

Take Five

July August September

2017

Once in Our Life Time solar eclipse

It was an exciting day with activities and events around the eclipse path in every community under the sun (and moon).

The Beatrice agency had a cookout on the front yard of one of its homes. They grilled carne asada, had chips, slushies and plenty of bottled water.

During the day everyone was kept busy with conversation and a variety of yard games

including volleyball, badminton, giant jenga and a toss game. It was cloudy on and off and there was a 20 minute rain shower but it did not spoil the mood.

As the eclipse started and people saw the eclipse for the first time there were cheers and jumps of joy. Everyone was excited and

happy to be involved with the once in a life time experience. Once the totality occurred there were loud cheers and fireworks could be heard going off around town.

Our other agency locations made the day a special memory with their own unique activities.



Folks from Nebraska City drove to a park in Auburn for a picnic and a better view.



The Beatrice agency celebrated the eclipse with a lawn party and a cookout.



People at the Seward agency gathered together at their office to watch.



The York agency had a party and cookout in their parking lot.

High Five!



To Holli Wojciechowski, of Nebraska City for taking her first Adult Education class through Southeast Community College.

To the twelve individuals from Nebraska City for volunteering your time to help run our RVS- Nebraska City booth at the Otoe County fair. Thank you for sharing your knowledge and spending time with the booth visitors explaining the steps to making the tool bags and talking about our aluminum recycling program.

To Ron Tillman of Beatrice, who received extremely high marks and excellent supervisor comments at his recent job evaluation at Beatrice Ford where he has worked as an auto detailer for over seven years.

To Pam Delancy of Lincoln, for accepting a job at Culvers.

To Correena Ewald of Fairbury, who recently took on a 2nd job working for Blue River's Area Agency on Aging in addition to her job at TO Hass Tires.

To Rodney Pankoke for his new job at Blue River's Area Agency on Aging.

To Courtney Dickes of York, who started working at the Re-Vue Consignment store.

To Michael Skeenar of York for making the final payment on his van.

To Lyle Beaird of Wahoo, after owning his home for several years he decided to lighten his load as he enters retirement and sold his house. He will enjoy some of the sale proceeds by taking trips to Las Vegas, Branson Missouri and attending a Huskers football game.

To Scott Kistler of Lincoln for his new job at U- Stop.

To Joe Jojmsom of Lincoln for his new job at Culver's.

Tom Kouma

a Man of Many Hats

If you happen to be around the Village of Bee for any event, there is a good chance you will run in to Tom Kouma. He has lived his entire life on a farm near Bee and has become very involved with his community.

As a member of the Volunteer Fire Department he may be one of the first to show up to the call. Besides helping fight fires, he attends burn trainings and helps with the Fire Department open house and taking the trucks to local parades.

As a life time member of St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church he is a regular Sunday mass usher. During their annual chicken dinner he is very important with setting up and then transporting the roasters of chicken to the hall.

Tom has worked at Seward High School for over 15 years in the kitchen and serving meals. He is also involved with the family farm, planting, harvesting, spraying, running for parts - he's there.

He is a part of the Seward County Special Olympics. Don't worry, he does make time for fun. He recently went on a short trip to



Tom Kouma

Worlds of Fun.

On weekends he enjoys going to Lincoln to listen to country music bands. Tom is one of 7 children so he has plenty of family events to attend. He enjoys the area county fairs and following his nephews and recently a niece, as they participate in the Demo Derby. Tom's life is busy, full and filled with family, friends and fun. He is living his life to the fullest.

Swan Swanson



Swan Swanson

Swan Swanson of Beatrice has an interesting hobby. He is a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He is certified and has his own uniform. He has an interest as three of his forefathers fought in the civil war.

Swan's Uncle Bill got him involved and takes him to the events. They do living history, headstone dedications for unmarked soldier graves and other period events such as Lincoln's birthday celebrations, Gettysburg address, parades and Veterans Day parades. Area schools and clubs also invite them for presentations. They have an annual encampment in Fremont where they decide which events they will participate in during the year. The Nebraska/Dakota unit has 100 members.

Fishing is Fun for All

Nebraska Game Wardens and volunteers from the Fairbury area held a Fishing Clinic at Crystal Springs Park for the people we support. The Wardens provided fishing and baiting instructions, information, fishing poles and bait.

Many people we support have never fished before and enjoyed the experience.



Happenings from Around the Region



Chris Papp, Nebraska City, entered two pieces of original artwork in the Otoe County Fair. He paints acrylic on canvas as a hobby in his free time.



David Moody, Wade Woerlen and Joel Pursey from Auburn, went on their annual fishing trip to Lake Oahe, South Dakota. The trip was great as expected and it got even better when these three Husker fans ran into former player Tommy Frazier.



Southeast Nebraska People First attended Cones with a Cop at the Dairy Sweet in Auburn and gave a donation. Cones with a Cop is a fundraiser by the Police Dept. to raise money to give back to the community through Christmas gifts for low income children.



Several people receiving services in Fairbury took the opportunity to become trained in CPR. Photo: Correena Ewald, Geraldine Fairchild and Dick Krakow.



These Fairbury residents entered arts, crafts and gardening projects into the Jefferson County Fair and did very well.



Every year Loren Stubbendeck volunteers at the Otoe County Fair and stays in a hotel. This year he was able to borrow a camper and stay on the fair grounds.

Celebrating 40 Years of Services in Butler County

Our David City agency has been serving people in and around Butler County since 1977. They celebrated the milestone with a Burger Bash for the community, which has been very supportive. The event included tours of the DSC, door prizes, information and a cookout.

Around 60 people signed the guest book and enjoyed a meal during the sunny afternoon visiting with staff and people supported.

The David City program started as an agricultural training farm with 6 people receiving services. The current Day Center was built in 1982. Since then the

program expanded and opened satellite offices in Seward and York. As those programs grew they separated and became their own agency. In 2000 the David City program opened a satellite location in Columbus with 32 people currently receiving services.

David City/Columbus currently serves sixty two people with residential and vocational services. Twenty three people have jobs in their community, 3 people own a car and drive and 2 people own their homes. The David City location has a wood shop where people supported work making lath and stakes that are for sale.

Enjoy these photos from the RVS David City Anniversary Open House



a part of the team ORANGEMEN

Alexis Schweitzer from Beatrice has always had an interest in sports but really wasn't given an opportunity to participate. That changed this summer when she started residential services in Beatrice and she was able to play on the Shooting Stars softball team through Special Olympics. She joined late in the season and only played in one game. That one game was enough to give her the taste that she wanted more.

Alexis started her senior year at Beatrice High School and decided she wanted to play softball. She attends every practice and the season is off to a good start. She is proud to be a part of the Beatrice Orangemen Softball program.



Beatrice Orangemen Softball Coach Dennis Dodge presented player Alexis Schweitzer with the ball from her first hit of the season with First Hit written on the ball.

I 
Softball

CONGRATULATIONS

Michelle Kreifels and Dan Sammons, both from Nebraska City, met at their community Wellness Center. After nearly two years of dating and getting to know each other they decided to make an official commitment to each other with a commitment ceremony.

The ceremony was held on June 25 at the Lied Lodge Conference Center in Nebraska City. Family, friends and coworkers were invited to be a part of their special day which included a reception and dance as part of their celebration. Michelle attends the DSC and Dan works at Table Creek golf course.



It's Not Just a Job, It's An Adventure

Country roads. Fresh air. Driving a golf cart from station to station. Feels like freedom. Those are some of the reasons that Travis Simmons of Dwight loves his job at Oak Creek Sporting Club a few miles east of Brainard.

Travis works two days a week during the spring - fall season and as needed during the winter months. He hops on a golf cart, collects a rake and magnet

and drives the wooded winding trails to each station throughout the 1200 acre range. His job is to collect the spent shell casings and put them in the trash. He uses a rake and magnet. He picks up any paper targets that are on the ground. He also switches out the full trash cans for empty to finish his day. The owners let him drive around for awhile when he's done with his work. He loves it!



Region V Services is an Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Employer

Region V Services is committed to providing the best quality services to all persons supported. Quality assurance activities are completed by Central Office Staff, Local Agency Staff and Surveyors from the State of Nebraska. Results of these surveys are maintained at all Agency Locations. This information is available upon request to appropriate parties at the Local Agency Offices.

Upcoming Training:

Orientation - Day 2

Monday, October 30
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

3600 Union Dr. Lincoln

Orientation - Day 1

Monday, November 27
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

3600 Union Dr. Lincoln

Orientation - Day 2

Monday, December 18
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

3600 Union Dr. Lincoln

Events

Annual Dinner Dance

October 14, 2017

5:00 pm - 10 :00 pm

Lancaster Events Center

RSVP's due October 4

If you have a High Five or
a story, please submit

articles to

Roni Gabel

Call 402-471-6400

or email to:

roni.gabel@gmail.com

NOTICE

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Region V Services
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Dave's Perspective

Last year at this time we were just finding out that the State of Nebraska through the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) was going to reduce our funding by approximately \$200,000 per month beginning in October. DDD combined the cut with adding new requirements to record medication administration on Therap and shifting the costs of background checks to providers.

At this point we are still unable to project the impact of the new funding system other than to say we received less money for the supports we provided in FY 16/17 than the previous year and there is no indication of improvement. The funding system appears to increase complexity, reduce predictability and stability, and will harm people receiving supports as providers struggle to recruit and retain staff.

The challenge for us as an agency is to maintain our goals and values of improving people's lives **IN SPITE** of the actions of the State of Nebraska. It is a very real challenge when each month becomes a balancing act simply to meet payroll and keep the boat afloat.

People we support will share their life stories during this year's symposium on September 14th and we will be reminded of why we do the work that we do. The people we support and their families will be the true judges of the changes that are happening now and whether or not their lives are improved by the changes.

Dave Merrill