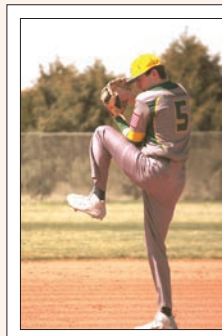


Sidney Sun-Telegraph

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Peez
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SPORTS
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Velasco Earns Nebraska Press Recognition



LINCOLN - Jennifer Velasco, Design Editor and Ad Designer for the *Sun-Telegraph*, was awarded second place in one of the design categories at the Nebraska Press Association annual awards last weekend.

Velasco's spring promotion was second best in the Sun-Telegraph's class in the Promotions advertising category.

"This award confirms what we already knew," said *Sun-Telegraph* Publisher Don Ogle. "That Jennifer is one of the best. She puts her heart into every ad she makes for our customers. She takes making the customer look good personally."

The Nebraska Press Association Better Newspaper Contest was judged by newspaper peers from Texas, and included entries in a wide variety of categories from advertising, photography and writing by Nebraska's newspapers. Only the *Omaha World Herald* and *Lincoln Journal-Star* are omitted from judging.

Sidney Regional Outlines Program and Progress

Officials from Sidney Regional Medical Center spent part of an evening last week going over changes at the hospital before a group of about 30 local residents.

SRMC Chief Executive Officer Jason Petik took the lead in reviewing expansion of programs and highlighted the hospital's new providers and systems. A number of staff members were also on hand.

Petik said three new providers, Physician Assistants Steve Rolls and Jonna Beyer join Nurse Practitioner Stephanie Green on staff. Petik said the hospital and clinic plans to staff with three full time doctors, three PAs and a full time hospitalist for its front line care givers.

The hospital is also working on a new medical records system that, when in place, will make serving its patients easier. He said timing of Sidney's transition places it behind other larger hospitals who are also going to the new system, putting Sidney's completion out 12-16 months. Petik said the goal is to go live by January 1, 2020

"This is one of the most important decisions and investments the board and I have made," Petik said of the new system. The hospital will have approximately \$8 million in the new system.

Petik also reviewed the facility's new Direct Access Testing, which provides blood screening to patients without a doctor's orders. The limited screenings are performed once a week at a reduced cost.

SEE SRMC, 3A

City Council Discusses New Business Assistance Program

The Sidney City Council was approached Wednesday about a new program to help relocate businesses to the city, and help local businesses.

The City of Sidney is benefitting from State funding for economic stimulus, and is hoping to add another option for businesses looking to open in the city. LB840 is a State Bill designed to provide funding for job creation. The City of Sidney has had it in place since 1997. Voters recently approved a 10-year extension to the program. Wednesday morning, Economic Development Director Melissa Norgard and City Manager Ed Sadler met with the city council in a work session to discuss a similar but different idea to draw "good paying jobs to Sidney," according to the memo distributed for the work session.

Forrest Hershberger
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"We don't have enough money to fund all the projects," Norgard said.

She asked the council at what point does the City decide one business plan is better than another.

The concept is for a fund to be established and a board of directors determined by the investors. The goal, according to the memo, is to create a fund of \$5 million to \$10 million. Of that amount, 60 percent will go towards startup and investment opportunities and 40 percent will go towards attracting existing businesses to Sidney.

The City's role, according to Sadler's

presentation, is the initial investment of \$500,000. Sadler encouraged the council to view the project as non-governmental. He said the more government is involved, the less private investors will be willing to support the project.

"We're proposing that it not be part of the government," Sadler said Wednesday. "If we start controlling, then it's just another government," he said.

Council members Wendall Gaston and Roger Gallaway agreed that the City's role should be as facilitator to get the process started.

Part of the concern is the requests for LB840 funds are greater than the funds available.

"We're about to run out of money, and

SEE CITY COUNCIL, 2A

No Crown, But Cole Still Wins

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OMAHA - Sidney's Ylani Cole didn't come away with the Mrs. Nebraska crown at the Mrs. Nebraska Pageant last weekend, but that is secondary to what she did gain.

"I won so much more than a crown and a sash," Cole said. "I've gotten to develop so many wonderful relationships and friendships. Getting out there and getting involved with my community was great."

"It was a reward, not an award, and it's something I'll always treasure," Cole said of the her time serving the community as Mrs. Cheyenne County.

Not that she walked away empty handed. Cole won four of the other contest awards, including Best Dress, Physical Fitness, People's Choice (chosen by audience members), and Scrapbook, which catalogued the activities she's been involved with since last July. She was also one of the top five finalists, given fourth runner-up.

"I'm super excited and super proud that I got the awards I did," Cole said.

Saturday's pageant capped two days of activity for Cole and nine other ladies from across the state, filled with performance rehearsals, interviews and other serious pageant primping and preparing. But it also included fun activities, including a "pajama party" Friday where the contestants got to relax, have fun and get to know each other.

"It was a great experience," Cole said, including the chance to perform before a number of area residents who

SEE COLE, 2A



PHOTO COURTESY KC CREATIONS PHOTOGRAPHY, BURWELL
Sarah Christianson, last year's Mrs. Nebraska, presents Ylani Cole of Sidney with one of four special awards she received as Mrs. Cheyenne County in the Mrs. Nebraska Pageant. Cole's dress is one of the things for which she was recognized.

City Approves Dispatch Agreement

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The Sidney City Council Tuesday approved its part of the Cheyenne County Emergency Communications agreement for Deuel County services to be dispatched by the Cheyenne County dispatch center.

"What you see tonight is revisions basically reflecting an inclusion of Deuel County," said City Manager Ed Sadler.

The agreement calls for Deuel County to pay 5 percent of the Emergency Communications Center costs, and Cheyenne County and the City of Sidney's costs will be scaled back proportionally for two years. The signed agreement will be forwarded to the county commissioners for the April 30 meeting. The agreement is to take affect July 1.

Sadler said Deuel County had been contracting with Keith County at a rate of \$1,000 per month, but ended the agreement because they were not happy with the service. He added that calls for service are directly related to the population of the community. For example, the City of Sidney pays the largest share of the Communication Center costs, followed by Cheyenne County, and the population of both entities reflect the difference in population. Sadler said if that formula is applied, Deuel County's share would increase after the first two years to about 16 percent.

"The calls are very tied to the population," he said.

He said he doesn't expect an addition to staff. Additional equipment is being supplied for the Communication Center to communicate with Deuel County agencies. The Council also reviewed

a Pavement Management Study and Plan. Sadler said the City staff of Sadler, Assistant City Manager Dawn Martin and Street Superintendent Hank Radtke met with a civil engineering firm regarding the city's streets including anticipated paving projects and curb and gutter needs. He said the confirms that the city's biggest concern is near the curbs where the pavement thins. He added Sidney's problem is drainage.

He said the City looked into purchasing a curb and gutter machine. He said they learned no communities own curb and gutter machines.

"Apparently, it is very labor intensive to replace the curbs unless you do it at the same time as the construction of the street," Radtke said in a memo to city council.

He said they are suggest-

ing budgeting \$25,000 annually from Federal-State STP Fund. The City would then contract on alternating years to have someone do \$50,000 of curb and gutter replacement. He added if the estimate is too low, the City may have to plan on three-year intervals.

"I think we have a pecking order on what needs to be done first," said councilman Bob Olsen.

Sadler said the priorities could change each year upon review of the streets.

The City Council also approved the purchase of a new dump truck for the Street Department. The Council had already approved Radtke spending \$165,000 for a new dump truck. Cornhusker International Trucks Inc. in Omaha quoted a price of \$164,677, a price used in the National Joint Powers Alliance and State bids.

