



Concordia

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Native American Artist to speak at Cook Series

Monte Yellow Bird Sr.. a Native American artist, will present "If You're Going To Shine, Shine Brightly," at Cloud County Community College's Cook Series on Thursday, April 24. The event will be at 7:00 p.m. at the college's Cook Theatre on the Concordia campus.

All Cook Series events are free and open to the public.

Monte Yellow Bird Sr. signs his work with the name he was given through ceremony, Black Pinto Horse. He is devoted to a positive expression of the harmonic balance between humanity and nature. He is the son of Willard (Wolf Trail) Yellow Bird, a descendant of Bears Teeth & Iron Bear and Magdalen (Corn Tassel) Youngbird/Yellow Bird, a descendant of Strikes Enemy & Sitting



While in high school, his math teacher recognized his artistic talent, introducing him to the renowned Institute of American Indian Arts of Santa Fe, New Mexico. As a 16-year-old that had never left the reservation, he credits this experience as life-changing, saying, "It evoked a pride of my

culture & a new self-identity.'

Years later, Yellow Bird furthered his art & history studies at North Dakota State University in Fargo, majoring in history education with an art minor. In 2002, he earned a BFA from Minot State University in North Dakota.



Catching the wind

On Saturday, April 19, people gathered at the practice field across from the Concordia Middle School to enjoy kite flying. Veronica Doolittle, Chris Thrash and Janel Slaughter are assembling a kite for the kids to enjoy. There was a gentle breeze that helped the kites to fly.

City Commissioners discuss public vendors and condemn structures

An ordinance that would amend the City code for licensing requirements for public vendors, and a resolution that set a date See ARTIST on 2 for a public hearing to condemn structures were part of the regular city commission meeting on Wednesday, April 16.

After consultations with City Clerk Stacey Smith, commissioners tabled an ordinance that would amend the City's vending

code to include vending on private property. Further discussion will take place before the ordinance is voted on.

Upon the recommendation of Bruno Rehbein, the City's building inspector, commissioners unanimously passed Resolution 2025-2199 that set the date of June 4, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., for a public hearing for the condemnation of structures at 427

East 15th Street. Rehbein stated that the property is very blighted and hasn't had utilities for

over 20 years.

The condemnation process allows the City to force action on a blighted and dilapidated building or property, but often times the City ends up with the costs of demolition and it is rarely recovered with abandoned properties.

See CITY on 2

CCCC to host annual high school art show, April 25

Cloud County Community College's annual high school Art Day will be Friday, April 25, in Arley Bryant Gymnasium on the Concordia campus.

Students from area high schools will have various pieces of artwork on display in the gymnasium. The public is welcome, free of charge, to view the pieces from 9:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

Throughout the morning, students can participate in several workshops created for the day's event or participate in the Sidewalk Chalk Art event. Workshops are:

- Self-Portrait Reflec-
- Printmaking
- Group Painting
- Photography • Picture Framing

Awards will be given in the following categories: oil painting, acrylic painting, photography, charcoal, mixed media, sculpture, ceramics, stained glass, pastel, pencil, and colored pencil. The major awards are Best of Show,



which includes a \$500 scholarship to Cloud, Second Best of Show, Most Inspirational, and Most Original/Creative.

Winners of all competitions will be announced in Cook Theatre beginning

For more information about the art show, contact Brenton Phillips at bphillips@cloud.edu, or at 1-800-729-5101, ext. 244. If a high school is interested in attending the event, it is invited to email Phillips.

Gropp chosen as CHS Student of the Month

Concordia Junior/Senior High School (CJSHS) selected Kaide Gropp as the April Student of the Month.

The son of Lance and Lisa Gropp, Kaide is a multi-sport athlete who participates in football, track, and powerlifting. "I like all the sports, but if I had to pick a favorite it would probably be track," Kaide said.

When Kaide talks about his favorite hobby - which is really no hobby at all his face really lights up. "I love racing," he said. "My whole family has been in it for a long time. My sister races, too. It's been a big part of my life."

Kaide has been around the local racing scene since he was young, and he began driving a race car in 2022, his freshman year in high school. "There's nothing like it," he said. "The adrenaline rush is hard to describe. Everything happens so fast. It's a thrill, really.'

Kaide quickly found success, winning a race in his cruiser car, and then winning his first stock car race in Beloit last year. But, racing is racing, which means cars speed-



ing around a track at high speed, which translates to danger. It only takes a split second for something to go wrong.

"I was racing in McCool Junction (Nebraska), and I got put into the wall, and but that was about it.' then two more cars hit

me," Kaide said. "You can see the cars coming; you know you're going to get hit hard, and that can be a little scary. It's not a good feeling. But I was lucky. I was sore for a couple days,

See GROPP on 2

Hydrant Flushing Begins April 28

The City will begin testing and flushing hydrants from April 28 through May 2. Flushing will begin at 6 a.m. Monday and Tuesday, and 7 a.m Wednesday through Friday.

"One of the main

things we're doing here is testing the fire hydrants to make sure they work property," Arnold said. "The functionality of the fire hydrants is a priority, and we also want to descale the water mains."

Residents may expe-

rience water discoloration, which may be an inconvenience but is not harmful. Residents should inspect the tap water for discoloration before doing laundry. The water should clear up within one or two