

St. Francis Gift & Thrift Marks 20 Years in Auburn Oct. 5

Two decades of serving Southeast Nebraskans will be celebrated Saturday, Oct. 5.

Catholic Social Services (CSS) of Southern Nebraska and St. Francis Gift & Thrift will observe the milestone with activities from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1014 Central Ave. The store has been there since it opened in February 2004.

Shopping, food and the opportunity to win prizes are included. Additional information will be available at csshope.org and CSS's social media pages.

The day coincides with the Heritage Highway 136 Trail of Treasures weekend as well as the Nemaha Valley Street Rods car show.

"We hope to have many locals and travelers join us for the celebration," stated April Boellstorff. She is regional director of CSS of Southern Nebraska.

"We want to give back to the community that has helped us on our mission. It will be an amazing time of connection, reflection and celebration," Boellstorff continued.

History
She recalled the store started when someone asked "why not start a thrift store in Auburn and use the profits to help the poor?"

CSS Lincoln team leaders met with the local priest, church members and community supporters to make it a reality. Later Frank and Marge Engles, owners of the rented building, gave it to CSS, Boellstorff noted.

In 2006, St. Francis Gift & Thrift profits began to support the services CSS still provides free to residents in need living in Nemaha, Johnson, Otoe, Pawnee and Richardson counties.

"It's incredible. Years passed, we kept growing

and additional building space was secured. The former Orscheln store was renovated to provide office space, a small chapel and a large food pantry. And the rest is history! Or is it only the beginning!?" the regional director said.

Volunteer Involvement Essential

"Today, we continue to be a bustling place and a community hub. The amount of people who come in and out of the store and our food pantry is incredible. We rely heavily on volunteers to help carry the workload. Our patron saint, St. Francis of Assisi, is the patron saint of animals. St. Francis is remembered for the miracles that people say God performed through him for his compassion for the vulnerable, poor, sick and animals," she continued.

"Start by doing what's necessary, then do what's possible and suddenly you are doing the impossible," Boellstorff related.

"We often think of those initial determined dreamers, donors, believers and doers that made this a reality! The work they put in to create this special place will never be forgotten. They established high standards in dignity, integrity, empathy, trust and sustainability--our core values--that we strive to meet every day. Our current staff and volunteers are proud to continue their efforts and clearly know God oversees our days and our mission. We thank Him often and ask Him to help us do our best each day," she noted.

"Genuine hearts are found here. The lines continually blur between our store and client services. Asking for help is hard. Sometimes people need a little guidance and a friend-



STAFF OF St. Francis Gift & Thrift in Auburn are, from left, Joan Milligan, April Boellstorff and Julie Perry. Not pictured are Lynn Silvey-Halama and Hope Weninger.

Nemaha County Herald photo by David Swanson

ly nudge. The encounters at the thrift store often lead to the help someone needs that we do our best to provide at CSS and other local agencies. Staff or volunteers will hear a conversation at the store and refer someone to our services. This opens the door to free food, diapers, personal care items, financial assistance, additional services and referrals to other assistance programs," Boellstorff explained.

"Our offerings always come with a free side of friendship and compassion to those who need it most. We strive daily to live out the CSS Vision Statement: To inspire hope and love in every encounter. Each situation is unique. We work to best live out our vision within our means

and offered programs," the regional director related.

"We've have had so many beautiful God-given encounters here. Connectivity, trust and vulnerability is needed. No one should feel alone. We hope to bring a little more Christlike love. We hear all the time how much we have helped and how thankful people are for us being here. Those compliments keep us going even on the overwhelming days. Community support is extremely important!" she related.

Staff and Statistics

In addition to Boellstorff, CSS staff members in Auburn are: Lynn Silvey-Halama, store manager; Joan Milligan, store associate; Julie Perry, assistant manager and program support and Hope

Weninger, human resources and accounting.

"They deserve a lot of credit," Boellstorff said of the staff.

Last fiscal year, CSS Auburn provided 33,994 pounds of food to local neighbors in need.

In 2023, \$16,567.13 of financial assistance was provided to help with payments including rent, utilities and repairs. More than 2,249 volunteer hours were recorded.

"We're grateful for the support over the last two decades! What a blessing CSS and St. Francis Gift & Thrift are to our community and our community is to us! We look forward to seeing you Oct. 5 and providing Hope in the Good Life for the next 20 years and beyond!," she concluded.

Lanes End Bowling League Standings

Week 9/17/24 Tuesday Mixed

Team Standings	Won	Lost
Rad Strikers	17	4
Pin Pals	16	5
Huskies	14	7
Sassy Squad	14	7
The Ornerly Bunch	2	19
Russells	0	21
Men's High Scratch Game		
Mike Gauthier	214	
Eric Farris	195	
Men's High Scratch Series		
Mike Gauthier	575	
Jim Flaherty	485	
Women's High Scratch Game		
Ashley Vejvoda	169	
Michelle Broady	148	
Scratch Series		
Ashley Vejvoda	452	
Michelle Broady	375	

Wednesday Mens

Bennett's Fire	66	24
ADL	49	41
Old Codgers	34	56
Up In Smoke	31	59
Men's High Scratch Game		
Drew Kimpston	198	
Joe Sierks	195	
Men's High Scratch Series		
Joe Sierks	537	
Phil Shaw	505	

Thursday Womens

Draper's Super B	17	4
Auburn State Bank	17	4
SBS Insurance	13	8
Auburn Auto	11	10
FNB Johnson	10	11
Pieters Const.	9	12
Sprig Massage	5	16
Women's High Scratch Game		
Cindy Walters	195	
Vi Collins	194	
Women's High Scratch Series		
Cindy Walters	535	
Vi Collins	521	

Notes from Legislature

By State Senator Julie Slama

Standing Behind Winner-Take-All: A Path Forward for Nebraska

There have been many discussions about calling for a special session in the Nebraska Legislature to address how our state allocates its electoral votes. Unlike other states, Nebraska does not use a "winner-take-all" method to allocate its electoral votes in presidential elections. Instead, Nebraska divides its electoral votes by congressional district, resulting in a divided voice on the national stage.

As I have consistently stated, I strongly endorse the winner-take-all system. It's time to simplify Nebraska's electoral process and ensure our state speaks with a single, impactful voice. In April, I introduced the winner-take-all concept through an amendment to a Government Committee bill (LB 1300). My goal was simple: to ensure that Nebraska's position in presidential elections is not just strong, but also clear and influential.

With talks of a special session, we have another chance. Gov. Jim Pillen has expressed his full support for reviving winner-take-all. In a recent statement, he said: "I strongly support statewide unity and joining the 48 other states by awarding all five of our electoral college votes to the presidential candidate who wins the majority of Nebraskans' votes." Pillen has made it clear: he is willing to call a special session to address the issue before the 2024 election--provided we can secure 33 votes in the Legislature to overcome a filibuster.

Currently, only Nebraska and Maine divide their electoral votes by district. The current system does not reflect Nebraska's true voice and gives undue influence to a single congressional district.

As we look ahead, support for winner-take-all is growing, but we must work together, united, to secure the 33 votes required. The path forward is clear. It is time for Nebraska to speak with one voice in presidential elections, just like the rest of the country. I commend Pillen's leadership on this issue, and I am ready to cast my vote for winner-take-all. We will see if the necessary votes come together, and I am optimistic that if we come together, we can get this done for Nebraskans.

Auburn Golfers Finish Fourth in Tecumseh

Delaney Stahl paced the Bulldog girls golf team at the Johnson County Central invite in Tecumseh on Thursday, September 19.

Auburn finished fourth out of nine teams on the warm, windy morning with a team score of 474 with four varsity golfers on the course.

Team Scores

1st EMF- 369
2nd East Atchison- 381
3rd Syracuse- 472
4th Auburn- 474
5th JCC- 2131
6th Palmyra- 3823
7th HTRS- 3837
8th Cedar Bluffs- 4614
9th Tri County- 5474

Auburn Individual Results

14th Delaney Stahl- 114
16th Aca Andrew- 118

18th Charlotte Dickerson-120
21st Hunter Stevenson-122

Plattsmouth Invite Results from 9/12

Team Scores

1st Dushesne- 377
2nd Blair- 468
3rd Platteview- 484
4th Waverly- 487
5th Plattsmouth- 501
6th Omaha Gross- 505
7th Auburn- 507
No team score: Bennington, Gretna East, Omaha Roncalli, South Sioux City, Syracuse, and Wahoo.

Auburn Individual Results

18th Delaney Stahl- 114
24th Aca Andrew- 124
33rd Hunter Stevenson- 131
39th Charlotte Dickerson- 138

Bill Expanding School Choice Co-Sponsored by Rep. Smith Passed by Ways and Means Committee

U.S. Rep. Adrian Smith commented after the House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee approved a bill to expand education freedom and opportunity for students.

Nebraska's 3rd District U.S. Representative co-introduced the measure with Rep. Burgess Owens, R-Utah.

"A good education is foundational for a child's success in life, but unfortunately many parents have little say over their children's education due to where they live or how much they earn. This bill would change the educational landscape for families across the country by generating significant new investments in scholarships for K-12 tuition and educational resources. We have seen through the success of school choice initiatives across the country how empowering parents gives them--not the government--the freedom to decide where to send their children to school and to tailor their children's education to their specific needs. I thank my Ways and Means colleagues for their support of this bill, and I look forward to its consideration by the full House," Rep. Smith related.

The Educational Choice for Children Act would provide a charitable donation incentive for individuals and businesses to fund scholarship awards for students which would cover expenses related to K-12 public and private education. An estimated two million students in any elementary or secondary education setting, including home school, would be eligible to receive a scholarship. Permissible use of scholarship awards includes tuition, fees, book supplies, and equipment for the enrollment or attendance at an elementary or secondary school.

Vote for Gary Rogge, Regent D5

Gary needs volunteers for his campaign as Regent of the University of Nebraska D5. If you are retired, a college student or a high school senior, your time is greatly needed in October. Please send your name to me by US Mail.

Should have a valid drivers license, be a registered voter and have a cell phone.

To: Gary Rogge, Candidate, 63418 Hwy 136 Auburn, NE 68305

Paid for by Gary Rogge, Regent D5

VOTE

SETH BINGHAM

for Auburn City Council - Ward #3

I Support

- ✓ Budget Control
- ✓ Financial Transparency
- ✓ CONTINUING TO MOVE AUBURN FORWARD
- ✓ Focusing on the Local Economy
- ✓ Continued Support of Local Law Enforcement

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Paid for by Seth Bingham - 1114 24th St. - Auburn, Nebraska

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