

March 2019

# the **BeAT**



## Quilts of Valor, pages 3, 4





Jane Murphy helps a student before school starts. (below) Jane Murphy works on the paperwork which is part of a resource teacher's job.

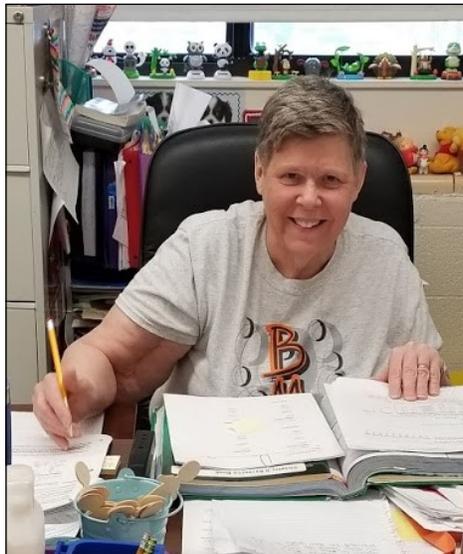
## Murphy named Employee of the Month

Jane Murphy, eighth grade Resource Teacher at Beatrice Middle School, is the February employee of the month.

In addition to working with over 20 students this year and keeping track of grades in each of their classes, she teaches a resource Math and Reading class. Murphy communicates on a regular basis with parents about assignments, late work, and tests the students will be working on. The student's IEPs need to be written as well as teachers and parents communicated with to set up these IEP meetings.

"Students really like working with her," said her nominator, "she has a special ability to push a student, but also show compassion and wise direction when a student may be struggling."

"She communicates with students with humor and positive encouragement, guid-



ing the students forward,' said her nominator.

Murphy goes above and beyond to help

students see how they can be successful in and out of the classroom. "She creates ways students can see success by motivating them with intrinsic and extrinsic rewards," said her nominator.

Students know Mrs. Murphy cares about them personally. "In fact, students who have moved on to the high school still love to talk to Mrs. Murphy at activities. Students have even stopped back at the middle school to say hi or e-mail her just to stay in contact," said her nominator.

She is often in her classroom by 6:30 in the morning and stays after school to help students with their homework. Students enjoy having Mrs. Murphy as a teacher, but many teachers also appreciate her hard work year after year in helping students become more responsible and successful.

# Be

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Students sew, present quilts to veterans to honor them for their service to USA



Marlyn Cullison, Ivel Carpenter and Dennis Prebyl were each awarded a quilt on Monday. The three veterans received the quilts as part of the Quilts of Valor program.

Middle school teachers and students worked together to honor veterans with a Quilt of Valor. Beatrice Middle School teachers Michael Policky and Ben Essam worked with Jan Smaus' after-school activity with Gage County 4-H and Quilt Stitches to piece the quilts together.

Students in Policky and Essams' classes visit the Kensington every other week for the Adoptive Grandparents program, which has been going for 28 years.

"Anytime we can bring the generations together to build relationships, it's a good thing," Policky said. "They play games and the older generation shares what their life was like when they were a kid. Both sides have something to give and receive. It's great."

The quilts were made by an after-school enrichment class. "Jan Smaus' enrichment class sewed the quilts with some help with 4-H and Quilt Stitches," he said. "We worked with Trudy Spicer at the Kensington and

found three of the grandparents in the program were veterans. We set it up for right before Valentine's Day to

honor them for their love of country and love of the kids. We're so glad it worked out



These students participated in the Quilt of Valor After School activity: Kinsey Crooks, Maddie Nielsen, Hannah Parde, Ava Rosenthal, Abby Trantham, Parker Witulski, Becky Zhu, Mickey Zhu, and Lysie Lancaster.

## *Students sew quilts in after-school activity*



### **Quilt awarded to BHS graduate**

Tony Baker served five tours of duty in war zones before retiring as a Lt. Colonel. He was presented a Quilt of Valor in Kansas City at the home of his high school welding instructor, Lawrence Adam.

The mission of the Quilt of Valor Foundation is to “cover service members and veterans touched by war with comforting and healing Quilts of Valor.” The quilt represents thousands of youth and adults making Quilts of Valor and their care for service men/women and veterans. Often, when Quilts of Valor are constructed, they are sewn and quilted with prayer for our service men, women and veterans.

Baker is currently a legislative aid in the Nebraska Legislature.



## Writing students have poems set to music

Creative Writing students Emily Burck and Shelby Jochem were two of the eight students selected to have their original poems set to music by Luna Composition Lab alumni composers. “I did not know what to expect,” said Jochem, “but it was an amazing experience.”

Last fall, Opera Omaha and Nebraska Writers Collective invited students in grades K-12 from Nebraska and Iowa to submit works of poetry on themes of creativity and community. From the pool of poetry submissions, composer alumni from the Luna Composition Lab selected pieces to set to music, based on what inspired them. The selected poets had the opportunity to participate with the composer in a workshop to further develop the piece with the composer and musicians, participating in the creation process.

Luna Composition Lab was founded by composer Ellen Reid

and Missy Mazzoli with the intention to encourage self-identifying girls and young women to compose. Recently, Luna Lab has expanded its scope to include promising young female composers from all over the country.

Emily Burck and Shelby Jochem took Creative Writing last semester, co-taught by Mariah Reicks and Emily Iverson. After work-shopping their pieces, they submitted their poetry through their Creative Writing class at Beatrice High School alongside their classmates. Burck’s poem was selected by composer Aliya Salmanova, and Jochem’s poem was chosen by com-

poser Katie Palka.

“Only 8 poems from roughly 100 submissions across the state were selected, so it’s exciting to have two of our students representing BHS at this event,” said Iverson.

“  
**Tell me and I forget.  
Teach me and I remember.  
Involve me and I learn.**  
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN



Senior Shelby Jochem meets with the composers and musicians that are going to perform her poem at the Omaha Opera House. Composers Aliya Salmanova and Katie Palka (far left), Shelby Jochem and Colleen O’Doherty, teaching artist with Nebraska Writers Collective (far right).



Students work with a composer at Opera Omaha. Emilee Burck's poem was selected by composer Aliya Salmanova, and Shelby Jochem's poem was chosen by composer Katie Palka.



## SUNSHINE MASK: *A Visual Art Outlook*

By Emily Burck

Close your eyes  
Picture a little girl standing in a forest  
There are trees surrounding her in every direction  
Listen for a river  
Do you hear it  
Make it run through the trees  
Did you do it  
Now picture the tree line with the river going to the end  
Did you draw it  
See a never ending field of flowers at the end  
Walk up to it  
Feel the calm and soothing breeze as it goes through your hair  
See the texture of the flower  
Examine closely  
Conjure a happy thought  
Now look up at the sky  
See the color changes  
Mask over all of your dark thoughts  
Just close your eyes for a moment  
And let the light shine through

## NO FLAME BURNS FOREVER

By Shelby Jochem



Dear Time Passing,  
*No flame burns forever.*  
I realized this one night, sitting in my backyard around a campfire.  
I imagine myself here and there.  
Maybe it wasn't just the actual flames in front of my eyes slowly burning out,  
But the emotions sizzling away inside as well.  
Dispersing around me, I feel the smoke.  
I once felt this warmth.  
Wanting a better future, wanting to feel that fury passion forever.  
It was burning in my lungs as if a firework exploded inside of me.  
I want to love my life, not just live it.  
The hopes, the dreams.  
Feeding the flames with more desires and wants  
Will it lead to my longing destination?  
Will fear of the unknown destroy the blazing flames?  
The need for validation and reassurance that the future can't give me.  
*No flame burns forever.*

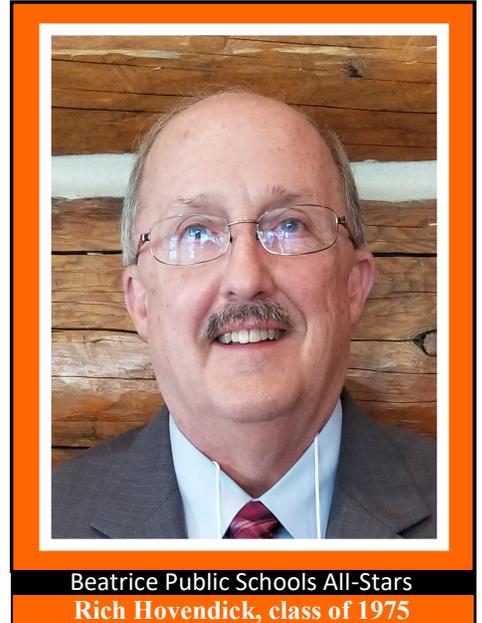
They first staked their claim with Beatrice Public Schools and are now making a difference every day

## *Hovendick lives a life of service*



*'I received a great, well-rounded education throughout my schooling and extra activities. I also became good friends with many of my former teachers. I also benefitted from going to school in the same town that I would later own and operate my family's business. Beatrice Public Schools and my parent instilled in me a desire and showed me the great worth of giving back to my school and community.'*

Rich Hovendick



Beatrice Public Schools All-Stars  
Rich Hovendick, class of 1975

Rich Hovendick recently received the School Volunteer Outstanding Service Award from the Nebraska State Athletic Administrators Association.

Hovendick has been the public address announcer at Beatrice High School since 2005 for football, boys' basketball, and volleyball games and various other school activities. He has also been a TeamMates mentor for 11 years and been on their board of directors.

He was chairman of the Hevelone Center for Performing Arts fundraising committee raising \$500,000 in 67 days to complete the performing arts auditorium at the high school.

He has always believed in giving back. He has been active in local, state and national organizations. In Beatrice, Hovendick has been president of the Beatrice Community Hospital Foundation for 20 years; served two terms on the Beatrice Chamber of Commerce board and was chairman in 1990; active in Christ Church Episcopal; Blue Valley Shrine Club; the

YMCA board of directors and past president of the Beatrice Educational Foundation.

Hovendick is the third generation of his family operating funeral homes in Beatrice and throughout

southeast Nebraska.

He was named to Pi Sigma Eta, an honorary funeral directors fraternity, Goodwill Ambassador of the Year, and was named an Admiral in the Navy of the Great State of Nebraska.



Rich Hovendick watches the final home boys basketball game of the season. He has been the regular announcer since 2005 and recently received the School Volunteer Service Award from NSIAAA.

# Board approves BEA contract for 2019-20

Resource teacher Jane Murphy was recognized as the February Employee of the Month. She received a plaque and \$50 in Chamber Bucks.

## *Committee of the Whole*

Doris Martin said Dr. Jackie Nielsen gave a report on student achievement, Jason Alexander gave updates on several policies including extending the bus contract, eliminating the energy management position, and approving the interlocal cooperation act agreement. Alexander and Nielsen both talked about the SENCAP/Perkins fund update and also dates for a board retreat.

## *STANCE Report*

Alexander talked about the impact of the following bills:

- LB 614 would expand the sales tax base and bring in additional money earmarked for education.
- LB 314 would expand sales tax base in an attempt to provide property tax relief (reiteration of the NE United bill from last session).
- LR5CA would limit property tax reliance to no more than 33% of total funding for K-12.
- LB351 will provide levying authority for schools for violence prevention and cybersecurity.

## *School, Community and Staff Relations Report*

Janet Byars reported that the committee met on Feb. 1 at Lincoln Elementary. Staff indicated that the school year is going well and staff has adapted well to the grade level building concept. Concerns regarding student behaviors and the need for more behavioral health support, class sizes and a potential bond issue were also shared.

## *Discussion*

Alexander explained Policy 4235 about Grievance Procedure for Classified Personnel. He noted that the policy has not been reviewed since 1995. He said the new policy would streamline procedures for sharing concerns while separating the adult items from student matters. He said that one of the goals of the revisions is to allow for problem solving while maintaining a professional approach.

He also talked about Policy 4625 which is the Grievance procedure for certified staff.

He also said a revision would need to be made to Policy 9115 to help clarify the elected offices of the Board of Education which may include the superintendent or assistant superintendent.

## *Action*

Approval was given to extend the current contract with Mid States that allows the district a great opportunity to continually work on improvements that were made this year with the transportation system and build on a relationship with them that has been built. Alexander said services for 2019-20 reflect a 3 percent cost increase.

Approval was also given to the memorandum of understanding for SENCAP with Southeast Community College and to the interlocal cooperation agreement with the city of Beatrice.

The negotiated agreement with the Beatrice Education Association for 2019-20 was also approved.

## *Administrator's Report*

Middle School Principal John Jarosh and Media Specialist Karen Dittbrenner shared information including a video about the maker space at the Middle School. The district is way ahead of game, according to Dittbrenner. She said students use the materials provided to create a plan and complete a project

whether it be with paper/pencil or technology. She said she has approached the library and others to foster partnerships to continue to make the maker space grow.

## *Superintendent's Report*

Alexander reminded the board of the upcoming accreditation visit and events that board members are invited to attend.

## *Executive Session*

The board went into executive session to discuss the superintendent's evaluation.

After coming out of executive session the board approved the evaluation.

## *Next Meetings*

The Committee of the Whole meeting will be March 28 at the Central Administration Building.

The next board meeting will be on April 8 at 7 p.m. at the Central Administration Building.

## **Beatrice Public Schools Board of Education**

**Janet Byars**

**Erin Chadwick**

**Doris Martin, Vice-President**

**Lisa Pieper**

**Eric Trusty**

**Steve Winter**

**Jon Zimmerman, President**

**Jason Alexander, Superintendent**

## **Upcoming Meetings**

*March 28, 6 p.m.*

Committee of the Whole Meeting

*April 8, 7 p.m.*

Board of Education Meeting