



Village Voice

FEBRUARY 2024 ISSUE 182

Newsletter for the Odell and Diller Communities

Community Foundation Makes a Big Impact



With \$46,800 granted to a wide range of community projects, the Diller Community Foundation Fund made a bold stroke of impact across Diller during the granting celebration of January 28. Recipients of 18 projects accepted awards before a large crowd at the Anna C. Diller Opera House. (cont'd on page 3)

Photo at left (l to r): Samuel Schnuelle, Lane Schnuelle, Saylor Kotas, Kasen Kotas, Kyler Kotas, Aubrey Roelfs, Hannah Schnuelle, & Isaiah Schnuelle. Foundation members: Tammy Weers & Kendra J Weers

Stop Present Bias from Ruining Your Future.

We have all heard that it's good to "live in the present". But, as true with many things, it is something best done in moderation. The term "present bias" (or the fancier "temporal discounting bias") is a reminder of why moderation is best. If we can learn what present bias is, and become aware of it in ourselves, it can help us make better decisions each day. (cont'd on page 5)



ODELL/DILLER

As we prepare for conversion weekend, the Odell and Diller locations

WILL BE CLOSED
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024

ATMs are available for use in both locations.

SHRIMP FEED

Diller Opera House - Diller, NE
Saturday, Feb. 3, 2024

5:00 - 8:00 pm

\$18 in advance \$20 at the door

ALL YOU CAN EAT

**Shrimp, Beef Fries, Ham, Cole Slaw,
Potatoes, Roll, Tea, & Coffee**

Advanced Tickets

The Store-Diller,
Landmark Snack Hiring
Center - Beatrice or
Opera House Members



"The greatest good is what we do for each other." —Mother Teresa

Greetings one and all:

I hope you are as tired of winter as I am, but better to have winter when we are supposed to have it.

I wanted to reach out to Odell citizens and anyone else who might have interest. The Odell Community Foundation has gladly accepted donations from many of you to make Odell a better community.

We have channeled donations to many projects which you are all probably aware of. There are always projects of some sort or another that are beneficial. With that in mind, I would like to put this out there for some of you to think about. Foundation projects that you determine, need funding. One thoughtful way you could do this is to consider including the Foundation in your estate planning. Including the Foundation in your will is a wonderful way to leave a lasting legacy that our community will greatly appreciate. Of course, if you would rather make a donation now, we would gladly accept it!

Please consider us in your estate planning. If you have questions on this, please contact any of the Foundation board members. Perry Gydesen, Lynn Henrichs, Larry Stanosheck, Amanda Bodfield, Sharon Gydesen, & Mark Billesbach.

Thank you and have a great new year and beyond,
Perry Gydesen, Foundation Board Secretary



Odell American Legion 231
FISH FRY
Saturday, February 17, 2023
5:30-8:00 pm

DINE IN OR CARRY OUT!



\$15.00 / PERSON
\$7.00 KIDS 10 & UNDER

Serving: Fish, Ham, Beans,
Scalloped Potatoes, and Cole Slaw

AND SALAD BAR!!!!

A L L - Y O U - C A N E A T

The Legionnaires appreciate the community support they receive. Donations will help offset costs for a new furnace and will continue to support local youth activities. Persons unable to attend but who like to donate can make donations to Odell American Legion Post 231, and send to treasurer Mike Riggert, 510 Garfield St., Odell, NE 68415. (The Legion building does not have a mailing address)

**PENNER
AG**

Tom Penner
(402)230-0464



Sid Penner
(402)520-2321



**BLUE RIVERS AREA
PACKING EVENT**

Monday, February 19, 2024
Odell Community Building
2 Hour Shifts: 10 am-noon, noon-2pm, 2-4 pm, 4-6 pm,
& 6-8 pm. Clean up after last shift appreciated.

Help will also be needed on Sunday, February 18 (TBD) to set up equipment and move supplies from the storage container

Individuals or groups can call the State Bank of Odell @ 402-766-3720,
Gwen @ 402-806-2174, or Deb @ 402-520-1795

Also needed: Volunteers to bring cookies or snacks to share with the workers.



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"The future depends on what you do right now"—Ghandi

Community Foundation Cont'd from cover

The D2 group now has \$10,000 to improve housing. Diller Fire and Rescue will be purchasing extraction equipment with their \$7,800 award. The Diller-Odell Art Department will expand their pottery program and STEM club members will experience the science of Disney with DCFF support. The past and future of the community also received funding. The Bank Museum, Main Street plants, and eight youth programs were awarded a total of \$8,200 in grants.

The Diller Community Foundation Fund is an affiliated of the Nebraska Community Foundation. The Diller-Odell Art and STEM Clubs provided a noon potato bar meal in conjunction with the event. The free-will donation gleaned \$1,200 to help cover travel costs for their upcoming enrichment trips.

DEVELOPING DILLER



Developing Diller or D2 is an organization of concerned citizens from the Village of Diller working to improve and increase the housing options in Diller. They hope to achieve this with the development of new housing within town limits, stabilizing existing houses through repair and/or renovation, and removing substandard housing to prepare lots for new home development. D2 Housing has partnered with the Village of Diller and the Community Foundation to contract the consulting entity City County Solutions (CC Solutions) to assist in achieving their goal.

3 ways to help:

1. Follow D2 Housing Facebook Page
2. Take the Community Member Survey
3. (QR Code to left)
4. Tell others who care about or would like to live in Diller to do the same

ODELL VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 - 7:30 PM

ODELL COMMUNITY BUILDING

OACE Meeting

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024

7:00 pm

ODELL FIRE HALL

On the Agenda:

GROW YOUR MONEY AND EARN PERKS AT FIRST STATE BANK NEBRASKA

First Rate Checking with Perks

3.75% APY

Enjoy valuable financial features along with:



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Roadside Assistance

Rate is accurate as of November 28, 2023. Maintain a \$2,500 average daily balance and we'll waive the \$10 service charge. Must meet all 5 requirements per statement cycle to receive full interest: Access internet banking, receive electronic statements, minimum of one on-line bill payment accessed through our internet banking, minimum of 1 automatic debit or direct deposit, & minimum of 12 posted Visa Debit Card POS (Point of Sale) transactions of \$5 or more. Limit of one First Rate Checking account per customer. Rate when requirements are not met is .01% APY. ATM surcharges still apply. BaZing benefits subject to the terms and conditions detailed in the Guide to Benefits.



First Rate Savings

2.00% APY

Let your money work for you with a higher Annual Percentage Yield than traditional savings accounts.

Rate is accurate as of November 28, 2023. This account requires a minimum opening deposit of \$100. Account must receive eStatements. There is a \$1 service charge for each withdrawal over 6 per statement cycle. Rates are subject to change at any time. There is a \$4.00 dormant account fee per month after 13 months of no activity.

Mention this ad at our Beatrice branch to receive your first year with no minimum balance when you open First Rate Checking and Savings Accounts together!

After that, we'll waive the \$10 service charge if you maintain a \$2,500 average daily balance.

*Offer valid for First Rate Checking with Perks accounts opened in Beatrice that also sign up for a First Rate Savings Account. Offer ends March 29, 2024.



BEATRICE | 560 Sargent Street | 402.230.9359 | 1FSB.BANK

"Forever is composed of nows" —Emily Dickinson

Happy New Year from Odell's Rice Lodge and Conference Center, Bed & Breakfast, in Odell, Nebraska! 2023 was our busiest year yet. We rented more rooms than any other year since opening in 2012. Our total was 706 rooms rented. The busiest month was March! After that it was February, June, & November, in that order. We were busy all year long. Thank you, guests! Our guests come from near and far. Some live three blocks from the Lodge and others came from many of the 50 states. This year, we are going to try to keep track of which states came to see us.

We would also like to thank these people for all their help this past year. Larry Stanosheck, John Novotny, Bonnie Kaller, Kaden Sutton, Kristie Sutton, Daniel Cra-ven, Hailey Rogers, Faith (Odell) Sample, Janice Duntz, Adams Plumbing, Gayle Meyer, Bruce Vitosh, Mark Billesbach, Becky, Ben, & Bo Sohl, Perry & Sharon Gydesen, and the State Bank of Odell. Without these people doing what they do, we would not be able to operate.

The Rice Lodge is owned by the Village of Odell and a lot of these people are volunteers. The rental income is kept separate from the village accounts and it is put back

into the building and grounds. No Village funds have ever been used at the Rice Lodge.

We are going to be doing monthly spotlights on individual rooms at the Lodge to spotlight its sponsor family. We have several families giving memorials to the Lodge, and we will be spotlighting them as well. Find and "like" our Facebook page to keep up with us. "Rice Lodge & Conference Center, Odell, Nebraska."

Summer 2024 is filling up fast. This facility is great for reunions of any type, business retreats, small parties, and family get-togethers, and we welcome hunters, fishers, quilters, scrapbookers, families in for weddings, funerals, and birthday parties, and some guests come to stay in our "hallmark" type town just to get out of the city.

If you have any questions about the Rice Lodge or would like a tour, please contact us, email: ricelodge@diodecom.net; phone: 402-806-2174, or find us online and on Facebook.



WYMORE/DILLER-ODELL
LEGION BASEBALL TEAM


**PANCAKE
FEED**

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
WYMORE AMERICAN
LEGION

FREE WILL
DONATION

ALL YOU CAN EAT
- PANCAKES - EGGS -
- SAUSAGE -



OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN
YOUTH LEAD

**PANCAKE
FEED**

Sunday, March 17

10 am - 1 pm

ODELL COMMUNITY
BUILDING

ALL YOU CAN EAT
PANCAKES - EGGS -
SAUSAGE

Free Will Donation



DILLER FIRE & RESCUE

**Pancake
Feed**

SATURDAY

MARCH 23, 2024

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
DILLER FIRE HALL

Pancakes, Eggs, Sausage

Free Will Donation

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THE CORNER BAR

ODELL, NE

HOURS:

TUE-THU: 4-9 PM

FRI. & SAT: 4 PM - 1 AM

CLOSED SUNDAYS & MONDAYS

“Remember growing may feel like breaking at first.”

Present Bias (cont'd from cover)

Every day, we make dozens of decisions. Many involve choosing between something with immediate results or delayed results. Having “present bias” means you have a tendency to prioritize the “here and now” benefits over the long term benefits (in turn, choosing the short term costs over the long term costs). This “present bias” way of making decisions becomes a “habit” and is soon ruling our lives, without us even being aware of. What we are actually allowing to happen in our minds is called “cognitive economy”, which means we are saving thinking time, which makes our decision making easier, and quicker. Because stopping to weigh the costs/benefits for the future takes more time and thinking, so we just don’t do it, making ourselves feel better by making a “quick decision”. It is also allowing us to have that “instant” feeling of gratification, instead of seeing that the gratification may come in the future. We are falling into the trap that so many have fallen into in our society—the instantaneous feeling of “that was easy, so it must be good” We are selling ourselves and our minds short here. However, this is something we can change. Once you are aware you are falling into the “present bias” trap, you can take steps against it. Here are reasons you should:

1. **YOUR PHYSICAL HEALTH:** Present Bias often plays a big role in why we eat, drink, smoke, ingest substances, or do these in excess amounts. Because we aren’t thinking of the future consequences. We are in the “now”. The short term benefits of eating too much of an unhealthy item is that is “tastes so good” or “makes us happy for a few seconds”. Making that snap decision favors the present, while thinking about the future isn’t automatic—it requires more deliberate thinking and self discipline.
2. **MENTAL HEALTH:** “the snap decision to “yell at a student” or “yell at your child” feels good in the moment—it lets you release your frustration with them. However, if you take a second to think

about the “long term” effects this might have on this child and their mental health, you may see it is not a good choice. It is good for you “right now”, but not for them in the future. Your quick choices, may have long term consequences for them. If you are “quick to anger” or “lose your temper”, you have falling into the present bias and aren’t practicing self-discipline.

3. **FINANCIAL HEALTH:** We all know that financial security depends highly on playing “the long game”. Not making quick spending decisions because they make you feel good for a few seconds, instead stopping and thinking about how that is effecting your future security may be a hard pill for some of us to swallow (myself included), and a hard habit to break, but like any bad habit, it needs to be broken.
4. **ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS:** Most of you know that I harp on this issue a lot. The environment is one area that I personally do not fall under present bias in. However, because of how the world is “politically” divided now, this is one of the issues that gets laughed at by a lot of people and brushed aside. If you are doing this you have fallen into the “present bias” trap. You may have told yourself “that’s silly or not true” because you have heard it repeated over and over by certain groups. You have let yourself get trapped by making the decision to “write it off”. You have taken the easy way out, a way where you don’t need to stop and think about what you are doing today and how the future will be affected...another present bias to be picked up because it is easy and give you instant gratification. Here are some examples of present bias decisions you may be making that you could easily stop and think about the future, and make a better choice:

—taking a long shower because it feels so good.

—using plastic bags at the store be-

cause you don’t want to take the time to grab or think about reusable totes. —using single use batteries instead of rechargeable because they are cheaper “now” and easier to just “toss” instead of charging.

—toss plastic because then it is out of your mind and thinking space instead of dumping liquid out, rinsing and recycling.

—using paper napkins and paper towels instead of fabric ones you can wash and reuse, because it’s easier, quicker, and out of your mind and time. And quite frankly you may think something like this is “weird” and something you have never even thought about.

—bought a quick, cheap piece of clothing (or fast fashion) because it “costs less right now” and is the most recent trend,. Instead of investing in high quality, sensibly made, pieces of clothing that will last you a long time and in the end, cost LESS.

(if you are making most of the above choices you have fallen into what is called “garbage can decision-making”) Although some of “present bias” decision making is based on self-discipline and habits, it also can be affected by individual differences. Some people are higher in what’s called “need for cognition”. They like thinking hard and rationally. They favor deliberate judgement and decision making. Other people do not so much. They find thinking burdensome and hard. Also some of us are just more impulsive by nature and have a hard time delaying gratification.

When scientists and psychologists study these things and point them out to us, it is not to make us all feel like “big dummies”, it is to make us become more aware of our tendencies and see ways to improve ourselves. To make us realize there are times when “thinking fast” is the right decision, but many times when “thinking slow” is the better choice. Balance is key, but we must make changes, that is if we care at all about our future generations. (maybe you have made the “present bias” decision to not read this article because it make take too much time and too much thinking :)

Student of the Month

The Diller-Odell Elementary
December Student of the Month is
Raleigh O'Neil.

Raleigh is an amazing Griffin! He is
respectful, responsible, and safe!

He always gives 100% effort in
class. Raleigh is kind and caring.
He listens in class and wants to do
his best. His behavior is excellent.

Raleigh is very trustworthy and a
joy to have in the classroom.

Raleigh is the 2nd grade son of Pam
& Steven Kostal and Ryan O'Neil.



Congratulations Raleigh!

Student of the Month

The Diller-Odell Elementary
January Student of the Month is
Riley Stohs. Riley is a very caring
student who is liked by her
classmates and teachers. She
works hard in the classroom and
always gives her best efforts. Riley
is willing to help her classmates and
work with her teacher.

She is the 1st grade daughter of
Adam & Stacy Stohs.

Congratulations Riley!



February Events @ School

6—Home BBall @ 4:30—Senior Parents Night

8—FFA Meeting @ 7 am; NHS Induction @
6 pm, Parent Teachers Conferences 4-7 pm

9—SCHOOL DAY

12—Home JH Girls BBall @ 1:00 pm

16—Home Boys BBall @ 6 pm

24—Griffin Speech Meet

26—Spring Practices Begin

March 1—8th Grade Dance

Congratulations to these Diller-Odell
Elementary Carnival Basket Winners!

Lilly Smith—PreK Basket

Lexie Snyder—Kindergarten Basket

Victoria Klecan—1st Grade Basket

Joseph Stuckwisch—2nd Grade Basket

Evangelina Klecan—3rd Grade Basket

Quinn Logan—4th Grade Basket

Emma Ideus—5th Grade Girls Basket

John Knabe—5th Grade Boys Basket

Sebastian Engelman—Staff Basket



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Diller-Odell Board of Education

Elementary Media Center-Diller

December 11, 2023

Regular Board Meeting—7:00 pm

Present: Adam Engelman, Paul Kostal, Kolin Kotas, Angie Clifford, Dusty Duis & Kasey Murphy.

Public comment was received from Matt Duis and Kayla Schnuelle on trying to establish more collaboration between youth sports and the school for the betterment of our school's students.

Motion to approve minutes of last meeting made by Angie Clifford seconded by Adam Engelman. Passed with 6 yea, 0 nay. Principal Mezger provided an update on MAPS testing, Special Programs, the NASB conference and the State Principal Conference.

Ashley Duis provided an a report on student activities. Congratulations to all athletes earning post-season honors in Fall sports, students in One Act that placed third in districts, those students with success in Ag contests and especially to Dave Parde who participated in the National FFA Band last month.

Motion to review and take possible action on grade scale for grades 7-12 which would revise policy 5078 and 5080 made by Kolin Kotas and seconded by Kasey Murphy. Motion passed with 6 yea, 0 nay. After researching other area schools' grade scales, the Board wanted to adapt the grade sale to be more comparable. The change will be as follows for grades 7-12: 93-100 A, 90-92 B+, 86-89 B, 84-85 C+, 78-83 C, 76-77 D+, 70-75 D, Below 69.5 F. The change will go into effect at semester and will change current student GPA's at that time. GPA would be calculated as: 4.0 A, 3.5 B+, 3.0 B, 2.5 C+, 2.0 C, 1.5 D+, 1.0 D, 0 F.

Motion to approve the Art trip to Chicago made by Angie Clifford and seconded by Adam Engelman. Motion passed with 6 yea, 0 nay. Superintendent Meyerle thanks Mrs. Klaus for her willingness to take students on the trip to experience downtown Chicago.

Discussion ending boys golf cooperative with Southern HS after the spring of 2024 to pursue a cooperative with Beatrice HS in baseball for the Spring of 2025. The Board plans to direct Superintendent Meyerle to write a letter to the NSAA Board to request that the Boys 2 year gold coop with Southern Public Schools be dissolved after the

2024 season. Dr. Prososki of Southern will also provide a letter to the NSAA. The NSAA Board would then need to approve of the dissolution of the program after the 2024 season. The existence of the golf program at Southern is not dependent on the cooperative, as golf can be offered with very few participants. The Board appreciates the opportunity of participating in the golf coop with Southern over the years, but now more students would be interested in playing baseball. Beatrice is receptive to the cooperative in basketball beginning in the spring of 2025. Superintendent Meyerle noted that if a cooperative was signed with Beatrice, that Diller-Odell would be joining the Beatrice baseball team. There would not be a new team name, new mascot, etc.

Superintendent Meyerle reported on a planned staff reassignment for 2024-2025. Mr. Hinrichs will move from the position of 6th grade teacher to PK-6 Principal. In times that see an increase in concerns with student behavior and school safety, the Board, Mr. Mezger, and Superintendent Meyerle agree that we need more eyes on student behavioral issues in each building. This change will see Mr. Hinrichs at the elementary full time as PK-6 Principal, and Mr. Mezger at the junior-senior high school full time as the grade 7-12 Principal. This change will allow Mr. Hinrichs and Mr. Mezger to deal with discipline and student behavioral issues at the respective buildings in a timely manner.

Superintendent Meyerle, Principal Mezger, and the Board firmly believe this change will make our school stronger. Diller-Odell Public Schools began the merger in 2000-2001 with three administrators, and cut back to two when on a levy over-ride. Most systems that have a two-site situation as Diller-Odell, have three administrators. Diller-Odell has done it with two for 17 years. The Board, Principal Mezger, and Superintendent Meyerle all recognize that life has changed in many ways over the years when dealing with student discipline and safety. In the need to address issues in a prudent manner, the reassigning of duties has been endorsed.

Superintendent Meyerle noted that the 2022-2023 Annual Report would be available next week. He reported that he had advertised for a 6th grade teaching position/Assistant Football Coach. With Mr. Hinrichs moving to a Principal

position, he would no longer be an Assistant Football Coach. He would continue as Head Boys Basketball Coach. Superintendent Meyerle reported on a recent meeting at he ESU with Senators Brandt and Dorn. Kasey Murphy also attended the meeting. School Finance was a topic of discussion at the meeting. Some schools in the state did not drop their tax request as many in the legislature had hope for 2023-2024. Superintendent Meyerle noted that all schools are different and in different situations. Thankfully, Diller-Odell was able to reduce the tax request for 2023-2024 and drop the levy by 7 cents in large part due to more of a financial commitment from the state.

Superintendent Meyerle always has concerns over how the state legislature views local control. Meaning, he believes the legislature likes local control (Boards), as long as Boards do what the legislature wants, the legislature then attempts to create legislation to control local Boards. Again, all schools are different, and local Boards know best how to run the schools in their respective districts.

Motion to approve bills as presented made by Dusty Duis and seconded by Kasey Murphy. Motion passed with 6 yea and 0 nay.

The Board reviewed Superintendent Meyerle's contract. The contract will roll over until June 30, 2026. Motion to approve Policy 3055 School Resource Officer made by Kasey Murphy and seconded by Adam Engelman. Motion passed with 6 yea, 0 nay. The School Resource Officer will serve Diller-Odell, Freeman, and Southern Public Schools. The officer will begin serving the schools sometime in early 2024. The cost is totally paid for by Gage County in year one. The officer will also serve our elementary school even though it is in Jefferson County. The officer's schedule is to be determined. The goal of this program is to build positive relationships with students and be a contact when such service is necessary with negative behavior (bullying etc.) or attendance.

Superintendent Meyerle provided his Board Committee recommendations for 2024. The Board will review and approve the assignments at the January meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Adam Engelman and seconded by Dusty Duis.

"If you light a lamp for someone, it will also brighten your path."—Buddha

Diller-Odell Board of Education

Elementary Media Center-Diller

Wednesday, January 10, 2024

Regular Board Meeting—7:00 pm

Present: Adam Engelman, Paul Kostal, Kolin Kotas, Dusty Duis & Kasey Murphy. The absence of Angie Clifford was excused.

Superintendent Meyerle had an Oath of Office for each Board member to sign. Angie, Clifford, who was absent signed her Oath prior to the meeting.

Motion to approve minutes of last meeting made by Adam Engelman seconded by Kolin Kotas. Passed with 5 yea, 0 nay. Motion to retain Board offices with Paul Kostal as President, Adam Engelman as vice President, and Angie Clifford as Secretary/Treasurer made by Adam Engelman and seconded by Kasey Murphy. Motion passed with 5 yea, 0 nay. Motion to approve committee appointments made by Dusty Duis and seconded by Kasey Murphy. Motion passed with 5 yea, 0 nay.

Motion to retain the Fairbury Journal News as the official newspaper, KSB School Law as legal representation, the State Bank of Odell as the official repository, and to appoint Superintendent Meyerle as the Attendance Officer and Federal Programs Director made by Kolin Kotas and seconded by Adam Engelman. Motion passed with 5 yea, 0 nay.

Motion to approve interlocal agreement with Gage County for SRD made by

Adam Engelman and seconded by Kasey Murphy. Motion passed with 5 yea, 0 nay.

The Board appreciates the efforts by Gage County in beginning the SRD Program. It will be a great benefit to the school in building positive relationships with law enforcement while being a quick response to issues such as truancy, bullying, and other matters of concern. Investigator Hanson, Sheriff Gustafson, and Deputy Hager were in attendance to introduce themselves to the Board. Deputy Hager looks forward to the working relationship as SRD with our elementary and high school.

No student report

The Board reviewed Principal Mezger's written report. Principal Mezger provided a technology update.

Superintendent Meyerle reported on some floor work at the elementary school in the Art room and Boys' restroom. He also reported that this summer there would be some updates at the high school with new trophy cases with designated spots for athletics, All State athletes, FFA, Speech, etc. and an area for recent happenings. If anyone is interested in the old trophy case, by the old gym at the HS, they should contact Superintendent Meyerle. He also noted that athletic record boards will be mounted in the link to the new gym.

The records are currently on a touch screen, and are not really visible.

Motion to approve the use of the Special

Building Fund for elementary entrance renovations for safety and security made by Adam Engelman and seconded by Kasey Murphy. Motion passed with 5 yea, 0 nay. The Board agreed with noted concerns and looks forward to the update to the entrance of the elementary building. The update will be scheduled to take place in the summer of 2025.

Superintendent Meyerle noted the 2022-2023 Annual Report is available on the school website. He also reported that he was pleased where the district stood financially at this point of the year compared to the last couple years. Reduced spending and the elimination of two classified positions helped a great deal. Motion to approve bills as presented made by Kasey Murphy and seconded by Paul Kostal. Motion passed with 5 yea and 0 nay.

Kasey Murphy had a question on the bills from ESU 5 and a pay rate. Superintendent Meyerle will contact ESU 5 to clarify. Superintendent Meyerle reported that he had registrations set for all Board members at the NRCSA conference in March in Kearney.

Motion to adjourn made by Adam Engelman and seconded by Kolin Kotas.

Passed with 5 yea, 0 nay.

President Kostal adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm. The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 12 at 7:00 pm at the High School.

Odell Library
HOURS
Tue: 2-6 p
Wed: 4-6 p
Thu: 3-5 p
Fri: 9-11 a
Sat: 10a-12p



**CHECK IT
OUT!**

www.dillerodell.org

Our School Website is
the place to go for all
things Diller-Odell.

- Current News
- Weekly Bulletin
- Calendar
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- Link to Striv Channel
- MORE!



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How Can We Speak About God?

If someone were to ask you, "Who is God?" what would you answer? You might stammer a little and then say, "Well, God is...God." After a moment of reflection, you could quote 1 John 4:16 and say that God is love. As you kept thinking about it, you would find much to say: God is all good, God is all-knowing, God is all-merciful, God is just, God is infinite, God is all-powerful, God is everywhere.

One of my friends while in seminary was asked in an oral exam about the mysteries of God, and why all of these mysteries are true. His simple response (for which he received a very good grade) was, "Because God said so."

The famous philosopher of the 17th century, Blaise Pascal, once said that something incomprehensible is not for that reason less real. We believe that man is made in the image and likeness of God. Yet, for the ways in which we speak of similarity between us creatures and our Creator, there is always a greater dissimilarity. Thomas Aquinas from the 13th century states that "concerning God, we cannot grasp what he is, but only what he is not, and how other beings stand in relation to him."

Even for us who are believers, we acknowledge the ability of human reason to know God. This makes us confident to dialogue about God with people of other

world religions, with science and philosophy, as well as with unbelievers and atheists.

When I am teaching young children about God, they are amazed to learn that God is uncreated. God simply is. God never began to exist, he simply always was. God will never cease to exist. Our language about him is limited because we can name God only by taking creatures as our starting point. Since all creatures have a beginning and an end, it can be difficult to fathom that God was, is, and always will be.

All creatures are made perfectly how God wants them to be. From the lovability of your household cat or dog, to the grandeur of a lion in the wild, creatures resemble God in their truth, their goodness, and their beauty. In chapter 13 of the Book of Wisdom, it beautifully states that "from the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator".

Since God is infinitely simple, our human words always fall short in speaking of the mystery of God. Our belief in God is rooted in the gift of faith, and it makes me think of this quotation from one of my favorite movies: for those who believe, no explanation is necessary; for those who do not believe, no explanation is possible.

Rev. Loras K. Grell
Pastor of St. Mary Church, Odell

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"Live in the present, by thinking about the future."

Intentional Homestead Homemaker

(A new series from an anonymous, local resident)

Amid my exploration of new and captivating activities, I have been drawn to recent online movements that captured my interest. From the flourishing homesteading community on Instagram and Pinterest to the intriguing world of sourdough bread making and the timeless practice of canning, I'm excited about acquiring these traditional yet contemporary skills.

Discovering captivating homesteading posts on social media has sparked by my interest in a lifestyle that values self-sufficiency and sustainability. For valuable tips and tricks, I highly encourage you to explore the inspiring content on Pinterest from accounts like "OurFutureHomestead" and ImHappyBlog." These platforms provide a wealth of information, from creative gardening solutions to insightful canning techniques, offering a supportive community eager to share their experiences.

The world of sourdough bread making has piqued my interest, and I'm researching the basics, including the fascinating concept of feeding a sourdough starter. It seems like rewarding and enjoyable endeavor that I'm excited to explore further.

While I haven't yet embarked on the journey of canning, the resurgence of this traditional art form has motivated me to research and potentially connect with the older generation who mas-

tered this craft. What I wouldn't give to go back in time and spend a canning season and holiday baking season with my Great Aunt. Whether you knew it could be canned or not, she would make it taste amazing. My favorite growing up was her canned pickles. She made all her desserts from scratch; chocolate pies, lemon meringue, divinity, fudge, cakes, cinnamon rolls! I'm drooling just reminiscing.

In a world filled with additives and potential hazards, I find solace in aligning my pursuits with what I believe are the Lord's intentions for us. As I explore non-toxic kitchen items, from skillets and tea-kettles to cups and Tupperware-type containers, it becomes apparent how expensive these choices can be. It's interesting to note that over the years, there's a prevailing suspicion that those seeking healthier alternatives may be dismissed as "crazy" and "conspiracy theorists". In truth, many of us are simply yearning for simplicity amid the demands of a busy world, a desire that resonates with a pursuit of a more natural and intentional way of living.

I look forward to sharing my experiences with you, whether it's nurturing a sourdough starter, experimenting with container gardening, or venturing into the world of canning with my vegetable stock. I'm very excited about acquiring and incorporating these skills into my modern lifestyle.

Let's get to the heart of my canning adventure. Keep reading for the detailed vegetable stock recipe and canning instructions below.

Vegetable Stock Recipe

Ingredients:

- 2 large carrots, chopped
- 2 celery stalks, chopped
- 1 onion, quartered
- 3 garlic cloves, smashed
- 1 leek, cleaned and sliced
- 1 parsnip, chopped
- Handful of fresh parsley
- 1 bay leaf
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 12 cups of water

Instructions:

1. Combine all the ingredients in a large pot
2. Bring the mixture to a boil, then reduce the heat and let it simmer for about 1-2 hours.
3. Strain the stock to remove solid pieces.
4. Allow the vegetable stock to cool before transferring it into canning jars.

Canning Instructions

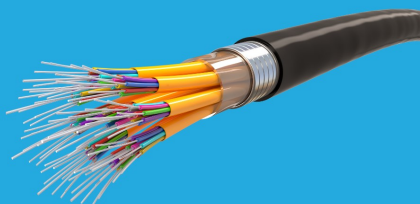
1. Sterilize your canning jars and lids
2. Ladle the cooled vegetable stock into the jars, leaving about an inch of headspace.
3. Wipe the jar rims with a clean, damp cloth to ensure a proper seal.
4. Place the sterilized lids on the jars and screw on the metal bands until fingertip-tight
5. Process the jars in a boiling water bath for the recommended time for your altitude.
6. Remove the jars and let them cool completely before checking the seals.

—With warmth and purpose,
Intentional Homestead Homemaker

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"Confidence comes from discipline and training."—Robert Kiyasoki

Area February Birthdays

- 1—Jeff Nelson & Lilly Welch
2—Daryl Holle
3—Perry Gydesen, John Novotny, & Mason Schlichtman
4—Addison Stein & Baylor Vitosh
5—DeAnna Duis & Rick Garton
6—Lucah Genrich & Steve D Kostal
7—Steve R Kostal
8—Tara Sasse & Britton Thomas
9—Jody Franzen, Sue Gomon, Morgan Kapke & Cooper Logan
10—Joel Holtmeier & Keeton Warnke
11—Daltyn Hroch, Victoria Klecan, Hilary Creek, Tanner Parde,
& Travis Robeson
12—Jill Bergmeier
13—Miriam Cacek, Madeline Knabe, Kimber Snyder,
& Marcella Vitosh
14—Mandee Hackler, Steve Hemphill, & Heidi Leners
15—Maggie Knabe & Dan Parrott
16—Ted Hajek, Haley Jones, & Troy Koch
17—Amanda Hicok-Cowles, Evangeline Klecan,
Chris Schlichtman, & Chuck Whitehead
18—Rusty Bodfield, Nathan Furrow, Elliott Sasse, Kay Theye, &
Shawn Weers
19—Ardie Barber, Jordan Cowles, & Patrick Jurgens
20—Toni Landenberger
21—Zeke Jones, Elizabeth Knabe, & Cindy Stohs
22—Nick Nelson & Kayla Schnuelle
23—Alicia Ebeling
24—John Hemphill & Mark Zabokrtsky
25—Terry Bures & Betty Hennerberg
26—Ethan Lindeen & Shawn Milligan
27—Brooklyn Barr
28—Geri Ann Henrichs, & Greg Weers

Happy 18th Birthday, Dylan Dendinger on
February 1st! Love, Your Family & Friends

Happy Birthday to Andrea Humphreys on
February 2nd! Love, Your Friends & Family

Happy bday to our daughter, Brittney Kotas on
February 2. We are so proud of you and love
you so much, Mom & Dad

Happy birthday to Stu Vitosh on February 4th!
Love, Your Family & Friends

Happy Birthday to Kristen Heidemann on
February 5th ! Love, Your Friends & Family

Happy Birthday to Keira Hennerberg on
February 6th! Love, Your Friends & Family

Happy Birthday to Drew Henrichs on
February 9th! Love, Your Family & Friends

Happy Birthday to Creyton Heidemann on
February 9th! Love, Your Family & Friends

Happy Birthday to Madison Sherwood on
February 17th! Love, Your Family & Friends


Happy Birthday to Sidney Engelman on
February 18th! Love, Your Family & Friends

Happy Birthday to Amy Coufal on February 20th!
Love, Your Family & Friends

Happy Birthday to Chris Clifford on February
27th! Love, Your Family & Friends

Happy Birthday to Zeke Heble on February 28th!
Love, Your Family & Friends

Happy Birthday to Cathy Bures on Feb. 28th! Have
a good day! From, Dad & Mom Bures

 **Happy 19th Birthday to Kate
Kostal on February 28th!
Love, Mom, Dad, & Mel.**

Happy Birthday to Dalton Bures on a very
special February 29th! - A Leap Year Baby!
Hope you have a special day!
Grandpa and Grandma Bures

ODELL COMMUNITY MARKET
HOURS
MONDAY-SATURDAY
8:00 AM - 7:00 PM
CLOSED ON SUNDAYS

Pizza oven shuts down 30 minutes before closing

DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS MONDAY-FRIDAY

Fitness Center
HOURS
4:30 AM - 11:30 PM
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"You can choose courage or you can choose comfort."



2nd Annual
**"SPRING INTO HEALTH"
HEALTH FAIR**

April 6, 2024
7-10AM
Hanover Community Building
(fair grounds) in hanover

DISCOUNTED LABWORK
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GIVEAWAYS, DOOR PRIZES
FREE-WILL DONATION BREAKFAST
ISB BAKE SALE



Contact us for more details at
785-337-2214



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024
10:00 AM - BEATRICE, NE

3 EVENT CHOICES:

- 1 MILE RUN/WALK
- 5K RUN/WALK
- 5K RUN COUPLE DIV.

➔ **REGISTER BY:** ➔
FEBRUARY 9TH TO
RECEIVE T-SHIRT ON
THE DAY OF RACE

<http://GetMeRegistered.com/HealthyHeartRun>

More details on the registration site
or contact:

Julie @ (402)641-5746 or
jfeist85@gmail.com
or Timoree Klingler at
timoree@gmail.com or
homesteadrunningclub@gmail.com



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HYPERTENSION

HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE

Pop-Up Booth

Friday, Feb. 9 | 8am-2pm

3 EVENT LOCATIONS: Beatrice Community Hospital Lobby
Family & Internal Medicine Clinic Lobby
Wymore Medical Clinic Lobby

- Visit with Case Managers
- Learn how to care for your blood pressure
- Blood Pressure Checks will be available



Enter to win
a FREE
home blood
pressure cuff

You do not need to be present to win!

"Do something today that your future self thanks you for."

The Gage County Historical Society and Museum Fundraiser

"Dine with us! Your 1860's Gage County Settlers"

March 9, 2024 @ 5:00 p.m.

Dinner starts at 5:30pm

Program at 6:00pm

@ American Lutheran Church of Filley

305 Livingston St. Filley, NE

Program: "Diaries and Letters of Early Nebraska Settlers"



Let us kick off the Filley Stone Barn's 150th Anniversary with the Filley's!
(Meal will consist of roast beef, Yukon gold mash potatoes, creamed peas, and spiced apple cake).

Elijah Filley Table Sponsorship - \$300 - table for 8, table setting with your name, name on program.

Cottage Hill Farm Program Sponsorship - \$250 - 4 tickets to the event, name on program

Osage Orange Homestead Sponsorship - \$100 - 2 tickets to the event, name on program



Scan the QR Code
to pay online.



A Basket filled with Filley Stone Barn
Memorabilia will be raffled off at the event.
All proceeds will go to the mason work for
the barn and the outdoor classroom.

Special guest arriving for dessert will be Lucy Adkins from Nebraska Humanities who will be reading from the diaries and letters of women homesteaders in Nebraska.

RSVP by February 23, 2024. Contact the Museum @ 402-228-1679 to pay over the phone or mail a check to the museum at P.O. Box 793, Beatrice, NE 68310.

Prices for individual and couple tickets include tax.



If you would like more
information, please call
Perry Gydesen at 402-766-3816 or
email pgydesen@diodecom.net

Hey guys! Do you like to sing?
The Homestead Harmonizers
Barbershop Chorus is looking for
new members.

You don't have to be great or know how to read music.
You are invited to look into singing with the Harmonizers
- an all male barbershop style chorus (4 part harmony).

The Harmonizers practice in Beatrice at the First
Presbyterian Church in the basement on Monday nights
from 7:30-9 pm. The church is directly north of the
Beatrice Middle school. The entrance is on the west side of
the church, which faces fourth street.

"Facts do not cease because they are ignored."—Aldous Huxley

Gene Coon 100th Anniversary Event



Gene Coon
Beatrice born
Hollywood writer



Andreea Kindryd
Author of the book
"From Slavery to Star
Trek"

Schedule (subject to change)

Friday Evening, March 15, 2024

Location: Centenary United Methodist Church

6:00PM Reception & Screening: Laredo: The Golden Trail (1965)

Catering by Colleen's Catering

Saturday, March 16, 2024

Morning (includes 15 minute break at 9:30)

Location: Community Players (concessions will be available during the screenings)

8:00am - Doors Open

8:30am - Welcome - Jeanelle Cleveland

8:40am - Beatrice Connection with Lauren Riedesel

9:00am - Matt McKeever - Biographical Gene Coon

9:45am - Screening: Journey to Shiloh (1968)

Lunch

Location: Valentino's Primavera Room

12:00pm Option for Italian buffet. The guests and speakers will do a Q & A moderated by Omaha film historian Bruce Crawford

Afternoon (includes short breaks at 1:50pm & 3:40pm)

Location: Community Players (concessions will be available during the screenings)

1:30pm - Michael Page - Sci-Fi Literature and Hollywood

2:00pm - Screening: Star Trek : Spock's Brain (1968)

2:50pm - Screening: Star Trek: Space Seed (1967)

4:00pm - Special Guest Speaker : Andreea Kindryd via Zoom



Tickets and VIP popcorn containers ordered with this form will be available for pick-up at the box office on Saturday, March 16.

Back Roads

NUTRITION + BOUTIQUE

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FEBRUARY HOURS

Please check Social Media for Daily Hours due to staffing shortages

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPEN: Saturday, Feb. 3; 9 am - 1 pm

OPEN: Saturday, Feb. 10; 9 am - 1 pm

OPEN: Saturday, Feb. 17; 9 am - 1 pm

OPEN: Saturday, Feb. 24; 9 am - 1 pm

204 Main Street, Odell, NE

FOR SALE!

Back Roads Building
Contact Heather or Zach
Heble for additional
information

Local Methodist ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

5:30 pm at Odell
Methodist Church

7:00 at Ellis
Methodist Church

COME EARLY TO BOTH FOR
THE BURNING OF THE PALMS



Lenten SERVICES

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - DILLER

Ash Wednesday,
February 14 @ 7 pm

Weekly Lenten Services on
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm:

Feb. 21, 28, Mar 6, 13, & 20

Meal at 6:00 pm before each
Lenten Service

Local Catholic ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

8:00 am - St. Joseph's
Barneston

5:30 pm - St. Mary's
Odell

7:15 pm - St. Mary's
Wymore



Lenten SERVICES

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH - ODELL

Ash Wednesday, February 14 @ 7 pm

Wednesdays Feb 28, Mar 6, & 20 @ 7 pm

Palm Sunday, March 24 @ 9 am

Holy Thursday, March 28 @ 7 pm

Good Friday, March 29 @ 7 pm

Easter Morning, March 31 @ 7 am

423 Maple Street