to preserve its heritage while creating a vibrant hub for commerce and community engagement. The success of these examples highlights the potential of Micro TIF districts to catalyze revitalization efforts in small communities.

Numerous studies have examined the impact of TIF districts on local economies, including those in small towns. A study by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy found that TIF districts can lead to increased property values, job creation, and business growth within designated

John Newby is a nationally recognized Columnist, Speaker, & Publisher. He consults with Chambers, Communities, Business & Media. His "Building Main Street, not Wall Street," column appears in 60+ newspapers and media outlets. As founder of *Truly-Local*, he assists chambers, communities, media, and businesses in creating synergies that build vibrant communities. He can be reached at: John@Truly-Local.org

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR GUIDELINES

Letters should be no more than 400 words. The editor reserves the right to edit for length, grammar and clarity. Letters deemed objectionable, libelous or of a commercial nature will not be published. All letters must be signed and include the name, address and phone number of the author (phone number is for verification and will not be printed). Names of letter authors will not be withheld. Letters from any one person will not be printed more than once a month. Letters of gratitude may be published if deemed newsworthy.

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PRIZE WINNING
 NEWSPAPER
 2020

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TIMES GONE BY

Week of May 21-27

2014 (10 years ago): What do you get for collecting 10 million pop can tabs? A visit from Ronald McDonald. The famous clown entertained Arbor Park students with his juggling skills and magic tricks and thanked them for their continued efforts to collect the tabs to help support the Ronald McDonald House in Omaha. Each year for the past 16 years, Arbor Park students have been collecting and bringing in pop tabs. During this school year, the fourth and fifth grade students donated 520 pounds, which adds up to 778,500. This year's collection brings the grand total to 10 million.

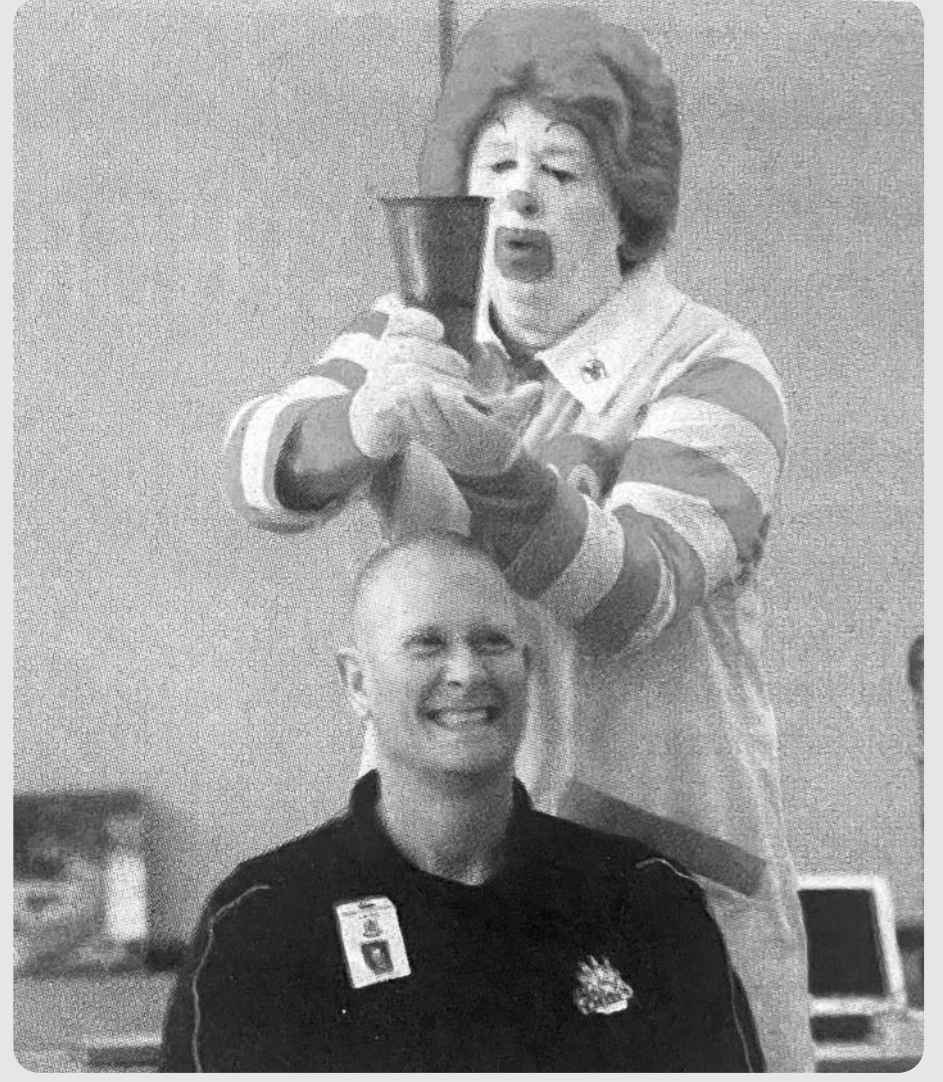
2004 (20 years ago): In a short meeting, the Blair Airport Authority recently approved closing a grass runway at the airport in order for a runway expansion project to proceed. Airport Authority Chairman Tom VanSlyke explained while the runway, located south of state Highway 133, is used by a few light airplanes, it has been taken out of the layout plan for the expansion project.

1994 (30 years ago): A telephone pioneer and well-known Blair businessman, Emory C. Hunt, Jr., died at Immanuel Medical Center of complications of emphysema. Emory C. Hunt, Jr., was born in 1911 in Creigh-

ton, where his father, E.C. Hunt, was general manager and owner of the Northern Telephone Company, which included Creighton and Niobrara Telephone exchanges.

1984 (40 years ago): The Blair Chamber of Commerce hosted a picnic for 30 of the 34 Nebraska Tour Association Guides at Black Elk-Neihardt Park. Thursday was the fourth of a 12-day statewide tour for the guides to see first-hand the sites they will recommend to summer travelers. The vacation guides are employed by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Division of Travel and Tourism.

1974 (50 years ago): The first "Tivoli Too" Celebration is slated to open on May 24 in Blair. The celebration is named to associate with the ethnic Danish background of Blair and the "Tivoli" amusement in Denmark. Featured at the celebration with amusement rides, appearances of many dignitaries, dances and a Saturday afternoon parade, according to the sponsoring Blair Jaycee organization.



PUBLIC NOTICES

CORP./ORG.

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF SAGUARO SYNDICATE LLC
Notice is hereby given of the organization under the laws of the State of Nebraska of Saguaro Syndicate LLC, a Nebraska limited liability company (the "Company"), pursuant to a Certificate of Organization filed on May 15, 2024. The Company's

initial designated office is located at 224 N Lakeview Way, Ashland, Nebraska 68003. The name and address of the Company's registered agent for service of process in the State of Nebraska is Amanda Rosman, 1143 S. Highway 30, Blair, Nebraska 68008.
ZNEZ
PT 05-21, 05-28, 06-04-24

CORP./ORG.

ELIZABETH A. SEVCIK, Incorporator and Attorney with CROKER HUCK LAW FIRM
2120 South 72nd Street, Suite 1200
Omaha, Nebraska 68124

incorporated under the Nebraska Nonprofit Corporation Act on April 29, 2024. The corporation is a public benefit corporation that will not have members. The street address of the corporation's registered office is 2120 South 72nd Street, Suite 1200, Omaha, Nebraska 68124, and the name of the initial registered agent at that office is Elizabeth A. Sevcik
ZNEZ
PT 05-07, 05-14, 05-21-24

NOTICE OF INCORPORATION OF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PIONEERS C.A.M.P.
Conservation and Management Pioneers C.A.M.P. has been

CORP./ORG.

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION
Notice is hereby given that Outward Appeal, LLC (the "Company") has been organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The Designated Office of the Company is 12020 Shamrock Plaza, Suite 201#920538, Omaha, NE 68154

The Registered Agent of the Company is Logan Jon Berry, 14924 Bodmer St, Bennington, NE 68007. The Certificate of Organization was filed with the Nebraska Secretary of State on May 14, 2024.
ZNEZ
PT 05-21, 05-28, 06-04-24

CORP./ORG.

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF THE MAKEUP ARTIST COLLECTIVE LLC
Notice is hereby given of the organization under the laws of the State of Nebraska of The Makeup Artist Collective LLC, a Nebraska limited liability company (the "Company"), pursuant to a Certificate of Organization filed on April 18, 2024. The Company's

initial designated office is located at 2940 S 110th Ct, Omaha, Nebraska 68144. The name and address of the Company's registered agent for service of process in the State of Nebraska is Amanda Rosman, 1143 S. Highway 30, Blair, Nebraska 68008.
ZNEZ
PT 05-21, 05-28, 06-04-24

CORP./ORG.

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION OF COLLINS MOTORSPORTS LLC
Notice is hereby given of the organization under the laws of the State of Nebraska of Collins Motorsports LLC, a Nebraska limited liability company (the "Company"), pursuant to a Certificate of Organization filed on March 22, 2024. The Company's

initial designated office is located at 2261 N 125th Avenue, Omaha, Nebraska 68164. The name and address of the Company's registered agent for service of process in the State of Nebraska is Amanda Rosman, 1143 S. Highway 30, Blair, Nebraska 68008.
ZNEZ
PT 05-21, 05-28, 06-04-24

PUBLIC NOTICE

OPEN HOUSE
The City of Fort Calhoun will be hosting a public open house on Wednesday, May 29th from 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. at Fort Calhoun City Hall (110 S 14th St) to review the Fort Calhoun Future Land

Use Map. The public is invited to come give their input and recommendations.
Alicia Koziol, City Clerk
ZNEZ
PT 05-21-24

MEETINGS

NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that public meetings of the Washington County Board of Equalization will be held on the following dates:

is available for public inspection at the office of the County Clerk. The agenda may be modified at such meeting only to include items of an emergency nature. Anyone requiring special accommodations or assistance because of visual or hearing impairment should contact the County Clerk not less than 5 days prior to the meeting.
Barbara Sullivan
Washington County Clerk
ZNEZ
PT 05-21-24

Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.
Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.
Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 9:00 A.M.

A current agenda for the meeting

MEETINGS

NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a public meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors and the Washington County Board of Equalization will be held on Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at the Washington County Courthouse in Blair, Nebraska. The Board of Supervisors meeting will begin at 3:00 P.M., with the Board of Equalization meeting being the first agenda item at 3:00 P.M. A current agenda for the meeting is available for public

inspection at the office of the County Clerk. The agenda may be modified at such meeting only to include items of an emergency nature. Anyone requiring special accommodations or assistance because of visual or hearing impairment should contact the County Clerk not less than 5 days prior to the meeting.
Barbara Sullivan, Washington County Clerk
ZNEZ
PT 05-21-24

MEETINGS

NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a public meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors and the Washington County Board of Equalization will be held on Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at the Washington County Courthouse in Blair, Nebraska. The Board of Supervisors meeting will begin at 3:00 P.M., with the Board of Equalization meeting being the first agenda item at 3:00 P.M. A current agenda for the meeting is available for public

inspection at the office of the County Clerk. The agenda may be modified at such meeting only to include items of an emergency nature. Anyone requiring special accommodations or assistance because of visual or hearing impairment should contact the County Clerk not less than 5 days prior to the meeting.
Barbara Sullivan, Washington County Clerk
ZNEZ
PT 05-21-24

MINUTES

Regular May Meeting
Monday, May 13, 2024 7:00 PM
High School Media Center
as advertised in the Pilot-Tribune/Enterprise and on fortcalhounschoools.org

as presented. Any item on the Consent Agenda may be acted upon separately if discussion is needed. The Consent Agenda includes Meeting Minutes, Treasurer's Report, Expenditure Reports, Food Service Report, Transportation Report and Receipts Report.
-Standing Committee Reports

ROUTINE BUSINESS
-Call to Order
Note Nebraska Open Meeting Laws

-Excused Absences
-Roll Call
-Approval of Agenda: Moved that the agenda be approved as presented.

REGULAR AGENDA

-Public Participation: This is the portion of the meeting when visitors to the meeting may speak to any item not on the agenda. Those wishing to speak to agenda items should wait until that item is under consideration by the board. However, the board shall require members of the public desiring to address the board to identify themselves, including an address and the name of any organization represented by such person unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual. Under the policies of the board, the board will generally allow a total of 30 minutes for the presentation of all public comments. Individuals may speak only one time, and must limit comments to no more than 5 minutes. If there are more than 6 individuals who wish to address the board, the 30 minutes will be divided equally between the number of speakers. These time limits may be changed by a majority vote of the board members in attendance to extend the time for a specific item or speaker.
-Approval of May Claims: Moved that the claims for May be approved in the amount of \$137,656.56 from the General Fund, \$ 72,478.00 from the Bond Fund and \$44,476.01 from Savings and Depreciation.
-Approval of Claim for Abe's Trash Service: Moved that the claim for Abe's Trash be approved in the amount of \$1,325.45.
-Consent Agenda: Moved that the Consent Agenda be approved

-Elementary Principal: Moved that the board of education offer a contract of employment to Sara Horstman as Elementary Principal to begin July 1, 2024.
-Resolution-Updating Staff to WCB Accounts: Moved that the board of education pass Resolution #2024-1 to add Eric Jones to the WCB accounts previously held by Martin Plum, who will be removed. This is necessary to add our new Head Girls Basketball coach to our WCB accounts
-Policies 3026-Handbooks, 3027-Resolution of Conflicts Between Parents Over School Issues, 3028-Sex Offenders, and 3029-Distribution of Flyers Advertising Non-School Organization Activities: Moved that the board of education waive first reading and pass on second reading Policies 3026-Handbooks, 3027-Resolution of Conflicts Between Parents Over School Issues, 3028-Sex Offenders, and 3029-Distribution of Flyers Advertising Non-School Organization Activities. These policies are a continuation of the policy review
-Board Member Reports
-Administrator Reports
-Superintendent Report and Legislative Update
Board Goals for 2023-24
Track and Field Update
Summer Projects
Graduation/End of the Year Activities
Board Retreat
Legislative Update

ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business, the president may declare the meeting adjourned.
ZNEZ
PT 05-21-24

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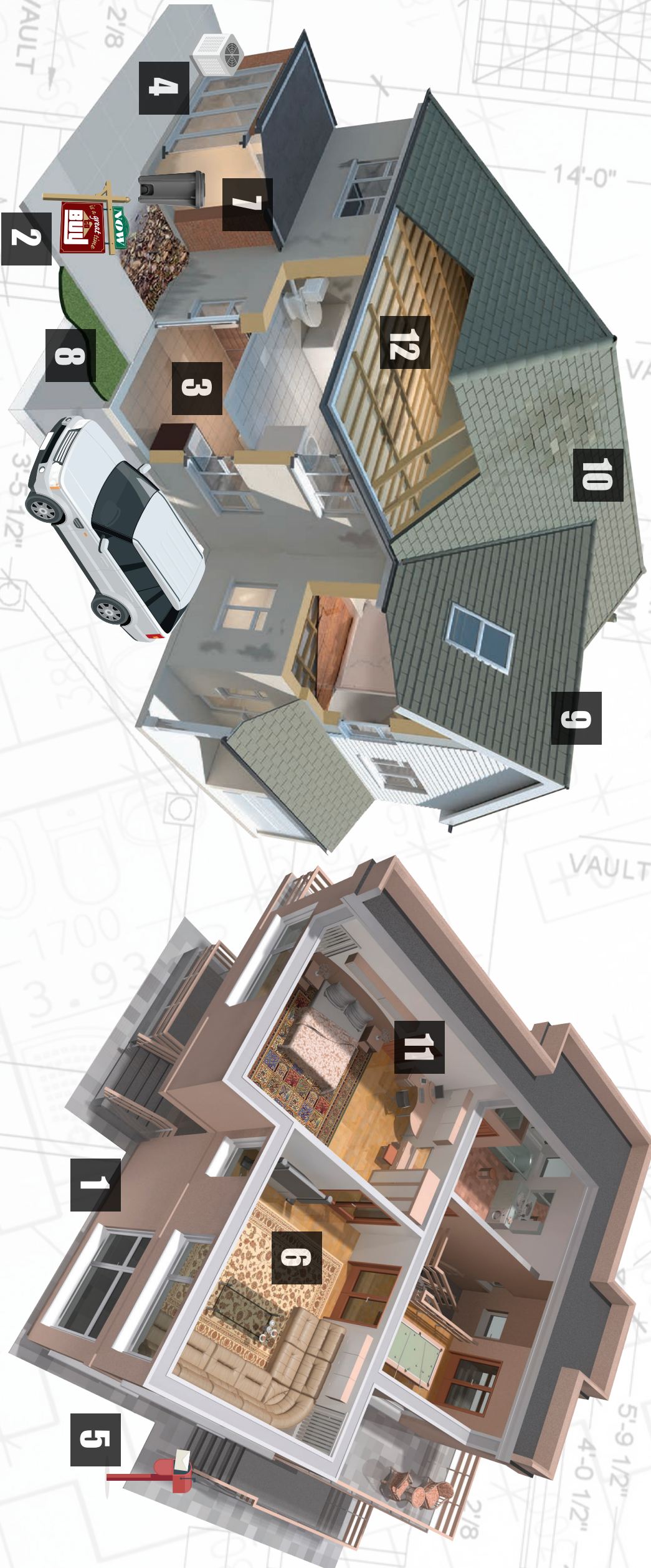
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Blair senior Greta Galbraith clears the pole vault bar May 15 during the NSAA Track and Field Championships at Omaha Burke Stadium. She finished second in the event, clearing 11 feet, 6 inches.



GOLD-MEDAL MEET



BLAIR'S BAESSLER, EWOLDT EARN STATE TRACK TITLES IN CLASS B

BY GRANT EGGER
sports@enterprisepub.com

A neighborhood dog couldn't stop Reece Ewoldt.

One snipped at the Blair Bear during her warmup run near Omaha Burke Stadium, but the senior still broke her own school record and won the 1,600-meter run Thursday at the NSAA Class B State Track and Field Championships.

"It wasn't super bad," Ewoldt said, smiling and pointing to the scratch on her leg. "But it scared me."

Both Ethan Baessler and Ewoldt earned all-class gold medals for coach Bryan Soukup's team as the BHS boys and girls each earned seventh in the overall standings. The Norris boys and Waverly girls, meanwhile, were first.

Altogether, though, 13 of the Bears' 17 state qualifiers earned medals during the two-day championship meet. No one earned a bigger haul than Baessler, the reigning 100- and 200-meter dash champ who left his final state meet with four more medals and a pair of updated state records.

Prior to state, the Blair senior — who's signed to run track as a South Dakota Coyote in college — hadn't quite matched his 2023 success this season. Without naming names, Baessler said some from other schools were questioning whether he still was the fastest sprinter in Class B.

"So, I just had to come out here and let them know," he said.

The sprinter started the meet May 15 with a new Class B state and state meet record in the 100 dash prelims — 10.5

SEE GOLD-MEDAL, 10

Blair 1,600-meter champ Reece Ewoldt, left, leads York's Cassidy Stuckey going into the final lap Thursday during the NSAA State Track and Field Championships at Omaha Burke Stadium.

PHOTOS BY GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE
Blair senior sprinter Ethan Baessler, middle, reacts to winning his second-straight Class B state title in the 100-meter dash. The Bear won the 200 dash Thursday at Omaha Burke Stadium, too.



AHS boys secure Class C runner-up trophy



GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE

Arlington High School state qualifiers and medalists pose for a photo Saturday after earning second in Class C during the NSAA Track and Field Championships in Omaha. From left: Trey Hill, Kevin Flesner, Kaden Foust, Nolan May, Dallin Franzluebbbers, Kolby Tighe and Trent Koger.

3,200 relay team, O'Daniel win gold medals at state

BY GRANT EGGER
sports@enterprisepub.com

Ecstatic activities director James Shada couldn't wait.

The Arlington High School track and field boys were about to hold up the NSAA Class C runner-up trophy Saturday evening and he was going to be in position to document the moment. The A.D. stepped away from the gathered crowd and took a knee in front of the Omaha Burke Stadium stage, phone in hand, waiting for the announcement of the Eagles.

They weren't up first, so Shada took his thumb off of the button.

Coach Kyle Buckingham's AHS team wasn't second either, leaving its A.D. on one knee. It did eventually get its time

in the spotlight, though, and Shada was there for the pic.

The Eagles finished second to champion Chase County, but bested third-place Lincoln Lutheran, 49-46.5, for a Nebraska-shaped trophy memorializing their accomplishment.

"It's about time," senior Nolan Mays said after four years running cross-country and track in AHS colors. "It's about time this hard work paid off."

It was a proud moment less than 24 hours before graduation ceremonies.

"It feels so good to end in a positive way for once," he said one year after the Eagles scored zero points in Class B. "I couldn't be happier for my team."

Classmate Kevin Flesner competed alongside May the whole way through both of their prep careers.

"A lot of sacrifices," he said when asked what it took to secure AHS' best state track finish in school history.

SEE STATE, 12



GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE

Blair coach John Roan, left, embraces senior Dylan Swanson as he replaces him on the mound May 15 during an NSAA State Baseball Championships elimination game at Tal Anderson Field in Omaha. The Bears lost 5-0, closing the spring season in the state semifinals.

BHS state baseball run ends in semis

Gretna East eliminates the Bears, 5-0

BY GRANT EGGER
sports@enterprisepub.com

Down five runs and headed toward a season-ending loss, the Blair Bears met on the mound May 15 at Tal Anderson Field in Omaha.

With his infielders and catcher Nate Wachter watching, hands and gloves on their hips, coach John Roan took the base-

ball from senior pitcher Dylan Swanson during the seventh inning of a 5-0 loss to Gretna East. He hugged the left-handed starter, who received a standing ovation from the Blair faithful in the NSAA Class B state semifinals crowd as Jakob Gaskill took his place.

"That was tough," Roan said. "That was real, real tough."

It was the end of Swanson's time pitching at BHS.

"He's an incredible baseball player," Roan said. "And, I guess, if our season was going to end,

SEE BEARS, 12

Unified BHS, FCHS athletes secure top finishes at state track



PHOTOS BY GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE

Unified Blair shot put partners Cornez Tucker Jr., left, and Jaden Rogge pose for a photo before competing Thursday during the NSAA State Championships at Omaha Burke Stadium.

Finken, Wyman work together for 2nd in long jump

BY GRANT EGGER
sports@enterprisepub.com

Blair High School's Caden Finken and Keenan Wyman stood on the same podium Fort Calhoun's Will Maxon and Logan Brewer did Thursday at Omaha Burke Stadium.

The Unified track and field long jump duos all claimed medals during the NSAA Class A and B State Track and Field Championships. They weren't alone either with Jaden Rogge, Cornez Tucker Jr. and Andrew Namuth claiming top finishes, too.

Finken and Wyman, though, claimed the overall top Unified result for Washington County schools during the state meet. Their combined long jump

distance earned a pair of silver medals. Wyman covered 17 feet, 9.25 inches with his best attempt, while Finken jumped 14-2.

Maxon and Brewer, meanwhile, were seventh. Brewer's best jump covered 16-11.5, while Maxon's stop attempt was 12-10.

In the Unified shot put, Rogge and Tucker Jr. finished third for BHS. Tucker Jr. threw the weight 40 feet on his best attempt, while Rogge's top throw covered 34-1.25.

Fort Calhoun's team, Maxon and Namuth, took fourth in shot put, too. Their top attempts combined for 71 feet, 7 inches with Namuth's going 42-0.5.

Blair also qualified for state and competed Thursday at Burke Stadium in the 400-meter relay. The Unified team of Atticus Dick, Lincoln Kruse, Cooper Sorensen and Riley Yanek stopped the clock in 1:00.55 for eighth.



Unified Fort Calhoun shot put partners Will Maxon, left, and Andrew Namuth pose for a photo Thursday at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Blair's Caden Finken takes a practice run down the long jump runway Thursday at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Blair's Colin McCabe, front, starts his run around the curve May 15 at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Emma Ammon of Blair competes in the high jump Thursday at Omaha Burke Stadium.

GOLD-MEDAL: Blair's Baessler, Ewoldt earn state track titles in Class B

FROM PAGE 9

seconds.

"The biggest thing for me yesterday was to send a message," Baessler said.

On Thursday, he pounded the idea home with dominant victories in both individual sprints. He won the 100 dash with a final time of 10.51 seconds and the 200 in 21.82.

"It felt really good to get that out there after not really running that (time) all season," the four-time state champ said.

Ewoldt's win, meanwhile, came in just 4:53.87 — the Bears' new all-time record in the mile. She'd only broken 5 minutes once previously this season, repeating the feat Thursday to best top contender Kassidy Stuckey of York, who finished in 4:56.97. Stuckey had edged BHS' soon-to-be University of Nebraska-Kearney Loper 10:40.94 to 10:46 for first in the 3,200 run 24 hours before.

"It means a lot," Ewoldt said of her gold medal win. "I worked so hard to be here."

It took a concentrated effort across four laps.

"I just really had to push through pain," the champ said.

From the rigors of the race or the dog's bite?

"Both," she said, laughing.

In addition to Blair's two new champions, two more Bears earned silver medals during the NSAA State Championships. Senior Greta Galbraith secured her school's first team points of the meet in the pole vault, besting 2023's third-place finish with a runner-up effort this year. She cleared the bar set at 11 feet, 6 inches after nine total athletes advanced past 11 during the competitive event.

"Everybody's so good. It's kind of cool to see that good of a competition," Galbraith said. "I feel like it pushes you more. If you want it, you've got to go get it."

The senior had wanted a little bit more from her final BHS meet, but she reflected quite positively on her high school track and field career as a whole.

"It's just unreal," Galbraith said. "All of the friends and coaches that I've gotten close with, it's just unbelievable — something I'll take with me forever."

Senior Reese Beemer earned a second-place finish in her last state meet, too. The 100-meter dash runner-up wasn't necessarily expected to do that well going in, though.



PHOTOS BY GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE

Blair senior Reese Beemer, middle, crosses the finish line second in the 100 dash Thursday at Omaha Burke Stadium.

"Third," she said after a 12.45-second effort in the Class B finals. "I got third at districts."

The Bear bested that easily in Omaha.

"Genuinely, yesterday in prelims, I was placed, like, 20th," Beemer said. "I was not supposed to place at state whatsoever. I didn't even think I was going to make it through prelims."

But the senior did with a season-best time, gaining confidence and producing an even better individual finish than during her breakout freshman season in 2021.

"I think this all took a miracle through everything I've been through," she said, referencing an injury that cost her the 2022 season. "I'm just extremely blessed to be here."

Bears Emma Ammon and Braden McGill finished outside of the top-two in their individual events, but well within the top-eight to earn state podium spots, too. Ammon was fifth in the high jump, leaping over the bar set at 5 feet, 3 inches.

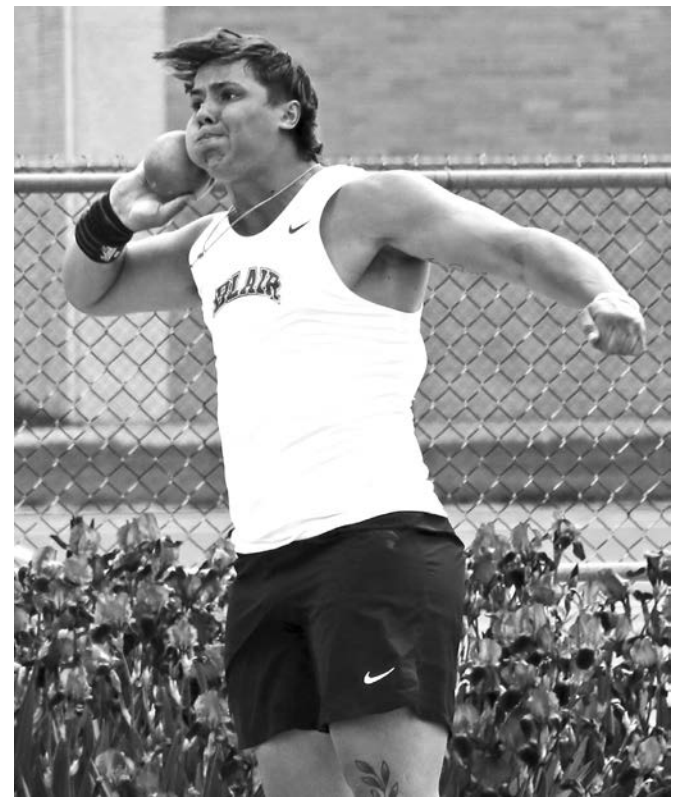
"I knew this was my chance," she said. "I didn't get a chance last year, and I worked really hard to get a chance this year."

While the jump itself gets athletes over the bar, Ammon said the approach has always been key to her medal-winning efforts.

"It's always my main part, the curve," she said. "Whatever you do on the curve is how you're jump is going to be. If you mess up the curve, you're missing the bar."

The Blair sophomore succeeded Thursday, securing a medal.

McGill, a senior, earned his in the shot put on May 15. The Wayne State College recruit was seventh in Class B, producing a



Blair senior Braden McGill competes in the shot put May 15 at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Blair senior Ben Holcomb starts the 400-meter relay for his Bears on Thursday at Omaha Burke Stadium.

personal record distance of 50-10.75 on the big stage. His other state attempts covered 47-3.75, 48-9.5 and 49.5, respectively.

Three BHS relays earned podium spots in Omaha as well. The boys' 400 relay squad — Ben Holcomb, Baessler, Hayden Daggett and Colin McCabe — was third with a school-record time of 42.62 seconds.

The 1,600 squad, mean-

while, finished in 3:24.03 to cap the state meet. Baessler, Daggett, McCabe and Caleb Funk earned fifth for their Thursday evening efforts.

Allie Czaplá, Kate Wulf, Lainie Bilau and Ewoldt, meanwhile, secured seventh in the girls' 3,200 relay on the first day of the two-day state B meet. They stopped the clock in 9:51.39.

CLASS B TEAM SCORES

MAY 15-THURSDAY AT OMAHA BURKE STADIUM

BOYS STANDINGS: Norris 103.33 team points, Waverly 55, Omaha Skutt 53, Wahoo 41, Elkhorn North 35, Gretna East 34, Blair 32, Hastings 29, McCook 26.33, Douglas County West 22, Broken Bow 22, Grand Island Northwest 19, Sidney 19, Albion Boone Central 18, Lincoln Christian 16, Omaha Roncalli 15, Cozad 10, Gering 10, Elkhorn 9, Central City 9, Platteview 9, Holdrege 8, Aurora 8, Columbus Lakeview 8, Ralston 8, Beatrice 7, Bennington 6, Seward 5, Gothenburg 4, Ogallala 3.33, Lexington 3, Minden 3, West Point-Beemer 3, Milford 2, O'Neill 2, Scottsbluff

2, York 2, Adams Central 1, Columbus Scotus 1.

GIRLS STANDINGS: Waverly 66 team points, Elkhorn North 62, Sidney 57, Norris 51, GI Northwest 41.5, Bennington 41, Blair 39, Seward 30, Gothenburg 27, York 26, Skutt 21, Lincoln Christian 20, Elkhorn 17, Lexington 15, Auburn 15, Hastings 12, Ashland-Greenwood 8.25, Cozad 8, Fairbury 8, McCook 8, Milford 8, Lakeview 8, Adams Central 7.5, Roncalli/Duchesne 7, West Point-Beemer 7, Lincoln Northwest 6, Gretna East 5, Holdrege 5, Pierce 5, Aurora 5, Central City 5, Ogallala 4, Scottsbluff 4, Minden 3.25, Beatrice 3, Boone Central 3, South Sioux City 2, Crete 1, Plattsmouth 1, Fort Calhoun 0.25, Raymond Central 0.25.

Thayer-Mencke medals as FCHS relay breaks school record

Track squad's 400 team earns 9th in Class B

BY GRANT EGGER
sports@enterprisepub.com

Fort Calhoun High School alum Cole Biodrowski, a state record-holder in the 200-meter dash, was in attendance when the 2024 Pioneers broke their school's 400 relay record at districts.

"He came down and congratulated us," senior Preston Johnson said.

The Pioneers broke that all-time sprint mark again Thursday during the NSAA Class B State Track and Field Championships at Omaha Burke Stadium.

"It's great. It took 23, 24 years to break," Johnson said. "It's good to break it again at state, but it hurts being ninth."

The relay squad of Alex Schuler, Clay Bohnenkamp, Michael Maxon and the senior finished just one spot out of a state medal, clocking in at 43.42 seconds. The finish was FCHS' second-best of the state meet.

Freshman Emilee Thayer-Mencke earned the top result for coach Mandy Taylor's squad, earning an eighth-place medal in the high jump. She tied with three other jumpers, clearing the bar set at 5 feet, 1 inch.

"I wish I could have done better, but I know that I can definitely do better the next years," Thayer-Mencke said. "If I just keep working, I'll definitely get there."

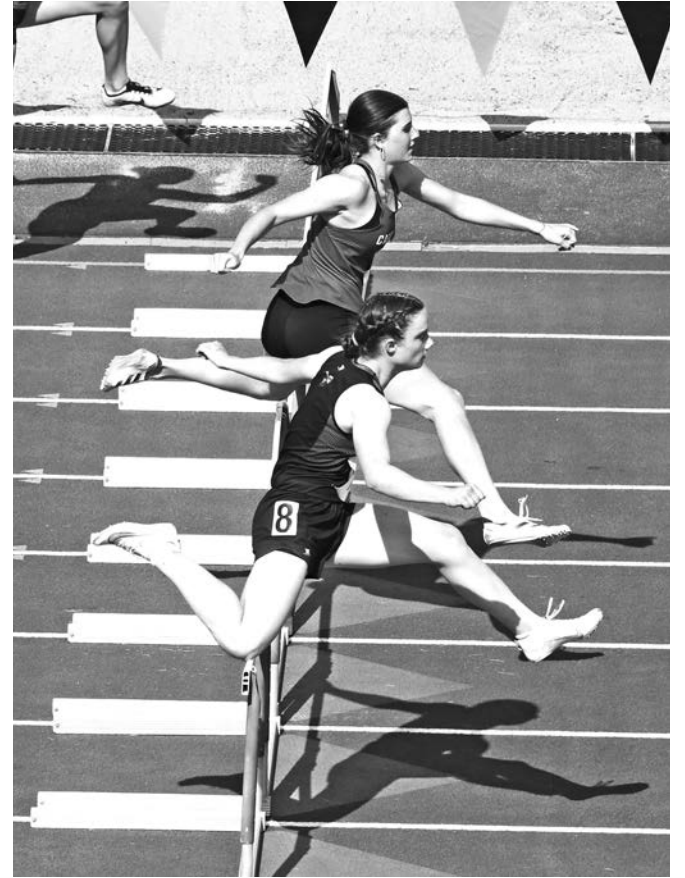
Altogether, though, the ninth-grader enjoyed her



Fort Calhoun senior Lawson Tjardes runs during the 3,200-meter relay May 15 during the NSAA State Track and Field Championships at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Fort Calhoun senior Preston Johnson, right, runs through the 400-meter relay finish line next to a Beatrice sprinter on Thursday during the NSAA State Track and Field Championships at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Fort Calhoun hurdler Kaylee Taylor, foreground, clears the final obstacle Thursday during a 300-meter race at Omaha Burke Stadium.

first trip to the state meet in Omaha.

"You get to see people from all over the state, all of these athletes," she said. "Then, you just think, 'Oh my gosh.' You're here with all of these good athletes in the state. It's just crazy to think about."

Calhoun senior Lawson Tjardes enjoyed his time at Burke, too, despite his 3,200-relay squad's 16th-place finish May 15 on the first day of the two-day Class B meet.

"It's great to be here," he said.

The Pioneers — Will Dennis, Chris Post-Whiteowl, Seth Waters and Tjardes — finished the 2-mile state race in 8:35.84 after setting a school record, 8:21.17, earlier this season.

"Wasn't our best day today, but they're going to be crazy next year," Tjardes said.

The soon-to-be Nebraska Wesleyan runner was proud of his relay's season overall.

"The improvement

PHOTOS BY GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE

we've had is crazy," he said, noting FCHS' aforementioned school-best mark. "If you told me we were going to break our school record at the beginning of the season, I wouldn't have believed you — to be honest."



Fort Calhoun freshman Emilee Thayer-Mencke competes in the high jump Thursday at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Fort Calhoun sprinter Alex Schuler gets ready to run the 400-meter relay Thursday at Omaha Burke Stadium.

time of 16.04.

Taylor finished 17th during the 300 hurdles in 49.09, but also finished 10th in the triple jump during her third-straight trip to Burke Stadium for state. She cleared 34 feet, 7 inches with her best attempt, topping sophomore teammate Ari Nelson,

who leapt 33-2.75. Nelson was 15th out of 24 jumpers overall in her debut NSAA championships debut.

Another Pioneer, Dylan Keyser, earned 18th in the discus as well. His best attempt covered 134-8 on Thursday with a group of FCHS supporters watching from the side.



Blair senior J'Shawn Unger drops his bat on a double to the wall May 15 at Tal Anderson Field.



Blair senior Brady Brown slides in safe at third base as Gretna East's Tanner Erdkamp can't quite handle the throw his way May 15 at Tal Anderson Field.

PHOTOS BY GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE

BEARS: BHS state baseball run ends in semis

FROM PAGE 9

I would want it to end with him on the mound because that's our guy."

The coach corrected himself, though. He has more than one guy. "Him and Tanner," Roan said.

Altogether, six Bears closed their final prep season May 15 two wins shy of the Class B finals. Tanner Jacobson and Swanson are two with J'Shawn Unger, Blaine Rosenbaum, Wachter and Brady Brown. They all played key roles during Blair's 2-2 state tourney run.

"They're amazing human beings and we're going to miss them," Roan said. "But they laid a real good groundwork for us going forward."

Fresh off of back-to-back state elimination game wins against sixth-seeded Plattsmouth and No. 2 Elkhorn North, the seventh-seeded Bears started their semis matchup against the Griffins with a scoreless first inning.

After that, though, storm clouds arrived as did an extended delay. Gretna East would bat first when play resumed more than an hour later.

"Having to come back out and play defense is a difficult task," Roan said. "You're trying as best as you can to keep (the players) in the moment. Keep them focused. But coming back out is just a hard thing to do."

The Griffins took advantage of their second chance to take their swings, scoring five runs during

NSAA CLASS B STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

MAY 15 AT TAL ANDERSON FIELD, OMAHA

No. 3 Gretna East 5, No. 7 Blair 0

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BHS (13-13) 0000000 - 031

the top of the second frame. Three singles and a bases-loaded walk produced the lead the Class B finalists would win with.

"Mother Nature is what it is," Roan said. "You just have to deal with it."

As outfielder Carter Saylor arrived back to the dugout after the five-run frame, he told a teammate, "Done it before. Let's do it again."

The Bears overcame a four-run deficit to Elkhorn North the previous night, but Gretna East's lead proved more solid. Unger hit a double to the wall during the bottom half of the second inning, singled in the fourth and watched as Brown singled during the sixth, but that's all of the hits BHS managed against Griffins pitchers Austin Copeland and Chase Nenzenman.

Swanson, meanwhile, took the BHS loss on the hill despite four strikeouts across 6 1/3 innings.

"Those guys have nothing to hang their head about," Roan said after his team's last huddle of the spring season. "They made their community proud."



Blair base runner Lucas Matejka dives back to first base May 15 at Tal Anderson Field.

The state victories were Blair's first since 2016. The Bears hadn't won a district title since 2017 either, but they did just a few weeks back.

"The season wasn't a failure for them — it was a complete success," Roan continued.

He was proud of all of his guys. "They deserved this ride we just went on — this run," the coach said. "It was incredible. Like I told them out there, probably the most memorable time I ever had in baseball."

The Blair Senior and Junior American Legion baseball seasons begin today against Omaha Concordia.

Fort Calhoun Seniors lose summer debut

Legion baseball team hosts games tonight

STAFF REPORTS

The Fort Calhoun Senior Legion baseball team opened its season Saturday with a 10-6 home loss to the Millard Sox Black.

The Zig Drywall Pioneers held leads of 4-3 and 6-5, but watched as the Sox scored the game-tying run in the fourth inning and the go-ahead runs during the sixth. Post 348 was scheduled to host the Millard Sox Gold on Sunday, too, and next competes 7:30 p.m. today against Schuyler/

North Bend. The Fort Calhoun Juniors, meanwhile, open the season at 5 p.m. today at home.

In the Seniors opener, though, Jordan Back plated Fort Calhoun's first run of the summer campaign with a single. Carter Christensen scored him before another run scored on an error and AJ Duros touched home plate on a wild pitch.

Ahead 4-3, the Pioneers allowed two runs during the top of the third inning before re-taking the lead with two of their own during the bottom half. Declyn Otte tallied the go ahead run on another wild pitch before the Sox, ultimately, earned the win across the next four frames.

POST 348 SENIOR LINE SCORES

SATURDAY

Millard Sox Black 10, Fort Calhoun 6

MSB 2 1 2 1 0 4 0 - 10

FC (0-1) 0 4 2 0 0 0 0 - 6

The Fort Calhoun Youth Sports Organization would like to thank Blue Sky Acton Academy for sponsoring the FCYSO spring and summer ball programs



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YOUTH SPORTS ORGANIZATION

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2024 NSAA STATE TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP



Blair high-jumper Hayden Daggett clears the bar May 15 at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Blair's Chase Cottle, right, leads a pack of runners May 15 at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Blair's Lainey Bilau runs her leg of the 3,200-meter relay May 15 at Omaha Burke Stadium.

PHOTOS BY GRANT EGGER | PILOT-TRIBUNE



Blair's Riley Yanek crosses the Unified 400 relay finish line Thursday at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Logan Brewer of Fort Calhoun makes a long jump attempt Thursday at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Blair's Lincoln Kruse takes off on his leg of the Unified 400-meter relay Thursday at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Blair track coach Bryan Soukup embraces Greta Galbraith after the senior cleared 11-6 in the pole vault May 15 at Omaha Burke Stadium.



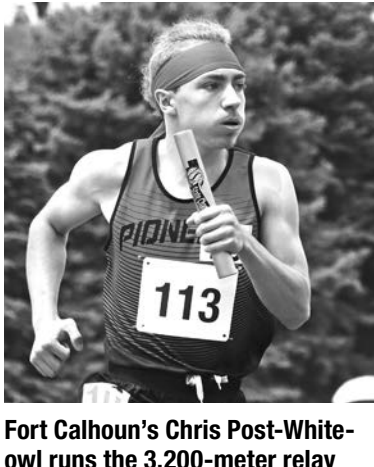
Seth Waters of Fort Calhoun runs past as the Omaha Burke Stadium video board broadcasts the 3,200-meter relay May 15.



Blair's Allie Czapl starts the 3,200-meter relay May 15 at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Fort Calhoun hurdler Matthew Kelly, left, competes next to an Adams Central Patriot on May 15 at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Fort Calhoun's Chris Post-Whiteowl runs the 3,200-meter relay May 15 at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Blair's Hailey Roewert makes her approach to the high jump bar Thursday at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Kate Wulf of Blair runs the 3,200-meter relay May 15 at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Blair's Declan McCabe runs the 3,200-meter relay May 15 at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Fort Calhoun's Ari Nelson competes in the triple jump Thursday at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Arlington senior Kevin Flesner, right, leads his 800-meter run section off of the start Saturday at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Arlington's Dallin Franzluebbers, right, sprints out of the blocks Friday at Omaha Burke Stadium.



Arlington's Whitney Wollberg competes in the pole vault Friday at Omaha Burke Stadium.

2024 NSAA STATE TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP RESULTS

CLASS B

MAY 15 FIELD EVENTS

GIRLS POLE VAULT: 2, Greta Galbraith, Blair, 11 feet, 6 inches.

BOYS HIGH JUMP: 12, Hayden Daggett, B, 6-2.

BOYS SHOT PUT: 7, Braden McGill, B, 50-10.75.

MAY 15 RUNNING EVENTS

3,200-METER RELAY: 7, Blair girls (Lainey Bilau, Allie Czapl, Reece Ewoldt, Kate Wulf), 9:51.39. 10, Blair boys (Chase Cottle, Caleb Funk, Colin McCabe, Declan McCabe), 8:14.9. 16, Fort Calhoun boys (Will Dennis, Chris Post-Whiteowl, Lawson Tjardes, Seth Waters), 8:35.84.

110 HURDLES PRELIMS: 21, Matthew Kelly, FC, 16.04.

100 DASH PRELIMS: 1, Ethan Baessler, B, 10.5. 5, Reese Beemer, B, 12.39. 22, Michael Maxon, FC, 11.34.

400 DASH: 13, Daggett, 50.56. 22, C.McCabe, B, 51.75.

3,200 RUN: 2, Ewoldt, B, 10:46. 18, Czapl, B, 11:52.29.

200 DASH PRELIMS: 1, Baessler, B, 22.07.

THURSDAY FIELD EVENTS

GIRLS HIGH JUMP: 5 (tie), Emma Ammon, B, 5-3. 8 (tie), Emilee Thayer-Mencke, FC, 5-1. 12 (tie), Hailey Roewert, B, 5-1.

GIRLS TRIPLE JUMP: 10, Kaylee Taylor, FC, 34-7.15. Ari Nelson, FC, 33-2.75.

BOYS DISCUS: 10, McGill, B, 147-3. 18, Dylan Keyser, FC, 134-8.

UNIFIED SHOT PUT: 3, Blair (Jaden Rogge, Cornez Tucker Jr.), 34-1.25 and 40. 4, Fort Calhoun (Will Maxon, Andrew Namuth), 29-6.5 and 42-0.5.

UNIFIED LONG JUMP: 2, Blair (Caden Finken, Keenan Wyman), 14-2 and 17-9.25. 7, Fort Calhoun (Maxon, Logan Brewer), 12-10 and 16-11.5.

THURSDAY RUNNING EVENTS

800 RUN: 10, Funk, B, 1:57.53.

400 RELAY: 3, Blair boys (Baessler, Daggett, Ben Holcomb, C.McCabe), 42.62. 9, Fort Calhoun boys (Clay Bohnenkamp, Preston Johnson, Maxon, Alex Schuler), 43.42.

UNIFIED 400 RELAY: 8, Blair (Atticus Dick, Lincoln Kruse, Cooper Sorensen, Riley Yanek), 1:00.55.

100 DASH FINALS: 1, Baessler, B, 10.51. 2, Beemer, B, 12.45.

1,600 RUN: 1, Ewoldt, B, 4:53.87. 24, Ryleigh Schroeter, B, 5:56.83.

300 LOW HURDLES: 17, Taylor, FC, 49.09.

300 INTERMEDIATE HURDLES: 20, Holcomb, B, 42.51.

200 DASH FINALS: 1, Baessler, B, 21.82.

1,600 RELAY: 5, Blair boys (Baessler, Daggett, Funk, C.McCabe), 3:24.03.

CLASS C

FRIDAY FIELD EVENTS

BOYS TRIPLE JUMP: 14, Trent Koger, Arlington, 40-8.

GIRLS POLE VAULT: 6, Whitney Wollberg, A, 10.

GIRLS DISCUS: 4, Hayley Arp, A, 128-3. 20, Taylor Arp, A, 106-5.

FRIDAY RUNNING EVENTS

3,200 RELAY: 1, Arlington boys (Kevin Flesner, Kaden Foust, Dallin Franzluebbers, Nolan May), 8:06.88. 12, Arlington girls (Brooke Hilgenkamp, Kelise Krivohlavek, Hailey O'Daniel, Wollberg), 10:25.32.

400 DASH: 4, Foust, A, 50.21. 22, Franzluebbers, A, 54.71.

3200 RUN: 2, May, A, 10:04.00. 6, Kolby Tighe, A, 10:10.14.

SATURDAY FIELD EVENTS

BOYS LONG JUMP: 2, Foust, A, 22-1.5.

GIRLS SHOT PUT: 23, H.Arp, A, 34-9.75.

SATURDAY RUNNING EVENTS

800 RUN: 2, O'Daniel, A, 2:17.66. 5, Flesner, A, 2:00.41. 16, Trey Hill, A, 2:05.61.

1,600 RUN: 1, O'Daniel, A, 5:14.99. 3, May, A, 4:31.29. 14, Kolby Tighe, A, 4:44.49.

1,600 RELAY: 4, Arlington boys (K.Flesner, Foust, Franzluebbers, May), 3:24.77. 9, Arlington girls (Austyn Flesner, Krivohlavek, O'Daniel, Wollberg), 4:10.77.

FORT CALHOUN END-OF-THE-YEAR SPLASH PAD PARTY



Fort Calhoun High School Booster Club members served up a hot dog lunch after school as the splash pad opened up for summer fun.



PHOTOS BY JOE BURNS | PILOT-TRIBUNE

The summer fun began in Fort Calhoun immediately after the school doors closed and the splash pad opened for the season.



An avalanche of water pours over youngsters at Fort Calhoun Adams Street Plaza splash pad.



Fort Calhoun students ended the school year with a party at the Adams Street Plaza splash pad.



The Adams Street Plaza splash pad in Fort Calhoun opened for the season immediately after the school doors closed.

PARTICIPANTS CELEBRATE NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY



PHOTOS BY JOE BURNS | PILOT-TRIBUNE

The color guard leads the National Peace Officers Memorial Walk as the procession leaves the Blair Police Station Wednesday evening.



Participants bow their heads and hold blue candles as Chaplain Mark Degner delivers the benediction at the Peace Officers Memorial Walk at the Washington County Sheriff's Office.



National Peace Officers walk participants pass under the American flag at the intersection at 16th and Colfax streets.



JOE BURNS | PILOT-TRIBUNE
The Omaha Metro Police Pipes and Drums participated in the procession at 16th and Colfax streets.

METEOROLOGIST RUSTY LORD SPEAKS TO OBMS STUDENTS



JOE BURNS | PILOT-TRIBUNE

WOWT 6 News Senior Chief Meteorologist Rusty Lord points to the path of the Arbor Day Tornado through Douglas and Washington counties. Sixth grade students at Otte Blair Middle School were visited by Lord on Wednesday. Atmosphere and weather are the final topics covered in the sixth grade curriculum each school year. Lord's presentation consisted of information related to the layers of the atmosphere and how weather events form and develop. The discussion also covered precautions and safety measures to take when experiencing severe weather conditions.

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Second-graders tour Arbor Park neighborhood

BY JOE BURNS
photos@enterprisepub.com

It was a beautiful day in the neighborhood on Thursday when Arbor Park second grade students arrived at the Blair Train Depot at Lions Park.

While on their walking tour to learn about their Arbor Park neighborhood the students and their teachers Rachel Aten, Ashley Bacon and Rachel Hambidge visited the Blair Post Office for a behind-the-scenes look at how the postal service as well as the historic Blair Train Depot.



PHOTOS BY JOE BURNS | PILOT-TRIBUNE
Arbor Park second grade students arrived at the Blair Train Depot at Lions Park Thursday to tour the depot and learn about the neighborhood history.



Dawn Nielsen answers students' questions about the Blair Depot.

Knights of Columbus provide dinner, donations to tornado victims

STAFF REPORTS

The state Knights of Columbus group came together Sunday evening to prepare a free dinner and give back to victims of the April 26 tornado.

Hosted at St. Francis Borgia Catholic Church, the group provided pulled meats and sandwiches, among other sides and dessert, and also gave out \$100 Visa gift cards for families to use as they please.

According to Mike Conrad, a member of the Knights of Columbus in Fort Calhoun, the group has also assisted in helping victims around other affected areas in the state, such as Lancaster County and Elkhorn.



CHEYENNE ALEXIS | PILOT-TRIBUNE
The Nebraska Knights of Columbus group prepared a free dinner of pulled meat sandwiches and other items for victims of the April 26 tornado at St. Francis Borgia Catholic Church Sunday evening. The group also donated \$100 gift cards to victims to buy whatever they need amid their loss.

All about Siberian huskies

The Siberian Husky is a very ancient dog breed of the Spitz genetic family. The Husky is a thickly coated, compact sled dog of medium size and possessing great endurance.

Around 3,000 years ago, the Chukchi people, a semi-nomadic tribe living in Siberia, wanted to expand their hunting grounds.

However, they needed a little help in pulling their sleds and equipment over such large areas in the snow and cold. Their breeding eventually produced a dog that could not only endure the severe weather, but work in packs, pulling light loads at moderate speeds.

The Siberian Husky is a very intelligent breed that's active, alert, gentle and very trainable. It is recognizable by its thickly furred double coat, erect and pointed triangular ears, often with beautiful ice-blue eyes, distinctive markings, and very bushy tail.

Their undercoat is dense and insulating to help retain body heat, while the outer coat is water resistant and straight. This allows a husky to survive in temperatures colder than minus 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

When they sleep they can use their long bushy tail for extra warmth and protection from the elements. They wrap it around their face which still allows it to breathe yet keep its nose and face warm.

Huskies were brought to Alaska in 1909 for sled dog racing, and they soon became established as consistent winners. Huskies often make up the team or are part of the team that participates in the grueling and difficult annual Iditarod race.

It is often referred to as the Last Great Race on Earth and has become famous worldwide. It is a race of some 1,049 miles that pits a human and animals against the weather and wild terrain of Alaska.

Today, huskies have also become playful and faithful pets that are very loving of people. Their demeanor around children make them a wonderful family addition.



I DIDN'T KNOW THAT
Larrie Stone

LARRIE STONE is a retired Dana College science professor.

CLASS OF 2024 EAGLES FLY THE NEST



Senior Austyn Flesner embraces Board of Education member Cassie Flesner while receiving her diploma.



PHOTOS BY CHEYENNE ALEXIS | PILOT-TRIBUNE
Olivia McClurg is all smiles as she walks off the stage after receiving her diploma.



Valedictorian Brooke Hilgenkamp stands as she is recognized as one of the top 10% of her class.



Salutatorian Blaine Vogt referenced the movie "Cars" during his speech about gratitude.

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Bears class of 2024 graduates Sunday



Hats off to the Blair High School class of 2024 as they toss their mortar boards into the air after turning their tassels.



PHOTOS BY JOE BURNS | PILOT-TRIBUNE
Hannah Mackie receives her diploma.



Foreign exchange student Sakuto Yamada receives his diploma at Blair High School Sunday afternoon.



The BHS Senior Vocal Ensemble sings "Where'd All the time Go."



The Blair class of 2024 prepares to receive their diplomas.



Emmie Haynes enters the gymnasium during the processional.



Assistant Principal Mark Gutschow gives the Summa Cum Laude graduates honors their awards.



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