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Pinochle-palooza

Tournament raises funds for local non-profit

BY PHAIDRA YUNKER
REPORTER

The Comet Kids Pinochle Tournament drew a strong turnout Feb. 7 at Underwood City Hall as 15 teams gathered for a day of cards, community and fundraising for the local nonprofit childcare center.

Organizer Arica Levey said the event was "a success," noting that players enjoyed a free-will donation lunch, a cash bar provided by the Rusted Rail and a prize raffle.

"We had a really good turnout this year," Levey said. "Lots of teams preregistered and we had a lot of sponsor support. We raised about \$3,000 for Comet Kids Childcare."

The tournament paired teams in rotating matchups, with standings determined by total points across multiple rounds. Marlys Olauson and Vern Krein of Bismarck claimed first place, while Kayla Oberlander and Beth Knutson of Washburn finished second. Kellie Weisenburger and Toni Cottingham of Underwood earned the award for most sets of the day.

Area businesses helped bolster the fundraiser by sponsoring tables, including Allison's Pantry, Bravera Bank, C and C Radiator, Charvet Construc-

tion, Coteau, Cottingham Insurance, Enerbase, Evenson Excavating, Falkirk Mine, Het-letved C.P.A., Journey Mental Health, Levey's Plumbing, Little Muddy Spice Company, TruCommunity Bank, Underwood Clinic, Wagonwheel Lumber and Wholesale Ag.

Raffle prize sponsors also contributed to the event's success. Donors included Allison's Pantry, BNI Coal, Chase Drug of Washburn, Cindy and Sara, Freedom Photography, Great River Energy, Hegers Farms, Journey Mental Health, KB Handcrafted, Little Muddy Spice Company, McLean County Speedway, Olafson Produce Farms and Catering, Psychward Tattoo, Rainbow Energy, Roses Pickling Products, Sodas and Things, Underwood Clinic and West River Telecommunications.

Levey said the fundraiser plays an important role in supporting Comet Kids Childcare, a licensed nonprofit early learning center in Underwood that provides play-based care and preschool programming.

"Comet Kids is a nonprofit, so we do three to four fundraisers a year to help with maintenance, new equipment and other expenses that come up," she said.



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A long table filled with raffle prizes donated by area sponsors lines the gym wall during the Comet Kids Pinochle Tournament Feb. 7 in Underwood.



Players focus in as hands are dealt at the start of competitive play during the Comet Kids Pinochle Tournament Feb. 7 in Underwood.

Wilton accepts I-State bus bid

School district accepts joint powers agreement with McLean County

BY KELLI AMELING
ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

The Wilton Public School Board of Education accepted a bid for a new bus in the amount of \$143,000.

During a special meeting held Jan. 6 by the Wilton Board of Education, Superintendent Andrew Jordan presented two bus bids to the board for them to discuss and make a decision on.

According to meeting minutes published in the Leander-News on Feb. 12, the first bid was from Harlow's at \$140,975 while the second bid was from I-State for \$143,975.

"The I-State bid includes an addition-

al two-year warranty, for a total of a seven-year warrant or mileage, whichever comes first," the minutes stated.

Jordan noted the extra two-year warrant was for the transmission specifically.

The board questioned whether or not a third entity had been solicited to enter a bid.

"... It was noted that a third vendor was contacted but did not submit a bid," the minutes stated.

Board Member Kylee Schuh asked if the \$143,000 was locked in, noting a potential \$2,500 tariff.

The board unanimously approved the \$143,000 bid from I-State, along with

an amendment to the motion to include approval of the additional tariff if required.

During the meeting, it was noted a legislative change was made to NDCC 21-03-07 requiring school bonds to be on the primary or general election ballots.

Additionally, it was noted a ballot measure to increase the allowable percentage limit of the tax levy to be on a general election ballot.

"McLean County is offering joint powers agreement with Wilton Public School," the minutes stated.

The board unanimously approved the joint powers agreement with the county.



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