



# HALLWAY HAPPENINGS

LITCHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS - PO BOX 167 LITCHFIELD, NE 68852  
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## JAG NEWS BY MICHEAL CORLISS

Our Navy recruiter visited to introduce students to Navy careers. The session was informative, and students participated actively. It was a valuable experience for those interested in military service and submarines. Also this month, the army recruiters visited our school to share information about military careers. Students showed interest and asked questions. The visit was informative and engaging. Future visits could include more activities to enhance student. We also had an Equine Vet come and talk to all of our kids. We also brought along the 5th and 6th graders. There were tons of kids with a lot of interest from High School, Junior High, and Elementary. The session was informative and talked about multiple career paths and multiple ways to get into veterinary practice.

Our CDC State qualifiers from Litchfield consist of Micheal. Micheal qualified for the state in prepared speaking. There are more state qualifiers from Ansley, though, consisting of A High School PBL (Addie Gibbons, May Swift, Vanessa Czarneck). A Junior high PBL consisting of (Abby Hickenbottom, Lily Hickenbottom, Aspen Taylor, and Livia Hall). Also, Robert Brott in Junior High School's financial literacy. This will take place on February 26, 2026.



## **BAND AND CHOIR**

### **BY MRS. TURLEY AND KOY ZULKOSKI**

On Thursday, February 12, we hosted 4 other conference schools for the FKC band clinic. The 7-12 band students rehearsed during the day with our guest conductor, Rick Mitchell from Kearney High School. That evening, they showed off their hard work with a concert. I appreciate everyone who helped make this event possible! A huge shoutout to Mrs. Slocum, who did a walking taco concession meal for our lunch.

Future dates for music performances include: Wednesday, March 18 - FKC solo/small group contest @ Axtell (high school only); Wednesday, April 22 - District Music Contest @ Broken Bow (7th-12th); Thursday, April 23 - Spring Fine Arts & Honors Night (PK-12)

## **BOYS BASKETBALL**

### **BY AARON REITZ AND MR. DREW**

The boy's basketball team has a record of 4-16 so far in the season. We continue to focus on improvement, effort, and playing the right way. We have enjoyed our moments of success, such as a win against Axtell, and have learned to persevere through injuries, low numbers, and the frustration of losing. The team continues to work hard in practice and develop as individual players and as a team. Thank you to Seniors Landon Schulte, Owen Cunningham, and Chayon Jensen for the dedication, time, and effort you have given Spartan Basketball.

## **QUIZ BOWL**

### **BY MR. KASLON**

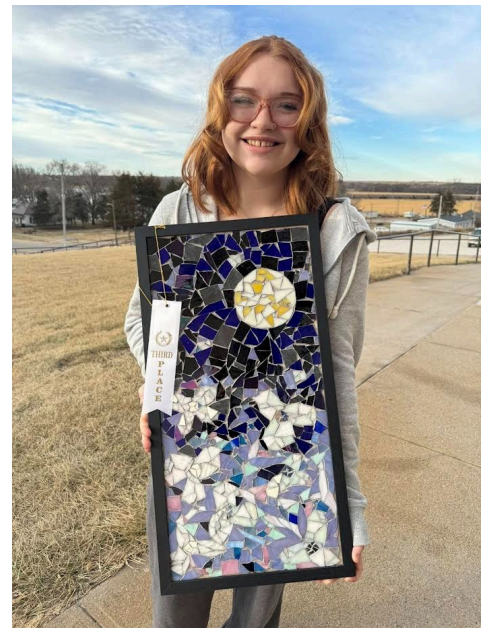
It has been a great year to be a Spartan Quiz Bowler. The high school quiz bowl team finished first at the Anselmo-Merna invite on Wednesday January 28th. Their meets are March 16 and March 23.

# ART

BY MRS. VARAH AND TOPANGA BOYLES

## FOUR RIBBONS FROM CONFERENCE ART!

Only 5 works are chosen to be represented any school at the Fort Kearny Conference Art Competition. It is one of the hardest decisions of year, which pieces should the art teacher take? During the Fort Kearny Conference basketball championship the FKC Art is also competing. Litchfield students competed and came home with impressive ribbons: Malynn Boyles placed 1st in ceramics with her piece titled “Where’s the Remote?” Wesley Fowler placed 2nd in sculpture with his forged and welded turtle “The Forgotten Box Turtle”. Jori McNeil placed 3rd in mixed media with her mosaic piece titled “Broken Pieces Still Shine”. Ava Paitz received honorable mention with her piece titled “My Patriotism” and Jenna Drahota represented with a beautiful ceramic vase titled “Still Green, Still Empty”. A great showing by 4 seniors and freshmen. Congratulations All!



## **GIRLS BASKETBALL**

**BY GARROD FERNAU**

As the regular season winds down, the Spartans Girls Basketball Team is preparing for the most exciting time of the year-postseason play. Sub-district basketball tips off Tuesday, February 17, with the Lady Spartans set to take on Brady in their opening-round matchup. Throughout the season, this team has demonstrated tremendous growth and resilience. From early-season adjustments to finding their rhythm in key moments, the Spartans have continued to improve on both ends of the floor. Adversity has only strengthened this group. Whether battling through tough stretches or responding after close losses, the Lady Spartans have consistently shown mental toughness and a willingness to compete. The chemistry and confidence they've built over the course of the season now position them well as they enter postseason competition. The focus now shifts to one game at a time. The team is ready for the challenge and eager to extend their season, carrying with them the growth, grit, and determination they have developed all year long.

## **GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING**

**BY KOY ZULKOSKI, BO SLINGSBY, AND MR. ELLISON**

The Ansley-Litchfield Lady Wrestlers are headed to districts in Columbus for competition on February 6th and February 7th. K-12 Spartan Buddies wished them good luck on Friday morning with fist bumps. Good Luck, Ladies!



## **JH GIRLS BASKETBALL**

**BY MR. KASLON AND LAURA FERNAU**

Our JH Girls Basketball team has been playing hard and improving each game. We have 2 games left with FKC teams, Axtell and Elm Creek.

We are lucky that no one has been sick or hurt through the season, so all 13 players are getting in some quality minutes. Coach Kaslon and I have been introducing specific drills and skills for our upcoming games, such as rebounding.

Basketball is a high paced game with lots of physical aspects. Most of all, it takes focus and tons of energy that our girls excel at while playing.

We hope to finish out the season with **SUCCESS**

## **FBLA NEWS**

**BY KINZLIE MCAULIFF AND MRS. RASMUSSEN**

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets for our Cornhole Board Raffle! Your support plays an important role in helping our chapter continue to grow and prepare for upcoming events.

Our members are currently hard at work submitting projects and materials for the FBLA State Leadership Conference in April. Students are also studying and preparing for the competitive tests they will be taking at the conference. We are excited to showcase the talent within our chapter.

A special highlight this month is that James Fletcher, who serves as both a state and national FBLA officer, recently traveled to FBLA Headquarters in Reston, Virginia, to help celebrate FBLA Week. While there, he also spent time in Washington, D.C., representing our organization and learning more about FBLA's national impact.

Thank you again for supporting our chapter and helping make these opportunities possible!

## **FFA**

**BY KINZLIE MCAULIFF AND MR. JOHNSON**

Litchfield FFA participated in the District 8 Career Development Events at Central Community College in Grand Island on February 11th. Twenty-three students competed in five different events. At the end of the day Litchfield had three qualifying teams and 16 students earned ribbons. The Agricultural Technology and Mechanics team placed first to qualify for state and Cooper Fletcher was the individual district champion. Daevon Magner and Wesley Fowler also received purple ribbons, Karson Moore earned a blue ribbon, Dawson Skrdla earned a red ribbon and Chance Evans earned a white ribbon. The Veterinary Science team placed third and qualified for state. Malynn Boyles, James Fletcher and Ida Gross all earned blue ribbons and teammate Macie Slocum will also compete at state. The Agriscience team placed fourth and they will compete at state as well. Kinzlie McAuliff earned a purple ribbon, Aaron Reitz earned a red ribbon and Knox Feldman and Jenna Drahota earned white ribbons. The Agricultural Biotechnology team placed third with Kegan Ritchie earning a blue ribbon and Alison Holm earning a red ribbon. The Nursery and Landscape team placed fifth with Aliza Ellison earning a white ribbon. The state convention and CDE's will be held March 25th - 27th in Lincoln.

# SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

BY MADISYN SPANEL

Questions-

1. What are your plans after high school?
2. Favorite memory from high school so far?
3. If you could be any animated character what would you be?
4. How long do you think you'd survive a zombie apocalypse?
5. Would you rather always walk backward or talk backward?
6. Favorite Movie?
7. Favorite Band/Singer?

Malynn Bolyes-

1. My plans after high-school are to attend a four year University and study psychology, to one day become a school psychologist!
2. It is hard to have a favorite memory when I get to spend everyday with my best friends.
3. I would be Bluey.
4. The whole time.
5. I would walk backward.
6. My favorite singer is Phoebe Bridgers or Billie Eilish.



# **COUNSELOR CORNER**

## **BY TOPANGA BOYLES AND MRS. POLAND**

### **MARCH COUNSELOR CORNER 2026**

**Let Spring Begin!!**

#### **ACT Test Dates**

March 6th is the regular registration deadline for the April 11 National ACT Test date. Go to [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) to register. Remember to study with our OnToCollege ACT Test preparation. Some students may qualify for an ACT fee waiver. Please have your student contact Mrs. Poland to inquire. Remember to use the John Baylor [OnToCollege website](http://www.ontocollege.com) to review for your ACT test, as well as utilize your MyACT account for review.

THE NSCAS ACT date is quickly approaching. March 24th will be here before we know it.

Keep applying for those scholarships!!

There is a scholarship opportunity for students taking dual-enrollment college courses. Students participating in dual-enrollment college courses or early admit programs are encouraged to apply for the Access College Early (ACE) Scholarship if they show financial need. This state and federally-funded scholarship will pay tuition and mandatory fees at participating Nebraska colleges. Nebraska's Coordinating Commission will review applications for Postsecondary Education (CCPE). If you have questions, contact me or Ritchie Morrow, Financial Aid Coordinator, CCPE, [ritchie.morrow@nebraska.gov](mailto:ritchie.morrow@nebraska.gov) or 402.471.0032.

For local and state scholarships, visit [Scholarship Quest](http://EducationQuest.org) at EducationQuest.org. It is never too early to begin searching for scholarships as well as making your list of strengths, volunteer activities, and other notable characteristics about yourself. [Litchfield Scholarship List](#): Many local scholarships are due in April. Below are a few of the local scholarships.

- [Town and Country Bank Scholarship](#): Due March 16
- [Porter Lodge #106 Scholarship](#): Due March 24
- [Full Circle Irrigation Scholarship program](#): Due March 31
- [Spartan Foundation Scholarship](#): Due April 1st
- [Sherman/Valley County Farm Bureau Scholarship](#): Due April 1, 2026
- [Litchfield Alumni Community Scholarship](#): Due April 15
- [Litchfield Booster Scholarship](#): Due April 15
- [Virginia and Haven Smith Scholarship](#): Due April 15
- [Paitz Farm Service Scholarship](#): Due April 15

**Prepare for the FAFSA with free programs and resources**

If you're a senior, it's time to start preparing for the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). You'll complete the form after October 1 and typically, before April 1, depending on your college's priority deadline. Colleges will use your FAFSA results to determine how much they will award you in federal, state, and college-based financial aid.

The following Education link will help you learn more about the financial aid process and the FAFSA <http://www.educationquest.org> Kearney office 308-234-6310. Follow them on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)!

#### **Elementary Update**

Fifth and 6th graders are learning all about Mindfulness and Careers. We continue to learn the different ways we pay attention. We focus on breathwork, listening, and feeling in our bodies. Remember, if you sense your emotions are beginning to take over, pause, name the feeling, and calm down using breathing techniques, positive self-talk, or counting. We are also watching and discussing the Nebraska Career Tours videos. These videos focus on Nebraska businesses.

**NAME:** Susan Poland

**SCHOOL:** Litchfield Public Schools

**CLASS:** PreK-12 School Counselor

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**Email:** [susan.poland@litchfieldps.org](mailto:susan.poland@litchfieldps.org)

**Website:** <https://sites.google.com/a/litchfieldps.org/mrspoland/>

# LITCHFIELD JAG CELEBRATION



5:30-  
7:30PM

5  
MAR.



Come out and hear about what our  
JAG chapter has done this year and  
see all of the great people in our  
chapter



**WHERE: LITCHFIELD  
SCHOOL GYMNASIUM  
WHAT DATE: MARCH 5  
TIME: 5:30-7:30 PM**

Featuring Keynote Speaker:  
Becca Bradley  
JAG Nebraska Regional Director

Ms. Bradley will be sharing stories about **our own students** and the real difference they are making across the state of Nebraska

What to expect?

- Fun Taco Bar with multiple entree choices
- Interactive, student-led programs
- Student Skill Showcases
- Highlights from this year's JAG Work
- A celebration of growth, leadership, and impact



LITCHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 16, 2026

President Mitch Feldman called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Members present: Mitch Feldman, Cole Lewandowski, April Gross, Marie Sweley, Alyssa Reynolds, and Katie Slack.

Visitors: Jorie McNeil, JAG( Mrs. Peterson, Koy, Kenzlie, Micheal.

President Mitch Feldman 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 April Gross seconded to approve board minutes from the Regular Board meeting and the Americanism Meeting from last month. Motion carried 6-0.

April Gross gave the treasurer report as General Fund Statement beginning balance of \$369,076.17, general funds receipts \$275,334.54, and actual cash available in general fund \$381,096.61 in the district treasury. Payroll and claims in the amount of \$220,870.58 were presented for payment. Cole Lewandowski moved, and Alyssa Reynolds seconded the approval of payment of monthly claims. Motion carried 6-0.

Jori addressed the Board with her class taking update and thanked them for the opportunity to graduate in 4 years.

JAG addressed the Board on their events and upcoming events and invited the Board to their upcoming celebration.

Matt Drew gave the Principal/AD Report, and action items; Parent Teacher Conference, Student-Parent Lunches, Mr. Carlson is working on the teacher evaluation website will present this in the summer, Football Officials, Instrumental Music Thursday 2/12, Advertising for coaching positions, Coaching update, Girls Subs start tomorrow, Boys subs next Monday, and Girls State Wrestling Qualifier: Clysta Brott, Lunch Fund update, Legislative update, Building and Grounds, 26-27 school calendar draft.

April Gross moved and Katie Slack seconded to approve the Policy 5004 for Part-time Enrollment. Motion carried 6-0.

Marie Sweley moved and Alyssa Reynolds seconded the motion to approve the ESU Contracts for 26-27. Motion carried 6-0.

Marie Sweley moved and Katie Slack seconded the motion to enter into executive session to discuss the Superintendent Contract. Motion carried 6-0.

President Mitch Feldman reinstated the purpose of entering into executive session was to discuss Superintendent Contract.

The Board entered into executive session at 8:55 p.m.

Marie Sweley moved and Katie Slack seconded motion to exit executive session. Motion carried 6-0.

The Board exited executive session at 9:25 p.m.

Cole Lewandowski moved and Marie Sweley seconded the approval of the 2-year Superintendent contract for Matt Drew with Salary of \$150,000 starting school year 2026-2027. Motion carried 6-0.

Marie Sweley moved and Alyssa Reynolds seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Education will be at 7:30 p.m. on March 19th, 2026. 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

# 2026-2027

# Litchfield Preschool

**Now  
Accepting  
Enrollment for the  
2026-2027 School  
Year!**

If your child turns  
three or four on or  
before July 31st  
they are eligible to  
attend Preschool at  
Schools this  
school  
year.

We will use thematic units throughout the school year that will focus on the following foundational skill areas to help your child learn and grow:

- ▣ Learning through curiosity, exploration, interest, and experimentation
- ▣ Physical development and health
- ▣ Social and emotional development
- ▣ Communication, language, and literacy
- ▣ Cognition and knowledge of the world
- ▣ Math
- ▣ Science
- ▣ Social Studies
- ▣ The Arts
- ▣ Technology

**Please Sign-up by  
April 1st  
[Space is limited.  
Contact Early]**

If you would like to enroll your child, or would like more information, please contact the school at (308) 446-2244. Thanks!

Also, if you have had a baby recently—Congratulations! —please let us know so we can add them to our list of future preschoolers!



# District Speech

Saturday, March 21, 2026

Litchfield, NE

Student Schedules Coming Soon!

LITCHFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
PRESENTS

## Desserts before Districts

TUESDAY, MARCH 16  
6:30 PM  
SPARTAN GYM

**JOIN THE SPEECH TEAM  
FOR A NIGHT OF  
ENTERTAINMENT AND  
TREATS!**

Vendor Name	Vendor Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 1	Fund Number 01 GENERAL FUND	
125 CAFETERIA PLAN		100.00
ACTIVITY ALL CLASS		196.00
ANSLEY LUMBER AND SUPPLY		23.65
Ansley Public Schools		3,506.35
BLACK HILLS ENERGY		2,130.03
Culligan Water Conditioning		89.25
Custer Public Power		4,547.46
DAS STATE ACCOUNTING - CENTRAL FINANCE		468.48
EAKES OFFICE SOLUTION		38.49
Educational Service Unit 10		7,924.13
Farmers Co-op Association		989.67
HAMILTON		104.62
HOMETOWN LEASING		341.51
Island Supply Welding Co.		378.70
Jerry M. Rolfsmeyer		70.94
Johnson, Brian		86.80
JW Pepper & Son Inc		51.63
KORT TRANSFER LLC		204.80
KUSZAK PHOTOGRAPHY		125.00
Litchfield Hot Lunch		451.50
NASB ALICAP		147.00
NE Assoc. Of School Boards		3,093.00
P & D MARKET		19.76
PETTY CASH FUND		675.33
SANDHILLS CUSTOM CREATIONS		24.99
Sherman County Times		6.37
U.S. BANK		1,786.26
Village Of Litchfield		484.88
WEX BANK		1,282.74
Yanda's Music		443.50
Fund Number 01		29,792.84
Checking Account ID 1		29,792.84

# 2026

# March

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
01	02	03	04	05	06 No Preschool	07
08	09 JH ESU 10 Quiz Bowl @ UNK Litchfield hosting Red Cross Blood Drive Noon-6	10	11 Early Out 2:30	12 No School Spring Break	13 No School Spring Break	14
15	16 No School Teacher In- Service FKC Quiz Bowl @ WHL	17 Speech- Desserts Before Districts- 6:30	18 FKC Music Contest @ Axtell	19 TR @ UNK 11:00	20 No Preschool	21 District Speech @ Litchfield
22	23 HS ESU Quiz Bowl @ UNK 10:00	24 JAG JH Legislative Day	25 State FFA	26 State FFA JAG Legislative Day TR @ Loup City 11:00	27 State FFA	28 State Speech
29	30	31 TR @ Adam Central 11:00	01	02	03	04
05	06	Notes: BB Girls State Tournament March 4th-7th BB Boys State Tournament March 11th-14th				

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

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