

Hallway Happenings



April 2025 Issue 29

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Litchfield Speech

By Aliza Ellison

The speech team has been having a good season this year, with an overall count of four 1st place medals, six 2nd place medals, and five 3rd place medals. Jimmy's POI about school shootings has an impact on the listeners. Caydence's entertainment hilariously explains her experiences as a radio announcer. Jori's serious about a girl who gives up part of herself and learns how to live without it, inspires people who have gone through tough relationships. The duet of Jimmy and Malynn retells the story of Hansel and Gretel in numerous ways. Tessa's serious tells the story of an autistic girl who lost her brother and the troubles she goes through to find 'closure.' Aliza's humorous is about a girl named Lerlene who dreams of being famous, but has trouble realizing that she might not make it. Alison Holm's poetry explores the famous Titanic sinking. And Macie Slocum's humorous depicts a woman trying to stay employed and sane.



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Litchfield Quiz Bowl

By Gracie Reitz

This year, the Litchfield High School Quiz Bowl team has had many wins followed by a couple of losses. The High School Quiz Bowl team was at SEM on March 17 for the FKC Quiz Bowl competition. As a team, they placed 4th out of 10 teams. On March 24 they traveled to UNK to compete in the ESU 10 Quiz Bowl competition. The team consists of Seniors Ethan Evans, and Walker Skrdla. Juniors Ava Paitz, James Fletcher, Malynn Boyles, and Caydnece Feldman. Sophomore Daveon Magner. And Freshman Micheal Corliss.

The JH Quiz Bowl team had their first competition in Anselmo-Merna on January 22. Losing 1-3, they lost their last match by one point. Sponsor Bevin Drew stated, "We have a good mix of experienced team members from last year and brand new members. It was a great afternoon to gain some confidence and get a competition under our belts." The team consisted of Aaron Reitz, Knox Feldman, Kinzlie McAuliff, Jenna Drahota, Addie Boyles, Taryn Cole, Blake Slocum, and Aubri Corbin. They had a big gap between their first and second competitions due to the canceled Amherst competition. But they got a good practice in with the Ansley JH Quiz Bowl team. Their final competition was at UNK, hosted by ESU 10, on March 10.

Opinion and Reviews

This Month's Newsletter

By Brian Moser

This month we feature additional reviews of recent movies by our newsletter class, plus for the first time, two opinion articles -- students reflecting on important topics in the news.

Review of *Twisters*

By Jordyn Ellison

This movie, the long-awaited sequel to *Twister*, made in 1996, retains the same feelings and aspects about “twisters” as the original. In this movie, we follow along with Kate and her friend Javi as they reconnect after years to track and chase “twisters.” They run into a YouTube star Tyler Owens who calls himself the “Tornado Wrangler.” Amid all the storm chaos, will they get along to survive?



Romance, 8/10 → If you are a fan of enemies to lovers but they are forced to work together, you will love this movie.

Action, 7/10 → The action includes, storm chasing and getting caught in the storm cells, not a lot of action spread throughout but there is a point where a bunch of action happens all at once in the climax. It makes sense but I believe it could have a few more action parts.

CGI, 10/10 → The storm CGI is perfect, I have no bad comments about it. It perfectly encapsulates how a storm acts and the presence of a storm.

Comedy, 8/10 → even though it isn't a comedy movie some parts will make you laugh out loud and some that give you a strong chuckle

After averaging my ratings this movie gets a strong 8.25 out of 10. It is an amazing movie that I truly believe should be watched. It is a good stand alone if it wants to be, but it does use parts of the original *Twister* (1996) movie, making it a good sequel.

Review of *Companion*

By Ethan Evans

Companion is a movie based on Ai “companion” bots for people who are lonely and in need of companionship whether that be dating or anything else.

To set it up, you simply put your face in front of it and pick a scenario that you “meet it” in. The scenarios come in a variety of options but once setup is complete you can change its voice, intelligence and all kinds of stuff. It can also be violent if you jailbreak the bot. So the main antagonist of the show jailbreaks the bot and they must stop the bot from escaping and wreaking more havoc after the bot kills someone in a robbery gone bad. The actual synopsis of the movie goes “A weekend getaway turns bloody and violent when a subservient android that's built for human companionship goes haywire.” The movie is really good if you're into sci-horror but the movie is pretty cheesy so there's that. Overall I'd say the movie is a 7/10 for laughs but overall it's not very scary.



Opinion: Trump set to sign executive order shuttering the Education Department

By Walker Skrdla

Thursday, March 20th, President Trump signed an executive order to begin closing the Department of Education. He planned on holding an event at the White House after signing the order to direct Education Secretary Linda McMahon to “take all necessary steps to facilitate the closure of the Department of Education and return education authority to the states...” This executive order won’t necessarily close the department though. To close, it would require an act of Congress, although the Trump Administration could efficiently and effectively make it nearly impossible for employees to get work done. This is also what they have done to the U.S. Agency for International Development, which has been responsible for providing development assistance to countries worldwide.



Photo: The Associated Press

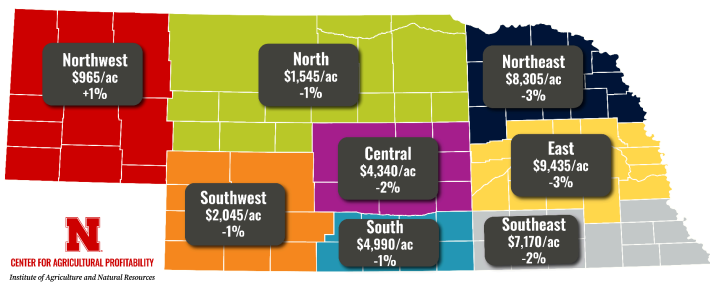
The Department of Education is responsible for many things which may make this a rough transition for the states to be taking on this responsibility. For starters, the Department of Education manages the \$1.693 trillion outstanding federal student loan balance. What happens to that if the Department is shut down? They also provided 13.6% of funding for public schools. On top of that, they are responsible for enforcing non-discrimination and civil rights laws in federally funded schools. With education becoming the states’ responsibilities. There is a high possibility that in the future we will see education quality based more off of the state you are living in.

Opinion: Nebraska Farm Real Estate Report

By Rowdy LeFever

The University of Nebraska Lincoln has done a report of the farm estate and says with how the prices are going into inflation that the price per acre for farming is \$4,015 in 2024. With the inflation the interest rates and low crop prices have forced to tighten the financing or forced to foreclose because they can't make it work out. The net farm income decreased 17% in 2024 to \$7.69 million. Center pivot irrigated ground average 4% lower across the state then last year while irrigated ground average 5% lower across the state. Dryland with no irrigation averaged 2% across the state and dryland ground with irrigation dropped about 3%. Nebraska is facing a decline in crop prices while cattle prices are still high which may or may not stay like that forever because the prices are changing everyday so that means if today is low tomorrow could be up a bunch.

Average Value Per Acre of Nebraska Agricultural Land as of Feb. 1, 2025, and Percent Change from Prior Year



Statewide All-Land Average: \$3,935 per Acre (-2%)

Chart: UNL Center for Agricultural Profitability

With new equipment not selling very well, the old equipment is selling more because there are less sensors and wiring to deal with resulting in fewer breakdowns and saving a little more money for other inputs. The Trump tariffs are not helping farmers out and a lot of farmers are really not liking his decisions and are wishing they didn't vote for him.

Clubs & Organizations

FFA Update

By Brian Johnson, FFA Sponsor

Seventeen members of the FFA will be traveling to Lincoln on April 1st to participate and compete at the State Convention.

Jordyn Ellison, Rowdy LeFever, Walker Skrdla and Lane Slocum will compete in the Agricultural Technology and Mechanics CDE on April 2nd. On April 3rd, Chance Evans, Cooper Fletcher, Alison Holm and Kegan Ritchie will be competing in the Agriscience CDE. The Veterinary Science team consisting of Malynn Boyles, Ethan Evans, James Fletcher and Ida Gross will also compete that day. Along with competing in a CDE, James Fletcher will be competing in the Senior Public Speaking LDE and interviewing for the Health and Human Services Proficiency award. Both of these events will be held on April 2nd. Students will also be attending leadership workshops and general sessions where Litchfield will be recognized for our participation in the I Believe in the Future of Agriculture program as well as the Connecting Chapters program. The week will end on April 4th when Malynn Boyles, James Fletcher and Lane Slocum will be awarded their State Degrees.

FBLA Update

By Hillary Rasmussen, FBLA Sponsor

Litchfield FBLA members are gearing up for the State Leadership Conference (SLC) on April 10-12 in Kearney. Students have been preparing by taking tests, studying competition materials, and refining their presentations to compete at the state level.

Additionally, James Fletcher is running for FBLA State Vice President and has been hard at work developing campaign materials in preparation for the election. His dedication to leadership and service reflects the core values of FBLA.

In March, our chapter celebrated FBLA Week with a variety of activities, including themed dress-up days and a member appreciation breakfast. It was a great opportunity to recognize the impact of FBLA and bring members together.

With SLC just around the corner, our members are excited to showcase their hard work and represent Litchfield. Stay tuned for updates on their success!

Powerschool Cyber Attack FBLA Update

By Brian Moser, Principal

Here is probably the last update about the Powerschool Security breach over Christmas break, which I have covered here and in previous messages. Search "Powerschool SIS Incident" or scan the QR code to see the company's overview of what happened, and details about what you can possibly do if you'd like.



Recently, you may have been contacted by Powerschool via email and been offered a free year of credit monitoring or identity theft protection. Starting now, anyone affected (basically, any parent/student currently or recently enrolled at Litchfield) may use the links on that site, whether you've been contacted by PS or not. There are different protections to redeem depending on whether someone is above or below 18.

April 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 CINNAMON ROLLS HOT POCKET	2 OMELETTE CHICKEN NUGGETS	3 MUFFINS CORN DOGS	4 DONUTS CHEESE PIZZA	5
6	7 MUFFINS RUNZA CASSEROLE	8 FRENCH TOAST CHICKEN PATTY	9 CHURRO EASTER DINNER	10 HASHBROWN TACO	11 DONUTS CHEESE QUESDALLIA	12
13	14 MUFFINS ENCHILADA	15 OATMEAL BAR HOT DOGS	16 NO SCHOOL	17 NO SCHOOL	18 NO SCHOOL	19
20	21 MUFFINS MEXICAN RICE BOWLS	22 PANCAKES CALZONES	23 BISCUIT/GRAVY HAM SANDWICH	24 BREAKFAST PIZZA TATOR TOT CASSEROLE	25 DONUTS TORNADOS	26
27	28 COFFEE CAKE PULLED PORK	29 SAUSAGE,EGG BISCUIT WALKING TACO	30 MUFFINS POPCORN CHICKEN	1	2	3
4	5	Notes				

LITCHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
March 17, 2025

Vice President Cole Lewandowski called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Cole Lewandowski, April Gross, Alyssa Reynolds, Katie Slack, and Marie Sweley.

Visitors: Cody Franzen

Vice President Cole Lewandowski announced and informed the public that a current copy of the Open Meeting Law is posted on the wall of the meeting room and indicated the instructions for those who wish to speak during public forum.

Marie Sweley moved and Katie Slack seconded to approve excused absent Board member Mitch Feldman. Motion carried 5-0.

Alyssa Reynolds moved and April Gross seconded to approve board minutes from last month's meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Mitch Feldman entered the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

April Gross gave the treasurer report as General Fund Statement beginning balance of \$583,179.19, general funds receipts \$433,492.82, and actual cash available in general fund \$786,275.03 in the district treasury. Payroll and claims in the amount of \$235,595.42 were presented for payment. Marie Sweley moved and Alyssa Reynolds seconded the approval of payment of monthly claims. Motion carried 6-0.

Brian Moser gave the principal's report; PowerSchool Breach, Attendance/Grades, Student Population, and many coming up Activities.

Matt Drew gave an AD Report, and action items; Litchfield Village Changes, Policy Review, Approve Teacher Contract Renewals, 25-26 School Calendar, and Building and Grounds items.

Cole Lewandowski moved and Alyssa Reynolds seconded to approve the changes to Policy 801.01. Motion carried 6-0.

April Gross moved and Katie Slack seconded the approval of changes to Policy 801.06. Motion carried 6-0.

Katie Slack moved and Cole Lewandowski seconded the approval of no charging fees for transportation for Policy 801.08. Motion carried 6-0.

Marie Sweley moved and Alyssa Reynolds seconded the approval of Policies; 204.07, 504.11, 801.01, 801.02, 801.03, 801.04, 801.05, 801.06, 801.07, 801.08, 801.09, 801.10, 801.11, 801.12, and 801.14. Motion carried 6-0.

Marie Sweley moved and April Gross seconded to approve the 25-26 School Calendar. Motion carried 6-0.

Alyssa Reynolds moved and Cole Lewandowski seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be at 7:30 p.m. on April 21st, 2025. The agenda is a continuous agenda and is available for examination during regular hours at the office of the Superintendent. Public notice of the meeting will be given in the Hallway Happenings Newsletter and in the Sherman County Times.

Marie Sweley
Board Secretary

2025

April

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	31	01	02 State FFA	03 State FFA	04 State FFA TR @ Kearney 10:00	05 State FFA
06 (Elem. State Testing week of 4/7) -->	07 Spartan Spring Music Showcase @ Litchfield 7:00	08 Preschool Field Trip JH TR @ Ravenna 1:00	09	10 State FBLA	11 State FBLA TR @ Arnold	12 State FBLA
13	14	15 TR @ Overton 9:00 JH TR @ Burwell 1:00	16 No School Teacher In- Service	17 No School Teacher In- Service TR @ Ravenna	18 No School	19
20 (HS State Testing week of 4/21) -->	21	22	23 District Music @ Burwell	24 Spring Fine Arts & Music Program 6:00	25	26
27	28	29 JH TR @ Arnold 10:00	30	01	02	03
04	05	<p>Notes:</p> <p>The Elementary Track Meet was originally scheduled for May 2, but was moved to May 9 due to a High School Track meet.Spring</p> <p>The Spartan Spring Music Showcase on April 7 is a new event. Litchfield and Ansley students will perform solos and ensembles they've been working on.</p>				

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 1	Fund Number 01 GENERAL FUND	
ACTIVITY ALL CLASS		238.00
Almquist, Maltzahn, Galloway & Luth, P.C.		100.00
ANSLEY LUMBER AND SUPPLY		16.67
Ansley Public Schools		3,453.29
BLACK HILLS ENERGY		2,699.43
Culligan Water Conditioning		38.25
Custer Public Power		4,778.00
DAS STATE ACCOUNTING - CENTRAL FINANCE		400.21
EAKES OFFICE SOLUTION		2,848.21
Educational Service Unit 10		7,926.83
ESSENTIAL SCREENS		41.00
Farmers Co-op Association		1,123.73
HAMILTON		133.29
HOMETOWN LEASING		341.51
INTEGRATED SECURITY SOLUTIONS		400.00
Jerry M. Rolfsmeyer		658.49
KORT TRANSFER LLC		575.00
LIL REDS CLEANING		3,600.00
Litchfield Hot Lunch		721.80
Menards		20.76
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS		385.00
NICHOLS REPAIR INC.		1,261.12
P & D MARKET		10.78
Perry, Guthery, Haase & Gessford, P.C., L.L.O		125.40
PETTY CASH FUND		188.63
PRO-ED INC		125.00
Sherman County Times		6.90
TITAN MACHINERY		2,550.46
U.S. BANK		1,840.80
US FOODS		1,451.64
Village Of Litchfield		387.00
WEX BANK		1,433.74
Yanda's Music		42.00
Fund Number 01		<hr/> 39,922.94
Checking Account ID 1		<hr/> 39,922.94

DRIVER EDUCATION

LEARN TO MASTER THE ROAD WITH US!

Classes are now open to register for. Go to www.unk.edu/dred for more information and to sign up. See the whole brochure by following the QR Code. **If you have any questions, please call the Safety Center at 308-865-8256.**

Pleasanton/Litchfield/Ravenna (8:30am to 12:30pm)

*Classes at Pleasanton: June 9-13, 2025

*Range Exercises in Kearney: June 10, 2025 (9:30am-6:00pm)

*Student/Parent Orientation: June 2, (8:30am) Pleasanton Public School

**Transportation to Kearney on June 10th will be provided by Pleasanton School



Cost: \$350 (\$175 Deposit)

Students are required to have a valid DMV-issued permit and a minimum of 10 hours driving practice before participating in this course. Registration will not be accepted without payment of either the down payment or full payment. Registration deadline is two weeks prior to the course start date or until the class is filled, whichever occurs first.

Cancellation/Refund Policy

To receive a refund, written notification must be received more than 5 business days prior to the start of class.

The Nebraska Safety Center reserves the right to cancel class due to low enrollment, inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances. In such cases, registrants will be given the option to choose a different class (dependent upon availability) or to receive a full refund.

Attendance

Attendance is critical to the student's success. Each class and driving appointment must be attended as scheduled. Outcome is performance-based.

Accommodations

If a student requires accommodations due to an AD recognized disability, please contact the Nebraska Safety Center prior to registering. The Nebraska Safety Center does not have specialized training to assist persons with vehicle adaptation needs such as pedal extensions or hand controls, etc. If your teen has a medical condition or takes medication which affects their ability to operate a motor vehicle, please report that prior to registering. Medical clearance from a physician may be required to participate in this class.

Waivers

If the driver education student is UNDER 18 years of age at the time the course is completed, a waiver for the written and drive tests at the Nebraska DMV will be provided. If the student is 18 or older, a certificate of completion will be provided but the written and driving tests MUST be taken at the DMV Examining Office per state law. Driver's licensing staff, at their discretion, may require a drive test of ANY license applicant. The vehicle must be furnished by the applicant for the drive test at the DMV. The Safety Center will not provide a car for testing at the DMV.



**LITCHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
500 N MAIN ST
LITCHFIELD, NE 68852**

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