



# Kiwaniis

Hastings • Nebraska

## Astonisher

A newsletter of the Hastings Kiwanis Club  
[hastingskiwanis.org](http://hastingskiwanis.org)  
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[facebook.com/hastingskiwanis](https://facebook.com/hastingskiwanis)

*"The thankful heart opens our eyes to a multitude of blessings that continually surround us."*

*~ James E. Faust, American religious leader, lawyer and politician*

November 2024

If you have items you wish to be included in the Astonisher, you can send them to [marge.ormsby@hastingskiwanis.org](mailto:marge.ormsby@hastingskiwanis.org) OR [Astonisher@hastingskiwanis.org](mailto:Astonisher@hastingskiwanis.org)



### Upcoming Meetings & Events ~ November

YWCA, 2525 W. 2nd St. ~ \$13.00 per meal

Catering by Emma Baker *(meals subject to change)*

Thur. 7 - Our Place After School Care, Amanda Nielsen

Wed. 13 - Board Meeting, YWCA Conference Room ~ All members welcome

Thur. 14 - The Possibility Project, George Cook

Thur. 21 - *Watch your email*

**Thur. 28 - NO MEETING ~ Thanksgiving ~ Enjoy the day with Family!**

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### \*\*\* VOLUNTEER POSITIONS \*\*\*

If you are unable to attend Thursday noon meetings to sign up for volunteer opportunities, you can do so on the website.

#### Ongoing service projects include:

- **Hearts & Hands Against Hunger** – dates and times TBA
- **Meals on Wheels** – every Friday, 11:15 a.m. – 2 routes, approx. 30-40 min.

### **HEARTS & HANDS AGAINST HUNGER**

**PEACE Center, 622 N. Lincoln, South side**

*(former Middle School manual arts bldg)*

**\*\*Please arrive 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time\*\***

**~~~ Regular Monday packing has begun from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. ~~~**

*Friday, November 8 ~ 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.*

*Hastings College ~ 75 people*

*\*\*\*\*\**

*Saturday, November 9 ~ 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*

*HHS Student Council*

*22 high school students*

*\*\*\*\*\**

*Tuesday, November 12 ~ 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.*

*Heritage Bank & Insurance*

*20 people*

*\*\*\*\*\**

*Wednesday, November 13 ~ 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.*

*Sandy Creek FBLA/ FCA/ NHS*

*25 high school students*

*\*\*\*\*\**

*Monday, November 18 ~ 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.*

*Cub Scout Pack 207*

*40-50 kids grades K-5 + 15-20 adults*

**Hearts & Hands Against Hunger, P O Box 1293, Hastings NE 68902-1293 \* 402-460-8627**



**MEALS ON WHEELS – This is quick and easy!**

**We have two (2) routes on Fridays for this service project.**

**Two volunteers from Kiwanis are needed.**

**Sign-up sheets are available at Thursday noon meetings  
or sign up on the website.**

**Meals are picked up at 11:15 at the Senior Action office, 212 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
(block east of the Post Office ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> & Minnesota) and delivery usually takes 30-40  
minutes. They have the routes set up for the most efficient delivery.**

**November 1 – Val Erickson – Dale Musgrave**

**November 8 – George Howard – *Need 1***

**November 15 – Dale Musgrave – *Need 1***

**November 22 – Russanne Hoff – *Need 1***

**November 29 – Casey Mohler – Dale Musgrave**

**Marge Ormsby is the Club Coordinator. Please notify me by text or call if you cannot  
make it or will be late. 402-469-3296**

## ICYMI ~ October 2024

### October 3 – Awards Presented

Immediate Past President Michelle Musgrave presented **Legion of Honor Awards** to those unable to attend the banquet.

- Jim Heyen – 25 years
- Kathy Schultz – 25 years
- Dale Musgrave – 30 years
- Jim Krebsbach – 35 years



**Perfect Attendance** awards went to Doug Edwards, Val Erickson, Neil Grothen, and Dave Kempf. Dave reminded us that perfect attendance at noon meetings is not necessary for the award. Volunteer hours on our many projects also count toward perfect attendance.

*(apologies to the other award recipients – no one thought of taking photos ‘til we got to Jim K)*

### October 3 – AI in Education, Kittie Grace and Brian Hoffman



Kittie is Professor of Communication Studies at Hastings College, and Associate Dean of Academic and Student Affairs. Brian is Associate Dean of Instruction at Central Community College with 15 years in IT.

The term “artificial intelligence” was coined in 1956 and eventually progressed to the 1997 “Terminator” franchise and IBM’s Deep Blue defeat of a world chess champion. In 2020 ChatGPT (open AI) was released to the public, and by 2023 higher education was beginning to see the impact in the classroom.

In their view, AI can improve efficiency without additional input. For a demonstration of ChatGPT they entered the prompt “old lady drinking orange Koolaid with green hair.” Several images popped up matching that request. AI gets its information from sources on the web and among databases.

George Howard suggested asking for a 2-stanza poem on the Kiwanis pancake feed. This is what it generated:

*In the heart of morning, the griddles gleam,  
Flapjacks sizzle, filling the room with steam.  
Syrup rivers flow, sweet laughter fills the air,  
Community gathered, with kindness to share.*

*With each hearty bite, friendships grow strong,  
Kiwanis brings us together, where we all belong.  
A feast for the spirit, a joy to behold,  
Pancakes and purpose, in stories retold.*

Kittie said the first response at the college level when AI surfaced was panic and chaos. How do you stop unethical behavior by students? It should enhance our

lives, not run our lives. They had to learn how to use ChatGPT as a learning tool.

The benefits are:

**Personalized Learning** ~ AI can tailor content and tools to individual student needs and abilities.

**Adaptive Assessments** ~ AI can adapt information and assignments in real-time based on student responses, making them better teachers.

**Intelligent Tutoring** ~ AI can provide personalized guidance and feedback to students.

**Administrative Efficiency** ~ AI can help with admissions, registration, scheduling and other administrative tasks.

Concerns are:

Loss of teaching jobs ~ AI tutoring systems may reduce demand for professors and teaching staff.

Unequal access ~ Wealthy students may have an advantage with AI tutors and tools.

Over reliance on technology ~ Students may become too dependent on AI recommendations and lose critical thinking skills.

Looking Ahead

AI assistants have become mainstream. They can help take notes at meetings and transcribe them. (Oh really?!) It automates administrative tasks, and can serve as an adaptive learning system.

In their opinion, AI will never replace the human experience or the ability to think critically. It enhances the learning time but does not take over the learning.

AI has changed how teachers relate to students and how they present the information... it has to be in TikTok size bits of information.

An example of current AI use in agriculture is using drones to go over fields to determine a specific formula for each area of the field, and then apply nutrients and water accordingly.

Their slide presentation was developed using ChatGPT and Beautiful.ai, with the following conclusion:

*“Artificial intelligence is becoming more prevalent in higher education. AI can assist students with*

*learning content, help personalize their education, and provide feedback. Higher education needs to embrace AI thoughtfully to enhance learning while keeping the human connection.”*

## October 10 – Awards Presented

Immediate Past President, Michelle Musgrave handed out a **Perfect Attendance** award to Jim Lewis. *(sorry Jim, didn't get your photo)*

A **Legion of Honor** award was given to Chuck Hastings as a 45-year member. He was president in 2005.



## October 10 – National Preparedness Month, Ron Pughes



Ron has been with the Adams County Emergency Management Agency for 7 years, and has 17 years experience as an EMS.

Emergency Management involves preparing for disaster possibilities and creating a framework for action, and then coordinating response among all agencies involved. They also assist with coordinating the rebuilding following a disaster. The majority of the year is spent planning and preparing. They rely on lots of volunteers.

Ron is partially a city and partially a county employee; the two must coordinate their disaster management. During quiet times, Ron offers talks and education for the public.

He has been working on a debris management plan for removal of debris following a disaster. He is hoping to have that ready in 2025.

He is also working on a continuity of operations plan, again hoping to be ready in 2025. All agencies involved must be trained on what to do. A plan of action is important to decrease the chaos, but also realizing that not every possible disaster can be foreseen.

They now have a dedicated communication center and full office at the County Extension Office (formerly Wallace Elementary). A bus serves as a command center with video coverage of all operations during a disaster. It provides air quality monitoring and evacuation plans.

There are three main categories of disaster: railway, weather, and hazmat chemical. At any given incident, they take an all-hazard approach until they have pinpointed the exact response needed.

### **To be prepared:**

- Know your neighbors, share resources
- Keep 3 days of potable water on hand
- Have a list of important phone numbers
- Have a family meeting place - telephones may not be workable; texting is more likely to go through than an actual call
- Have a safe area to go, with a whistle to aid searchers in locating you
- Have shoes
- Have medications

### **How to receive warnings:**

- Sirens can warn you if outside, but you will not hear them inside - if you hear a siren, go inside and get information as to what is going on
- A press release, only works on local channels
- NOAA radio and other radio access
- Cell phone alerts – **be sure in “Settings” that your phone is set to receive alerts**
- IPAWS is only for life threat alerts (Integrated Public Alert & Warning System, a FEMA system)
- Police PA system, driving through the streets
- Newspapers provide delayed information and long range threats

Ron provided a handout titled “Appendix B: Disaster Supplies Checklists” obtained from the FEMA website at [www.fema.gov/pdf/areyouready/appendix\\_b.pdf](http://www.fema.gov/pdf/areyouready/appendix_b.pdf). It lists categories of first aid supplies, medicine, sanitation and hygiene, equipment and tools, food and water, clothes and bedding, documents and keys.

## **October 17 – New Member Induction ~ Rachel Irvine**

*George Howard inducted Rachel as a new member, reminding us of the Six Objects of Kiwanis.*

*Roger Selley was her sponsor.*

*Rachel and her husband Joseph are the new Captains at the Salvation Army.*



## **October 17 – Active Family Chiropractic & Acupuncture, Chris Schaaf, Abigail Shaw, Shayla Nielsen**



They first handed out a screening survey for each of us to fill out designating pain symptoms or conditions that we have experienced. While Chris did the presentation, Abigail and Shayla did posture and spinal testing off to the side for each of us as desired, based on the screening survey.

Chris said an important part of what they do is go into the community to educate about the benefits of chiropractic. He handed out a sheet titled "Workplace Stretches." It showed several simple stretches that can be done to help relieve stress during the day.

The business has been in Grand Island for 17 years with two offices there. They have been in Hastings since 2019 with locations at the Burlington Village and at

Cimarron Plaza. Additional locations are in Kearney and Columbus.

Vertebral Subluxation refers to misalignment of the spine, which creates muscle tension and can cause a pinched nerve. The muscle tension could be due to the misalignment or might be the cause of the misalignment.

Chiropractic is more than just pain management; they want to help with the misalignment before pain becomes an issue. Proper alignment helps the body function at its peak as long as possible. It helps stop premature aging of the spine, and readjusting proper areas prevents wear and tear.

The longer you allow the pain or condition to continue, the longer it takes to correct. It is a benefit for all ages. For younger people, even children, it works on the neuromuscular connection, i.e. brain/body disconnect.

Acupuncture works on a micro scale, targeting more specific areas. It is only offered in their Grand Island location.

## **October 24 – 4-H, Beth Janning**

*(notes by Kathy Schultz; I was unable to attend)*

Beth is the 4-H Youth Development Extension Educator with the Adams County Extension Office. The Extension service is a partnership with UNL and the county. The people who work there are employees of the university but are paid by the county.

The different areas that are covered include: camps, clubs, school enrichment, afterschool, special interest and Clover Kids. Clover Kids are ages 5-7 and their activities are non-competitive. Ages 8-18 compete at the county fair and the state fair.

4-H works on empowering youth, positive youth development, and quality learning engagement with also a science literacy component.

Entrepreneurship and Leadership Development will be eliminated as separate areas of focus under Empowering Youth, and will instead be included in all

the other areas. Two areas under Youth Development are Healthy Living and College & Career Success.

Other areas:

- Agriculture & Food Systems
- Environmental Education
- Science & Technology, Engineering & Math
- BRAG Program = Big Red Ag Growers

For ages 12-15 last year they traveled to Omaha and toured the Rotella Bakery to see how wheat grown in Nebraska is turned into bread.

Contact information ~

Beth Janning: [elizabeth.janning@unl.edu](mailto:elizabeth.janning@unl.edu)

Her team member: Julie Ochsner: [julie.ochsner@unl.edu](mailto:julie.ochsner@unl.edu)  
(Julie works mostly with the younger kids)



## **October 31 – Report on Adams Central Bingo Night Concessions**

Ashley Hajny reported on the Adams Central bingo night concessions that was held Friday, October 25th. She said it went well, they had a great turnout and great

interaction with the kids. They sold out of 120 hot dogs pretty quickly, but had sloppy joe meat left over. Also some Gatorade left over.

Russanne Hoff, who approached us on behalf of the PTO committee about running the concession, said she heard lots of compliments. Ashley estimates roughly \$200 profit when all is said and done.

Some of the leftover sloppy joe meat and Gatorade were purchased by members at the meeting. If you were not at the meeting but would like to purchase some, contact Ashley at [ashleyh@hastingskiwanis.org](mailto:ashleyh@hastingskiwanis.org).

## **October 31 – Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Jo Bair, enCourage Advocacy Center**



Jo Bair (*on the right, with assistant Shawna*) is Executive Director of the enCourage Advocacy Center. It was formerly known as SASA Crisis Center but was rebranded in 2022. They wanted to better represent that they don't just respond to those

in immediate need, but also try to address the conditions that allow domestic violence to exist. They offer positive encouragement to those who have possibly spent years of being beaten down.

### Services offered ~

#### **Crisis response:**

- 24-Hour hotline
- Emergency shelter
- Assistance with protection and harassment orders
- Provide access to other community services

#### **Healing and Thriving:**

- Peer support groups
- Education groups
- Teach coping skills
- How to recognize signs of domestic violence
- Individual coaching
- Children's programming to help them also cope; recognize that others may also have similar experiences

#### **Prevention and Intervention:**

- Green Dot program – a 3-hour training that teaches how to intervene in a situation that is concerning to you.
- Bloom Youth Program - a collaboration between enCourage Advocacy Center, Prairie Loft, and Hastings College for children in 6th-8th grades. The curriculum focuses on building confidence and connection in an outdoor setting.
- Work with the perpetrators to stop the behavior

There is a staff of nine. The enCourage Advocacy Center is funded through state agencies such as DHHS, grants, county funds, and donations. She can fund anticipated expenses through grants. The donations are helpful for those unanticipated expenses such as replacing someone's tires that have been slashed by an angry partner, or a door that needs replaced after being kicked in. They always try to help the family stay together in the home and rehabilitate the behavior.

They have served over 400 direct survivors in the past year in Adams, Clay, Nuckolls and Webster counties. Right now they are sheltering people in hotels; the grants that provided houses have gone away.

#### How to get involved ~

1. Donate
2. Schedule a Green Dot training
3. Check on your neighbors and friends
4. Volunteer or intern

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## **THE NEXT BIG PROJECT ~ Skate Park and Pump Track**

A board member was approached some time back about what our next big project would be, referencing our successful fundraising effort for the musical playgrounds that were provided to all elementary schools.

A board member suggested adding some unique features to some of the parks, specifically targeting the Middle School age youth, and/or place some exercise apparatus along the Spirit Trail.

Marge Ormsby and Russanne Hoff met with Jeff Hassenstab at the Parks and Rec Department with some ideas and to determine the needs. They learned that Jeff has on his wish list to upgrade and add elements to the current skate park, with a phase 2 wish for a pump track, but lacks enough funds to pursue it.

Jeff provided us with three preliminary design options, the most basic of which would just upgrade to cement elements at an estimated cost of \$350,000.

Further upgrading to add more elements and a pump track could approach \$500,000 or more.

The board voted to sign on to help HPRD fundraise for that and go for the largest upgrade and added pump track. "Let's shoot for the Stars." Let's see what we can accomplish!

With Kiwanis's partnership, Jeff will now take a look at getting a more precise design and a better idea of the needed fundraising effort. The timeline for construction of the project will depend on how the fundraising goes and how long that takes. By partnering with Kiwanis he's hoping we can make a super nice facility for the Middle School youth in our area. With a Kiwanis partnership, HPRD will be able to designate some matching funds to bring this project to fruition.

Russanne has brought back the previous grant writing team of herself, Kathy Schultz and Mike Howie to search for grants to begin this process. If anyone has

any information as to grants that might be available to help with this, please contact one of those people.

Russanne has also met with Mike Howie regarding marketing. Again, ideas are welcome.

If you have any thoughts on marketing, grant writing, or any other suggestions, please contact one of the

people mentioned in this article. As plans progress, there will be opportunities to help ... stand by! The board is very excited for this opportunity!

Other great ideas were also presented for smaller service projects that could possibly be interjected with this larger fundraising effort.

## 2024-2025 Hastings Kiwanis Leadership

### Officers

**President** ~ Frank Koch  
franklink@hastingskiwanis.org

**Immediate Past President** ~ Michelle Musgrave  
michelle.musgrave@hastingskiwanis.org

**President-Elect** ~ Mike E. Johnson (Dr. Mike)  
michaelj@hastingskiwanis.org

**Vice President** ~ Russanne Hoff  
russanneh@hastingskiwanis.org

**Treasurer** ~ Jim Krebsbach  
jimk@hastingskiwanis.org

**Secretary** ~ David Kempf  
davek@hastingskiwanis.org

**Assistant Secretary** ~ Susan Price  
susanp@hastingskiwanis.org

### Board of Directors (# of years)

John Boltz (2)  
johnb@hastingskiwanis.org

Brandon McDermott (2)  
brandon.mcdermott@hastingskiwanisd.org

Casey Mohler (2)  
casey.mohler@hastingskiwanis.org

Dale Musgrave (2)  
dalem@hastingskiwanis.org

Kathy Hohensee (1)  
katherineh@hastingskiwanis.org

George Howard (1)  
georgeh@hastingskiwanis.org

Taylor Musgrave (1)  
taylor.musgrave@hastingskiwanis.org

Marge Ormsby (1)  
marge.ormsby@hastingskiwanis.org



### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Judy Barnes  
2 Linda Stark  
24 Zachary Bosle  
26 Doug Edwards