

**Moving on**

Eagle all-time greats reunite Saturday **PAGE B1**



**Dean and the what?**

Band name has interesting origin **PAGE A5**

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# Suspect questioned victim prior to shooting

**MARK DYKES**  
Record Staff

According to an affidavit for arrest filed last Friday, there appeared to be an argument between 72-year-old John Martinez and against 20-year-old Sage Little Moon, both of Chadron, prior to Martinez being shot in the head and killed.

The affidavit states at about 1:56 a.m. on Friday, July 23, an officer with the Chadron Police Department was informed of a possible shooting in the 300 block of Maple Street. While en route the officer was informed the suspect Little Moon had left the residence. Two officers, including the

initial respondent, arrived at the scene. The front door of the residence was observed to be broken, with glass shattered near the entrance. The officers were met by 18-year-old Syllis Little Moon and three minor children, who said Sage had shot their father. An AR style rifle was also observed, and though Syllis noted the rifle was Sage's it was not the gun he used.

The officers located Martinez in the lower level of the residence with a wound on his head. A rescue unit was radioed to the scene to check for signs of life, but found none; Martinez was later confirmed deceased.

Located next to Martinez was a



**Little Moon**

with. Further, the officer was informed by one of the minors that they had witnessed Sage go downstairs and wake Martinez, asking where an item was, before shooting him. There was no information in the arrest affidavit as to what the item was.

Also located at the scene was

second AR style rifle with a magazine loaded in it and the safety switch set to fire. The rifle also had blood on it and one of the minor children said it was the one

Reva Little Moon, whom was known to officers to be in a dating relationship with Martinez with children in common. Reva further informed officers that Sage is her brother.

Other officers had previously dealt with Spencer High Hawk, who reported he was with Sage earlier in the morning at another residence and observed Sage to be drunk. Further, High Hawk suspected Sage had been using methamphetamine and cocaine, and also observed Sage assault his own girlfriend, leading to a fight between Sage and High Hawk.

Chadron Police partnered with the Dawes County Sheriff's Office,

Nebraska State Patrol, South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation, Oglala Sioux Tribe officers and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to locate Little Moon.

A vehicle reported stolen and believed to be used by Little Moon to was later found about six miles north of Rushville on Beaver Wall Road, and information was received that he was in Pine Ridge, S.D.

"Working with South Dakota authorities, along with the FBI, we were able to have the authorities in South Dakota take him into custody," Hickstein said.

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CON MARSHALL

A combine cuts wheat and also feeds it into a grain wagon last week during harvest on an Alan and Debbie Soester field east of Crawford last week. After have the previous three crops damaged by hail, the Soesters were elated to get this year's crop "in the bin." They said it averaged around 50 bushels an acre and was high quality with no visible weeds in the field.

# Wheat crop better than expected

**CON MARSHALL**

Although drought and the Friday, July 9 hail storm took a toll in places, the Dawes County wheat crop has been surprising good for the most part.

Mike Bartels of Chadron, supervisor for West Plains Grain, said last Friday that the quality of the wheat has been "really good," the test weights have often exceeded 60 pounds a bushel and the yields have varied, but the average is apparently around 40 bushels an acre, or about the county's average in recent years.

The price is among the best news for producers. Bartels said it has ranged from \$6.20 to \$6.50 a bushel during July. That's about \$2 a bushel higher than a year ago.

Bartels said some growers told him their yields were in the 30- to 35-bushel an acre range, while others said theirs made around 50. He added that an Oelrichs farmer thought his fields were yielding nearly 60 bushels.

Bartels said no while wheat had yet been received from the Table south of Chadron last week, he estimated that only



COURTESY PHOTO

With Crow Butte in the background between two of the combines, there was a sigh of relief when the Alan and Debbie Soester family finished cutting their wheat east of Crawford last week. The crop averaged about 50 bushels an acre and was high in quality. Hail damaged the previous three crops, they said.

about 10 percent of the crop was left to be cut in the county.

As usual, a sizable portion of the wheat in the region was cut for hay. For many producers who also have cattle it was "six of one

and half a dozen of the other."

Because of the drought, the hay crop is short again this year, and it's reported that up to \$200 a ton is being asked for grass hay. But with wheat prices also the

highest in several years, the decision whether to use the wheat for hay or cut it for grain was a tough one.

Much of the best wheat in Dawes County was in the Crawford area, where there was more moisture last fall than the remainder the county received.

Alan Soester said his fields around Crawford and south of Whitney yielded around 50 bushels. He was pleased with the outcome, particularly since the previous three years his crops were damaged by hail.

Soester also cut a field of seed wheat belonging to Calvin Dodd north of Crawford last week that made 70 bushels an acre.

Dodd said he was surprised by the yield. He noted that in past years he's had a few similar yields, but he wasn't expecting it this year since this is the second year in a row that the precipitation has been only about half of normal.

The July 9 storm devastated the wheat crop in parts of the Deadhorse community, around

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# Council approves LB 840 grant

**MARK DYKES**

Despite having some concerns, Monday night the Chadron City Council – with council member Cheryl Welch absent – approved the application of High Plains Community Development Corp (HPCDC) for \$150,000 in LB 840 economic development funds to assist with construction costs for building two new houses and creating a revolving loan fund for future housing.

The decision came following a reconvened hearing that carried over from the council's July 19 meeting. The hearing was continued to allow time for the LB 840 Citizen Advisory and Review Committee to meet.

At the previous meeting, Northwest Nebraska Development Corporation Executive Director Deb Cottier and HPCDC Director Rita Horse explained that the funds would be used as a basis to use in applying for matching dollars through a Rural Workforce Housing Fund grant from the State of Nebraska. The \$150,000 in LB 840 funds will be combined with at least \$102,500 in local fundraising for a total \$252,000 when applying for the State matching grant, providing a total \$505,000 and a 3.4 to 1 return on every dollar the City puts in.

Duane Gardener with the LB 840 committee said the members met last Friday and recommended council approve the application. Among the reasons the committee is in favor of the application, Gardener said, is the return on the City investment.

Gardener continued, pointing out the HPCDC will manage the funds, building two homes that will be sold, and buyers must have financing in hand before closing. It's believed the houses will sell for more than the building costs, and the LB 840 fund will grow as money from the sales will be returned for additional

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- Sheryl Bruns, 77
- Pamela Stall, 70
- Vance Retzlaff, 63

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# New officer enjoys community interaction

**MARK DYKES**

The latest addition to the Chadron Police Department is Officer Aaron Tidyman, who was sworn in at the July 5 meeting of Chadron City Council.

Tidyman's interest in law enforcement began with the military. "As a kid I wanted to be in the military because my dad was in the military and I always have had the urge to help others and saw this as the best way to do so," he said. "I was unfortu-

nately diagnosed with Type One Diabetes as a kid and was told I could not be in the military so then I did a little research to see if I could be in law enforcement. Once I saw that I could be part of law enforcement that's what I set my eyes on and have chased that goal ever since."

Born in Chadron, Tidyman's family moved a year or two after his birth and he spent most of his life in Stromsburg.

"I grew up in Stromsburg,

Nebraska and went to Cross County Community schools. I graduated from Cross County High School in 2017. I then continued my education at Concordia University Nebraska in Seward, Nebraska where I double majored in Criminal Justice and Psychology and graduated in the fall of 2020. I have one older brother and one younger brother. My mom is the Head Librarian at

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