



Quilts of Valor showcased at Neligh Episcopal Church
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Elgin PeeWees finish second at Quad County Tournament
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The Elgin Review

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In Brief

School board to act on increasing base growth %

Meeting to be held July 15.

Elected bodies are in the process of putting together budgets for Fiscal Year 2026/2027.

The Elgin Public Schools Board of Education (District #18) will be taking another step in that process when they meet in regular session on Wednesday, July 15.

Board President Lisa Welding and board members Todd Heithoff, Steve Busted, Eric Beckman, Luke Hinkle and Ron Boode are expected to act on an early step in the budget process.

Among other topics to be discussed, pursuant to Nebraska State Statute 79-3405, the school board will vote on whether to increase the school district's base growth percentage by up to seven percent (7%).

A copy of the agenda, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection in the superintendent's office during normal business hours.

The meeting, scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. is open to the public.

Public Notices

Public notices in this week's newspaper include:

Notice of Meeting — The District #18 Board of Education

The Elgin Review is the official legal newspaper for Antelope County, Antelope County Historical Society, Village of Bartlett, Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District, the State of Nebraska, the City of Elgin and Elgin School District #18.

Weather

The high temperature last week was 94 degrees recorded on June 29-30 and July 2.

The low temperature during the same period was 65 degrees was recorded on June 29-30 and July 4.

Last week a total of 3.20 inches of precipitation was recorded.

Following are the high and low temperatures, and precipitation amounts, as reported by the National Weather Service.

Date	High	Low	Prec
June 29	94	65	2.72
June 30	94	65	.45
July 1	81	66	.00
July 2	94	65	.03
July 3	80	67	.00
July 4	86	65	.00
July 5	85	68	.00
Total for last week			3.20
Total for June			7.14
Total precipitation 2026			13.47



LB840 headed to voters in November

The community of Elgin's future took a big step forward Monday night.

Following a brief presentation by Todd Heithoff, representing the LB840 committee, the Elgin City Council gave their unanimous support to put on the general election ballot in November whether or not to add a 0.5 percent increase to the city sales tax. The revenue collected will be used solely for economic development. Council members Leigh Kluthe, Craig Niewohner, Mike Dworak and Jeremy Young voted 'yes' on Resolution 2026-1 to adopt the economic development plan.

If passed in November, it will go into effect in mid-July 2027. In 2028, the first full year for the

additional sales tax it is estimated to generate nearly \$66,000 annually over a 20-year span. The number was based on a 10-year average of sales tax funds collected in Elgin.

That number is an approximate number, meaning it could fluctuate, some years higher and some lower.

Leading up to Monday night's meeting, Heithoff said the committee held two public meetings and heard "nothing but positives" about the initiative. Also, a community survey was taken to determine which issues concern Elgin residents the most.

Now that the vote has been taken, the next step will be for City Clerk Kristin Childers to get the necessary paperwork to the courthouse in Neligh so that

it gets on the November ballot.

Based on state law regarding LB840, only registered voters inside the city limits of Elgin will be eligible to vote.

In Nebraska, communities may use local economic development programs such as LB840 to support a range of activities, including housing development, rehabilitation of existing homes, infrastructure improvements, and partnerships with private developers.

In communities experiencing housing shortages or workforce challenges, these programs are sometimes used to help increase housing supply or improve existing housing conditions.



E-R Photo/DMorgan

Letting freedom ring across the heartland

Known as Bells Across America, Let Freedom Ring, Freedom Bells & more -- many communities observe it yearly, some only on special occasions. At 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 4, Joe Meis went to his parent's bell collection and graciously rang his father Jim's favorite, deep-toned bell 13 times to signify the original 13 colonies at the time of the Declaration of Independence' signing. Moments like this, in big cities and small villages, remind us we are one country. The bell originally came from a long-ago closed convent in Iowa.

Continuances, sentencing dates in Antelope County Court

A Neligh man accused of four counts that resulted in an injury accident appeared for further arraignment in Antelope County Court, July 1.

A. Jared Blevins, 41, is charged with one count of possession of a deadly weapon - prohibited person, a Class III felony; one count of DUI - cause serious bodily injury, a Class IIIA felony; and one charge of possession of a controlled substance, a Class IV felony, all related to an April 22 incident.

Blevins, represented by Douglas Stratton of Norfolk, requested a preliminary hearing. The Honorable Danielle Fliam ordered Blevins to appear Aug. 5.

On April 22, a vehicle driven by Blevins crossed over the centerline and struck a vehicle driven by Kenneth Menning of Orchard. Antelope County Sheriff's Deputy Steven Mills responded to the call reported in the 1000 block of L Street

See COURT, Page 3 ▶

Hawkins makes first appearance in court; facing three felonies

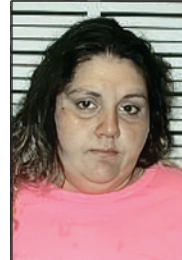
Facing three felony counts in connection with the death of an Oakdale woman last month, Jamie Hawkins made her first appearance in Antelope County Court last week.

Hawkins, 33, of Oakdale, appeared before Judge Danielle J. Fliam in Antelope County Court on Wednesday, July 1 on the felony charges of:

- Manslaughter
- Delivery of fentanyl
- Child abuse

All three charges are in connection with the overdose death of Amy Dugal, 34, which occurred at 604 Rath Street in Oakdale.

Antelope County Attorney Joseph Smith told the court how Hawkins allegedly went to the Oakdale Post Office and picked up a package believed to contain fentanyl. He said Hawkins then allegedly gave it to her six-year-old daughter to deliver to Dugal and 52-year-old Shane Sleister living in Oakdale.



Jamie Hawkins

According to court documents, Dugal is believed to have died after taking the drug while Sleister was given three doses of Narcan and taken to Antelope Memorial Hospital where he survived the overdose. Conducting the investigation are the Antelope County Sheriff's Department and the Nebraska State Patrol. Test results are still pending.

As part of last week's court appearance, Hawkins was advised by Judge Fliam of the nature of the charges, all possible penalties. Also, she was advised of her rights as a defendant.

Represented by appointed counsel Douglas Stratton, Hawkins heard Judge Fliam reduce bond from \$750,000 to \$100,000 with a 10 percent provision. Stratton had asked the court to reduce the bond to \$50,000. Smith sought to have the bond set at \$250,000.

"This lady walked into the post office in Oakdale, picked up an amount of drugs, fentanyl, and gave it to a six-year-old child. A six-year-old child waked into the house where the two people took it," Smith said, adding that the child stayed in the residence after the alleged overdose, and the youngster allegedly found the victims. Hawkins' next scheduled court appearance will be for a preliminary hearing on Wednesday, July 15 at 2 p.m.

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Why sun protection matters

Protecting your skin for life

By Bridgette Pudwill, MD

Spending time outdoors is a wonderful way to stay active and enjoy nature, but protecting your skin from the sun is one of the most important steps you can take for your long-term health. Ultraviolet (UV) rays from the sun can damage skin cells, even on cloudy days or during cooler weather. Over time, this damage builds up and can lead to premature aging, sunspots, wrinkles, and most importantly, skin cancer.

Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the United States, but it is also one of the most preventable. Fortunately, protecting your skin is simple and effective. Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher every day on exposed skin, even when it is cloudy.

Reapply every two hours, or more often if you are swimming or sweating. Wear protective clothing such as long sleeves, wide-brimmed hats, and UV-blocking sunglasses whenever possible. Avoid indoor tanning, as tanning beds also increase the risk of skin cancer.

It is also important to become familiar with your skin. Check regularly for new or changing moles, spots, or sores that do not heal, and report any concerns to your healthcare provider promptly. Early detection greatly improves the success of treatment if skin cancer develops.

Healthy skin is worth protecting at every age. By making sun safety part of your daily routine, you can reduce your risk of skin cancer, prevent premature skin aging, and help keep your skin healthy for years to come.

Small daily habits can make a lifelong difference.

If you have concerns about a new, changing, or unusual spot on your skin, contact your primary care provider.

They can evaluate your concerns and help determine if further care or a referral is needed.

Budke to run write-in campaign for 3rd District

LINCOLN — Nebraska's 3rd Congressional District nonpartisan candidate Macey Budke will run a write-in campaign, she announced Tuesday.

Budke told the *Nebraska Examiner* it was "clear" she wouldn't hit the signature threshold to be on the ballot before next month's deadline. She said the biggest issue for her was logistics, as collecting valid signatures across the 3rd district is "a heavy lift without a party machine, paid circulators, or a full-time campaign operation."

"We had voter interest ... we just did not have the infrastructure," Budke said. "Our campaign is volunteer-run, and most of us are balancing this with full-time jobs and family responsibilities."

According to the Secretary of State's office, a candidate who wants a November ballot line for the U.S. House race in Nebraska needs "at least 20% of registered voters in the applicable district who voted for President in 2024" — or 2,000 valid signatures.

Budke said in a statement that the move "isn't a retreat." "It's a more focused cam-

See BUDKE, Page 3 ▶



E-R photos/DMorgan

Quilts of Valor on display at Neligh

The inside of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Neligh took on a new look Friday and Saturday. A Quilt of Valor quilt show, sponsored by Antelope County Historical Society, was well-attended. More than 50 patriotic quilts were on display during the two-day event.



Your opinion needs to be heard! Express it in a 'Letter to the Editor'

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The goodness of a dad who demonstrated what was worth searching for

As we come off the heels of Father's Day, my family has another reason to celebrate. My father is about to experience a big milestone birthday, so I took some time to reflect upon the impact this man has had upon my life.

One of the oldest and fondest memories I have was what he did for my beloved Fido. He was my pride and joy and favorite stuffed animal. Fido went everywhere with me.

My dad and my grandpa handmade a doghouse for my

"pup", and it was something I cherished for years.

The doghouse wasn't the only thing he built for me. He would use old cardboard boxes to create various things such as a house front (with handles and a door) and even a jet I could wear around in the backyard. Thinking back, I never really appreciated just how handy my dad is, and truly how creative.

Every year on my birthday when I was little, he would let me pick where I wanted to eat dinner.

My refined palette wanted popcorn shrimp from Red Lobster, and I looked forward to it every year.

In fact, one year, we were in the process of moving to Nebraska and he flew home on my birthday to surprise me and take me to my birthday dinner.

My dad also played guitar, and I played flute and piano. So, we would play duets together and bond over our shared love of music. He would share with me some of his favorite songs, and we would learn new ones together.

I miss those jam sessions with him since we now live so

far apart.

Of course, there were practical things too. He killed all the spiders for me (which is now my husband's or my kids' job). He taught me to ride a bike, how to swim, how to dive off a diving board, and so much more. He attended softball games, soccer games, band concerts, speech competitions and plays. He was always there to support me.

He also taught me how to drive...on a manual transmission. He would make me stop on this giant hill every day and then every day I would stall out my vehicle. Yet, over and over again, he made me do it until

I could figure out how to start again. He wanted all three of us girls to know how to drive a stick shift in case of any emergency. He was always wanting to prepare us for life, and to be able to take care of ourselves without a man. That's something I want for my daughter as well.

I think the relationship between a father and a daughter is a special one. I saw the way my dad treated my mom, my sisters, and me and I knew that I wanted a husband that was loving and hard-working. I

wanted someone that would empower our kids to do things on their own and prepare them for life. I wanted someone that shows up for their kids.

I found that man (after many years of searching), and I am so thankful I had a father that demonstrated what was worth searching for. Thank you, Dad, for everything (especially the spiders).

Comments are welcome and can be sent to talesofatiredmomma@gmail.com.

Tales of a Tired Momma



Elgin Columnist Katherine Cobb

Elgin Community Center meals

Monday, July 13: Goulash, lettuce salad, peas, cinnamon apples, bread/butter, milk

Tuesday, July 14: Cream chicken over biscuits, mixed vegetables, lettuce salad, tropical fruit, milk.

Wednesday, July 15: Smothered pork cutlets, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, mandarin oranges, bread & butter, milk.

Thursday, July 16: Liver & onions OR ham, scalloped potatoes, carrots, pears, bread & butter, milk.

Friday, July 17: Breaded pork tenderloin sandwich, potato salad, coleslaw, baked beans, mixed fruit, milk.

Menus are provided by the Community Center and are subject to change.

Suggested price is \$7 per meal for persons 60 years of age and older. Under 60 is \$10.

Serving starts at approximately 11:45 a.m. and ends around 12:15 p.m.

Meals are served Monday thru Friday. Takeout starts at 11:30 a.m.

Please call 843-5757 by 9:30 a.m. to reserve a meal for that day.

For a great meal, come to the community center!

Court

◀ FROM Page 1

in Neligh.

According to the arrest affidavit, Blevins appeared incoherent, with slowed and slurred speech.

He was transported to Antelope Memorial Hospital, where emergency room personnel found a baggy containing what appeared to be psilocybin mushrooms.

According to Mills, he questioned if the items in the bag were mushrooms, and Blevins confirmed the officer's assessment. Blevins also said he hadn't used mushrooms for two days.

Mills later advised the defendant of a post arrest chemical advisement, and Blevins agreed to submit to a chemical blood test.

Menning sustained a fractured sternum. A passenger in the Menning vehicle, Michael Menning, sustained a break of the C2 vertebrae and was air transported to another facility.

During a search of Blevins' vehicle, Neligh Police Chief Logan Lawson located "a hunting-type knife" with a blade measuring 10 inches.

A \$35,000-10% bond remains in effect.

A plea agreement was reached in a case involving Joy L. Joyce, 23, of Neligh. Joyce agreed to plead guilty or no contest to an amended count of assault-threaten/menacing manner, a Class I misdemeanor.

She was originally charged with one misdemeanor count of domestic assault-3rd/threat/bodily injury.

Per the agreement, Antelope County Attorney Joe Smith agreed not to make a recommendation at sentencing.

Fliam ordered a presentence investigation and ordered that a

Budke

◀ FROM Page 2

paign, and it is a direct challenge to a political system that makes it far easier to run with a party than to run independently," Budke said.

Budke is one of two nonpartisan candidates in the state's most conservative congressional district. The other nonpartisan candidate is Mark Cohen, who is still collecting signatures to get on the ballot. The deadline to turn in signatures is Aug. 3.

Becky Stille is the Democratic Party's nominee in the race and David J. Else is running on the Legal Marijuana NOW Party line.

They are all challenging incumbent Republican U.S. Rep. Adrian Smith.

The state's 3rd Congressional District includes central and western Nebraska and much of the state's northeastern and southeastern edges. It's one of the nation's most conservative congressional districts by political party registration advantage and voting record.

The general election is Nov. 3.

substance abuse evaluation and PSI in a Madison County case involving Joyce be shared for this case. The judge set sentencing for Sept. 2.

Joyce was arrested in Clearwater on Dec. 31 after two Antelope County Sheriff's deputies responded to a 911 call about a physical altercation.

The caller, Zachary Sohler, said he and Joyce had been drinking and were leaving via vehicle when Joyce allegedly began hitting him, causing his lip to split.

Sohler told law enforcement officers that he returned to Main Street so "he was in public" and that he "tried to push her out of the vehicle."

Deputies were unable to locate Joyce on Main Street. Two Clearwater residents found her nearby and brought her back to the American Legion building, where the pair had been earlier in the evening.

Cameron J. Schindler, 22, of Neligh, asked for a continuance. He is charged with one count of operating a motor vehicle/avoid arrest, a Class IV felony; and one count of DUI - .15+ or refusal (1 prior conviction), a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Smith did not object to Schindler's request, and Fliam granted the motion. She set a preliminary hearing for Aug. 5.

Schindler was arrested April 28, after ACSO deputy Riley Schroeder observed a red pickup, driven by the defendant, swerving on US Highway 275. Schroeder witnessed the vehicle run over the curb and drive onto the lawn of a residence. Schroeder saw Schindler turn onto a side street and, once the officer activated the emergency lights Schindler failed to stop. Schroeder activated the audible siren and requested assistance.

Schindler allegedly traveled down several streets, ran over curbs, crossed the center line, and drove in opposite lanes of travel.

Eventually the vehicle stopped, and Schindler opened the driver door.

Schroeder ordered him out of the vehicle, but the driver took off again and stopped at a Neligh residence on 8th Street, where Schroeder took him into custody.

Once at the ACSO, Schindler took a breathe test, which recorded blood-alcohol content of .262.

A 53-year-old Tilden man failed to appear for a hearing concerning early release from probation based on charges stemming from a 2024 incident.

Richard V. Nelson filed a hearing request on July 6 and will be heard on July 15.

Shane L. Krebs, 55, of Clearwater, appeared for a show cause hearing for unpaid fines stemming from a May conviction on one count of DUI-.15+ or refusal (1 prior conviction), a Class I misdemeanor.

Krebs informed Fliam he will pay the amount in full by the end of the day. The judge ordered Krebs to appear July 15 if the balance is not paid by that day and time.

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Opinion

READ, REFLECT, RESPOND.

"To be persuasive, we must be believable; to be believable, we must be credible; credible, we must be truthful."

Edward R. Murrow

'Grumpy' ticket holder decries big money in college sports

For nearly 30 years, I've been a season ticket holder for Nebraska volleyball matches.

I also used to cover the sport. I was around when then-Coach Terry Pettit was begging football fans to attend volleyball matches after watching a football game.

Way back in the day (years before I caught the volleyball bug) loyal fans used to set up their own folding chairs so they could watch a match.

Fast forward to today. Home volleyball matches in Lincoln have been sold out for years, making it harder for new fans to attend matches despite the move to the Devaney Center, which doubled the tickets available.

ALL THINGS NEBRASKA



State Correspondent Paul Hammel

Nebraska's volleyball program has won five national championships, and is regularly in the top five teams in the country. Team members are celebrities and now, internet darlings. Little girls in the state grow up dreaming to be Huskers.

And, oh yeah, don't forget the incredible Memorial Stadium match in 2023 when 92,000 eager fans packed the football venue. It set a record for the most fans to attend a women's sporting contest.

To say that the success of women's

volleyball has been incredible is almost an understatement. And this fall, the Huskers will again be one of the favorites to win it all.

But now, loyal fans like me are being asked to step aside so people who have more money, and give more money to the university, can choose the best seats in the house - the ones where fans like me used to sit.

It's called "reseating" and the NU athletic department describes it as an attempt to "embrace the evolution of intercollegiate athletics and find ways to preserve our financial model."

In plain English: "college sports is a big money enterprise, and we need to cater to the people who give the most money." The big donors, mostly those giving to football and other sports, have been allowed to pick season tickets (up to six each) since early June. I get to wait until July 13, and can only choose up to four.

This is despite being a regular contributor to the athletic department, faithfully giving the suggested contributions to keep our two seats. Our seats were great. We felt like we were part of the match, and responded loudly. Now, we're looking at the nose-bleed sections, in the darkened, upper reaches of the arena, far from the action.

Some friends who used to share our seats have backed out, saying it's not worth it. Others I know gave up when the reseating was announced last year.

On some level I understand what's going on. College athletics has become a big-money enterprise, and now that athletes are being paid, big money needs to be raised.

But it stinks that loyal fans, including those who used to set up their own chairs for matches (you know, the ones who "all stick together, in all kinds of weather") are being shoved aside.

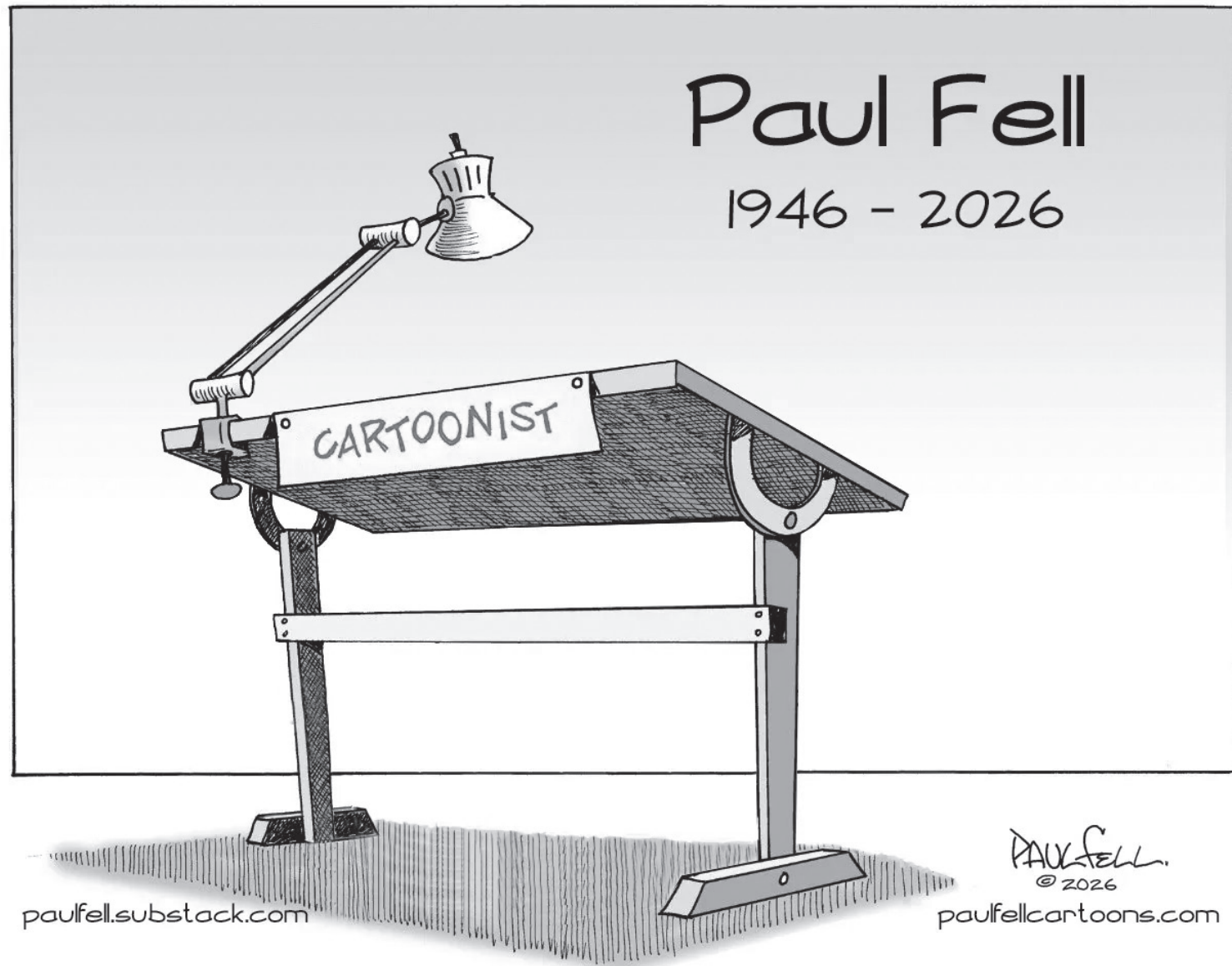
I complained about this so much that the NU athletic director (to his credit

called me to talk me off the ledge.

He calmly explained that since players can now be paid, and can earn extra money through "name, image and likeness" deals with companies, Nebraska needs more money to compete.

I appreciate that the university is getting creative, and using assets like Memorial Stadium to earn extra money by staging concerts, "Banana Ball" and even some goofy golf game inside

See HAMMEL, Page 5



paulfell.substack.com

paulfellcartoons.com

What A Ride: Where A Pen, Some Talent, And Courage Can Take You - A Requiem For Paul Fell

By Shawn "Smith" Peirce Images can say so much more than words - but words can help frame the images, if they're chosen carefully.

Paul Fell was a master of communicating through images, specifically cartoons, for most of his nearly 80 years on this Earth. And I was lucky enough to have worked closely with him for most of the past 26 years, helping him to get his cartoons from the page to the computer to the world.

Growing up, I'd enjoyed reading Paul's cartoons in the local newspapers, seeing his Husker football prediction cartoons, and later, his HuskerNutz toons. But it was his political cartoons that I really loved, where his perspective was so often the same as many Nebraskans - straightforward, honest, with humor to soften the blow of whatever ridiculous thing had just happened. Little did I know then that we'd end up working together and being friends for almost half of my life.

In 2000, I was the "Chief Technology Consultant" working for the Nebraska Press Association, and Paul was the cartoonist for the weekly "Capitol News Toon," a feature he provided to the newspapers of Nebraska, through the Press Association, for more than 30 years. We struck up a friendship, helping each other in our business ventures, and working together on his website, and later, on several versions of his Daily Felltoon newsletter.

Through all that time, Paul was always teaching and helping others, to see the world differently, to laugh, to think, and to stay engaged in politics, at the local, state, federal, and even international levels. The number of people he helped, through his teaching career, and through his cartooning career are far too numerous to count. As Dennis DeRossett, Executive Director of the Nebraska Press Association, said to me recently, "[Paul] certainly

has served well the community newspapers of Nebraska and their thousands of readers for many years -- an amazing talent and perspective that will be missed."

If he were reading this, Paul might chuckle and humbly accept the praise - and then he'd likely say something like, "Don't make a big deal of it. Everybody dies. This has been a fun life." Or as Paul put it in his final email to me, "It's been a fun ride." As has been so often the case, I can't really argue with Paul on that.

Of course, as fellow Nebraskans, your instinct is likely to try to help Paul's family and friends, as we try to deal with his loss. While we appreciate the sentiment, we can assure you - we've been instructed by Paul not to do anything big at this point. You might see a simple obituary in the newspaper, and some posthumous honors, but not much more than that.

What Paul would rather you do is simple: Stay active in the politics of your community, your state, and your nation. Support media you believe in, including your local newspaper, your favorite freelancers, and especially independent media, like ThePoliticsBar.com, my own weekday political newsletter, radio show, and podcast, that Paul enjoyed and subscribed to. Of course, Paul would also want you to continue supporting independent cartoonists like Ann Telnaes, Jeff Koterba, Tom Tomorrow, and Clay Bennett.

For those who are missing Paul's cartoons, Paul and I, along with his wife Arlene, have already taken steps to make sure to keep Paul's cartoons remain online for the foreseeable future, at his website PaulFellCartoons.com, along with his Substack site at paulfell.substack.com. We highly recommend you go back through his cartoon archives, and share the best ones with your friends, via email or on

your social media platforms.

You'll find a surprising number of Paul's cartoons remain ever-green, whether it's a cartoon about Trump's Iran nuclear deal, our ravenous-yet-empty corporate media, Donald Trump leading the Republican Party to its end, or even America being torn apart by the past decade-plus of our politics.

There are also some cartoons that Paul had finished, but never got published, so we'll also be adding those to his website soon. The long-term plan is to transfer all of Paul's digital archives to the University of Nebraska, and add them to his printed archives, which are already housed there. That way, his work will be accessible by the public for many years to come.

Having been friends with and having worked with Paul as long as I did, there's one last thing Paul would want to say to all those who enjoyed his work and were part of his life: "Thank you."

Paul always considered himself just another guy who liked to cartoon and had some opinions. He was lucky enough to come to Nebraska, meet an amazing, smart, beautiful woman, be able to teach people about art and cartooning at great schools like Peru State and the University of Nebraska, and make his living doing something he loved and was great at - cartooning.

He got to travel the world with his bride, make friends from everywhere, enjoy football, volleyball, baseball, and other sports, as well as enjoying art, history, literature, and music. In the end, he also got to make a positive difference in the lives of millions, through his cartooning, and through the actions of the people who read and shared those cartoons.

Not bad for a guy who grew up in Massachusetts and headed west to Nebraska to play college football and study art. As Paul said, "It's been a fun ride." Indeed, my friend. Thanks for letting all of us come along for it.



Paul Fell

WASHINGTON REPORT



U.S. Senator Pete Ricketts

250 years of the American 'Dream'

Our country was founded on the belief that all Americans have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These building blocks make the American Dream possible. We live in a nation of opportunity. A nation that enables kids to have it better than their parents. A nation that believes that hard work leads to success. For the last 250 years, Americans from all backgrounds have achieved their American Dream.

In the Senate, I'm fighting to renew the American Dream. The Working Families Tax Cuts invests in American families and the next generation. With my Senate Republican colleagues, we're building a path for 250 more years of the Good Life in Nebraska.

The Working Families Tax Cuts was great for families. One of the ways we're supporting Nebraskans is with the new Trump Accounts. These investment accounts will kick-start the American Dream for our kids. You can download the app now. Starting on the Fourth of July, Nebraskans will be able to start opening these accounts.

All American kids under the age of 18 are eligible for a Trump Account. Those born between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2028, will be able to enroll in accounts that will automatically have one thousand dollars deposited. This investment will be provided by the U.S. Treasury. Parents and guardians will be the custodians of the accounts, but kids will own them. At 18, the Trump Account is theirs.

These accounts will work like a traditional Individual Retirement Account. Up to \$5,000 a year can be deposited into a Trump Account. Parents, family members, churches, community groups, non-profits, and even employers can contribute. Many have already committed to contributing.

For example, Michael and Susan Dell donated \$6.25 billion. Thanks to the Dell's unprecedented gift, the first 25 million American children age 10 and under living in ZIP codes with median incomes below \$150,000 will receive an additional \$250. Charles Schwab will match the government's \$1,000 investment for families that work for them. Our state government will also open accounts for all foster kids in Nebraska. These "Fostering the Future" Accounts work just the same, making sure young Nebraskans in foster care turn 18 with a little extra financial help.

This is money that young Nebraskans can put toward college, buying their first home, or starting a business. For the children whose accounts will start with \$1,000, additional contributions are not required. The accounts will still grow. As these accounts launch, we will provide more details.

Another way we are investing in our children and families is with the expansion of the Child Tax Credit. Without The Working Family Tax Cuts, the Child Tax Credit was set to decrease by \$1,000. But Senate Republicans increased the Child Tax Credit to \$2,200 a year per child and made it permanent. This will benefit over 239,000 Nebraska families. Increasing the Child Tax Credit allows families to have more money in their pockets. We want to encourage Americans to work hard for their families. This is what keeps the American Dream alive.

The Working Families Tax Cuts also provided an increase in the child and dependent tax credit. We increased the maximum credit rate from 25% to 50%. We also increased the tax deduction from \$5,000 to \$7,500 for dependent care. We made the first-ever permanent Paid Family Medical Leave credit, based on legislation from Senator Deb Fischer. We expanded tax credits for employer-provided childcare and created new credits for small businesses. We also extended the ABE accounts, which otherwise would have expired in 2025. These accounts help individuals with disabilities to save and invest through tax-free savings without losing eligibility for federal programs like Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income (SSI).

These are real investments in American families and the next generation. But every Democrat - every single one - voted against these provisions. Senate Republicans are renewing opportunity for our kids' futures and supporting our working families.

We're encouraging and supporting the American Dream. We're making the Good Life more attainable for all Nebraskans.

Numbers to Know

President Donald J. Trump, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20510; phone (202) 456-1111.

U.S. Senate Website: www.senate.gov

Senator Deb Fischer: 825 B Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington D.C. 20510. Phone: (202) 224-6551. Fax: (202) 228-1325.

Senator Pete Ricketts: 386A Senate Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Phone (202) 224-4224.

U.S. House Website: www.house.gov

Representative Adrian Smith: 503 House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515-2703. Phone (202) 225-6435. Fax: (202) 225-

0207. E-mail: http://www.house.gov/writerep/.

Nebr. Unicameral Website www.unicam.state.ne.us

Governor Jim Pillen: Executive Suite, P.O. Box 94848, Lincoln, NE 68509. Phone: (402) 471-2244.

Lieutenant Governor Joe Kelly: Office of the Lt. Gov., P.O. Box 94863, Lincoln, NE 68509-4863. Phone: (402) 471-2256.

District 40 State Senator Barry DeKay: P.O. Box 94604, Lincoln, NE 68509. Phone: (402) 471-2801. E-mail: bdekay@leg.ne.gov.



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Celebrating America's 250th birthday

Two hundred and fifty years ago, on July 4, 1776, our nation's founding fathers gathered to proclaim their independence from Great Britain. This act of rebellion led to the formation of the country we now know and love.

WASHINGTON REPORT



U.S. Senator
Deb Fischer

I am proud that our nation is guided by the foundational belief that we are all created equal, endowed with the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These principles along with my love for our state, are the very reasons I decided to run for U.S. Senate.

Since then, I've worked hard to fight for Nebraska, to represent our interests to the federal government, to listen to our farmers, our ranchers, our small businesses, and our families. Time and again, when

I speak directly with Nebraskans, I am reminded what an honor it is to represent our state, what a privilege it is to serve in Congress, and how grateful I am to play a part in upholding our freedoms. Serving Nebraska is truly the honor of my life.

To celebrate America's 250th birthday, I asked you all what you love about our country, and it is my pleasure to share a few responses I received below:

Nancy from Sidney
I am so grateful for FREEDOM we have in our country! And the wide-open space we have in NEBRASKA!

Cale from Omaha
I love the grit, determination, and tenacity of Americans. It inspires me to push through no matter what!

Dorothy from Ong
There are so many aspects to love about America: the rich natural beauty of its diverse landscape, the friendliness, warmth and resilience of its people, and the sense of optimism and innovation pervading daily life here.

Ian from Waverly

What I love about America is that the founding principles from 250 years ago still hold up today. Hardworking people are best equipped to build their own futures. Freedom isn't abstract. It's the farmer who owns his land, the small business owner who built something from nothing, the neighbor who shows up without being asked. That's the American character rooted in faith and community. The American Dream isn't guaranteed, and that's exactly what makes it worth fighting for.

Cindy from North Platte
My freedoms: worship, speech, self-protection, self-determination.

As we mark 250 years of America, we have the chance to reflect on the core values that bind us together. We are reminded of the sacrifices so many have willingly given to protect and preserve the land we love. As we reunite with family and friends, I hope you join me in honoring our nation's history.

Thank you for participating in the democratic process. I look forward to visiting again with you next week.

OBITUARIES

Allen J. "Red" Kallhoff, 90

February 4, 1936 — June 29, 2026

A 1955 graduate of St. Boniface High School in Elgin, he served in the U.S. Navy until being honorably discharged in 1959



Allen "Red" Joseph Kallhoff of Omaha, Nebraska, died

on Monday, June 29th at the age of 90.

Allen was born February 4th, 1936, in Ewing, Nebraska. In 1954, he graduated from St. Boniface High School in Elgin, Nebraska.

In 1955, Allen enlisted into the United States Navy where he reached the rank of Petty Officer 3rd Class.

He was involved in the Lebanese Crisis and the Caribbean Crisis and was honorably discharged in 1959. After the Navy, he coached high school basketball.

Soon after moving to Omaha, Allen was united in marriage with Catherine Weiss in 1963.

Allen then went on to work for Lucent Technology as a specialized welder. He worked there for 38 years. He also was active in coaching youth basketball and baseball (Grover Little League).

Allen was devoted to the Catholic Faith where he helped

usher and worked as an altar server. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus for many years.

Allen had many passions. One of his biggest passions was gardening. He shared the vegetables from his garden with neighbors and family and donated them. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved hunting and fishing.

After retirement, Allen continued fishing and hunting with his sons, grandkids, and friends. He is survived by his wife, Catherine; his son, Curtis (Deb); his son, Craig (Laura); his five grandchildren: Kelsie, Bryce, Dylan, Benjamin, and Julia; and two great-grandchildren, Haidyn and Gavin. He was preceded in death by parents, Joseph and Regina Kallhoff; sisters, Rita Danko and Alyce Turner; along with brothers, Harold and Walter "Dean" Kallhoff.

Memorials are suggested to: St. Thomas More Catholic Church, the Wounded Warrior Project, or St. Boniface Catholic Church in Elgin.

The Elgin Review • July 8, 2026

New federal income guidelines for WIC increases eligibility

New income guidelines increased the number of families who could qualify for the Nebraska Department of Health

and Human Services (DHHS) Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) supplemental nutrition assistance program. The WIC

program is a federally funded program and an equal opportunity provider.

"Our Nebraska WIC program serves about 35,500 eligible people in Nebraska communities each month," said Dr. Timothy Tesmer, DHHS Chief Medical Officer. "WIC plays an essential role in supporting the health and well-being of families across Nebraska by providing access to nutritious foods, nutrition services, health screenings and referrals, and breastfeeding support."

The maximum income allowed for participation in WIC increased. Some families who were not eligible for the program in the past may now be eligible. For example, a family of four can make up to \$61,050 annually and could still qualify for WIC. This is a \$1,572 increase from last year.

WIC Income Guidelines Family Size - Annual - Monthly
1 - \$29,526 - \$2,461

2 - \$40,034 - \$3,337
3 - \$50,542 - \$4,212
4 - \$61,050 - \$5,088

WIC provides nutritious foods, health education, and breastfeeding support to women who are pregnant or just had a baby, infants, and children up to the age of five. All caregivers are welcome to apply for their child.

Nebraska WIC serves every county in the state with 14 main agencies and over 90 sites. Moms, dads, grandparents, foster parents, and guardians are encouraged to make an appointment at their local WIC office to apply for the program.

Current Medicaid, SNAP, or ADC recipients are income-eligible for the WIC program. However, if families' incomes are too high for these programs, they may still qualify for WIC. All foster children under five years of age and pregnant teen moms in foster care are income-eligible for WIC.

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1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14
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God's word clarifies things.
It's like light in the darkness,
Bring more light into your life in church this week.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.
Psalm 119:105-112
Genesis 25:19-34 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts for
Sunday, July 12, 2026
Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be the glory forever!
Amen.
Romans 11:36

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cppnebraska.org

St. Bonaventure Catholic Church
Raeville, NE
Fr. Frank Baumert, Parish Administrator
Rev. Anthony Weidner, Associate Pastor
Weekend Mass: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday, 8 am.
cppnebraska.org

Park Congregational U.C.C. Church
Elgin, NE
Congregational
Sunday Worship Service: 9:15 am.
Sunday School: 10:15 am.
Communion Sunday: 1st Sunday of each month. Park Women's Fellowship: 2 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the church. Parish Council: 7:30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the church.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Petersburg, NE
Fr. Frank Baumert, Parish Administrator
Rev. Anthony Weidner, Associate Pastor
Weekend Mass: 2nd & 4th Sunday, 8 am.
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Bartlett Church of Faith
Bartlett, NE
Pastor Mark Hoffman
Sunday Worship Service: 9 am.
Sunday School: 10-10:45 am.

Calvary Bible Church
Neligh, NE
Pastor Peter Sample
Sunday School: 9:30 am.
Worship Service: 10:45 am.

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Trinity Lutheran Church
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Vacancy Pastor Brian Bucklew
Sunday Worship Service: 8 am.
Sunday school follows service.
Saturday Evening Service: 6 pm on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Elgin Community Christian Church
Elgin, NE
Pastor Jonathan Braden
605-430-9171
Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 am.
Church Council: 2nd Tuesday of each month.

St. John's Catholic Church
Rural Clearwater, NE
Fr. Frank Baumert, Parish Administrator
Rev. Anthony Weidner, Associate Pastor
Weekend Mass: 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturday, 5:30 am.
cppnebraska.org

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Chambers, NE
Pastor Leif Hasskarl
Sunday Worship: 8:30 am.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:30 am.

Immanuel-Zion Lutheran Church
ELCA
Rural Albion, NE
Pastor Elizabeth Goehring
Worship Service: 9:30 am.
Coffee following services
Sunday School: 10:30 am.
Holy Communion, 1st & 3rd Sundays
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is confidence is what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.
Hebrews 11:1

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From JoAnn Baum's Kitchen

Taco Dip



Good day, This week I am sharing a recipe I got from one of my readers. She brought this dip to a gathering to share. It is so very delicious. It's perfect for a weekend of the lake if you need a snack. The kids would love it! Serve it on a "Taco Tuesday" with your favorite Mexican dish. Or serve it anytime. I love hearing from my readers and sharing some of their favorites. Thank you Dorothy for sharing! Try this one and you will make it again!

JoAnn

TACO DIP

1 lb hamburger	1 small can green chilis
1 pkg taco seasoning	Shredded cheese (8 oz or more)
1 can refried beans	Tortilla chips
16 oz sour cream	
Med-small jar of salsa	

Brown hamburger: Drain off grease. Brown or toast the taco seasoning in your pan before putting the meat back in the pan. Add the hamburger, stir well and add the water according to the seasoning packet. Add the refried beans and the green chilis. Spread the mixture in a 9x13 pan. Spread a thin layer of sour cream over the top. Cover with shredded cheese. Bake at 350° until the cheese is melty for about 10 minutes. Take out of the oven and spread a jar of salsa on the top. Eat with tortilla chips! Enjoy!



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Courtesy photo Showing their patriotic spirit, the Bartlett Lions Club had a float in the Ericson Fourth of July Parade held Saturday. Red, white and blue colors plus a number of U.S. flags adorned the float.

Bartlett News

Ken Hamsa of "Ken's Band Repair," of Norfolk Nebraska held a Band Instrument Repair Workshop for music teachers around the area. The event was held at Norfolk Jr. Sr. High Band Room, June 8 from 10-12 a.m. Those who attended were: Jason Stech; Neligh/Oakdale, Eric Heithoff; Elgin Public, Emily Heithoff; Summerland, Chirstalin Ginn; Osmond, Faith Orcutt; Verdigrree, Amber Knight; Madison, Heather Walls; Madison, Curtis Stevens; Norfolk High School, Bob Viergutz; David City Aquinas, Chad Dean; O'Neill, Karen Barnes; Atkinson West Holt, Sherry

Tetschner; Wheeler Central, Jessica Horsely; Wakefield, Ann Henny; Lutheran High Northeast (Norfolk), Carrie Jensen; Norfolk Jr. High, Kim Erickson; Norfolk Middle School and Brenda Hale of Elkhorn Valley.. Ken included some fun facts about himself. He has been at his place of business for approximately 27 years. He repairs approximately 800 instruments a year. That adds to an approximate total sum of over 20,000 instruments that have been repaired in his shop. Those attending breathed a sigh of relief when Ken said he was getting slower, but loves his

work and will continue as long as he can. Ken showed us the major tools he uses, how to use them and gave some repair tips for fixing band instruments. He also shared some funny stories that went with some of the instrument repairs. Ken and his wife Linda Jensen provided a lunch of pizza, pop and dessert goodies. All the teachers attending so appreciate all that Ken has done in repairing band instruments over the years. He is also considered a good friend of all of his customers. Submitted by Sherry Tetschner

Community Calendar

- * See ad/story in this week's Elgin Review
- Thursday, July 9**
Caregivers Support meeting at Elgin Community Center.
 - Tuesday, July 14**
Regular meeting of the Antelope County Board of Commissioners at the Neligh courthouse.
 - Wednesday, July 15**
Regular meeting of the District #18 Board of Education starting at 7 p.m.* ■ PJCC Board of Education meeting ■ Salads and Songs with Heavenly Hens at the fellowship hall sponsored by the Raeville Christian Mothers.
 - Wednesday, July 22**
PJCC Parent Work Night.
 - Saturday, July 25**
Pope John/ Wolfpack Alumni Softball Tournament at Petersburg.
 - Monday - Sunday, July 27 thru August 2**
Wheeler County Fair at the fairgrounds in Bartlett.
 - Monday - Sunday, July 27 thru August 2**
Antelope County Fair at the Neligh Fairgrounds.

Events listing courtesy of



ELGIN VETERANS' MEDICAL CLINIC
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Photo submitted Cornerstone Bank's 'America 250 Open House' Wednesday, July 1. Bartlett Cornerstone employees, Colleen Butterfield, Teresa Swick, Zach Wright and Jaime Harrison helped host this event in Bartlett. The Open House event included strawberry lemonade, made by Teresa Swick, iced tea and Jaime Harrison's famous decorated sugar cookies. Attendees registered for a chance to win a cash drawing.

Public meeting on transmission line set

By Greg Tharnish
Special to The Elgin Review
 Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) representative Jason Hofer presented the Antelope County Commissioners (ACC) with an update on the proposed Antelope County to Holt County Transmission Line Project. The ACC met yesterday and heard Hofer inform them that a second public meeting concerning the route of the 345kV Transmission Line will take place July 21 from 3 p.m. - 7 p.m. at the American Legion in Clearwater. If approved, all physical structures of the transmission line will be on private land. However, aerial lines will cross Antelope County roads and that's where safety issues came into question. Antelope County Engineer Brian McDonald expressed concerns about the height of aerial lines crossing roads where

potential work could take place, i.e., bridge and culvert replacement or repair. McDonald stated that issues could arise with crane or backhoe equipment coming in contact with the transmission line. Hofer stated that NPPD will work with the county if issues arose. McDonald, with past experience with power companies, wasn't so sure. More discussion and information to follow at next week's ACC meeting. In a separate report, Engineer McDonald asked the ACC to set a date for public comment on road closure of 852nd road, two miles west off of Highway 14. The date was set for August 4 at 9:15 a.m. McDonald also reported that he was called to inspect two bridges southeast of Elgin after it was reported that wind tower contractors once again took unapproved routes when

hauling loads for wind tower maintenance. The routes were taken, again without permits, around 1:00 am sometime last week. McDonald will meet with the County Attorney on billing the parties involved and possible fines. County Clerk Lisa Payne informed the ACC that budget season is here. Department heads are putting numbers together and next week budget talks will begin. Road Superintendent Leigh Kluthe reported to the ACC on current road work taking place and county work equipment getting repaired. Finally, Commissioner Eli Jacob commended the Antelope County Road employees who worked at 5 p.m. on Friday evening of the Clearwater Rodeo. A heavily traveled road going north out of Clearwater needed work and the employees jumped to the task. It is greatly appreciated.



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CARD OF THANKS

As the smoke clears and the sparklers cool down, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who stopped by our firework stand this year. Thank you for making us a part of your 4th of July celebrations. We are incredibly proud to be a part of this community!

G & J Fireworks - Gary & Julie Schiltmeyer



Sayre switch smoothly between Old World instruments such as the English concertina (upper left photo) and fretted dulcimer (lower right). He also led the audience in song. Approximately 40 people attended the performance, part of this year's Nebraska Smorgasbord series.

Performance by Chris Sayre

Audience "eats up" 2026 Nebraska Smorgasbord

Held at Neligh Mill State Historic Site on Thursday, July 2

As the sun dipped below the tree line and a light breeze blew across the grassy rise, Nebraska musical artist Chris Sayre treated an audience to a lesson on cultural music that was a part of Nebraska's founding from settlers.

Born into a musical family, Sayre told the *Elgin Review* that he's enjoyed working with the Nebraska Humanities (underwriters of performances such as these, along with the Nebraska State Historical Society) since 1999.

Until 2016, he was also a familiar face on the Arts in Schools circuit but he decided

that, after 30 years, it was time for someone else to take those reins.

"I loved it, but it was just time," he said. One of his last performances as an artist-in-residency was at St. Boniface/Pope John schools here in Elgin, a week he says he remembers fondly.

Performing on a variety of instruments including a button accordion, guitar, mandolin, musical saw, bowed zither and more, he brought smiles, clapping plus a lot of toe-tapping to The Mill.

E-R photos/LMorgan



Managing heat stress in your livestock

Warm weather has returned, bringing the risk of heat stress in livestock. Cattle in feedlots or other confinement settings are often at greatest risk, especially those near finished weight, but pasture cattle, bulls, calves, sheep, goats, and other livestock can all be affected when high temperatures, humidity, low wind, and warm nights stack together. Heat stress is driven by more than temperature alone. Humidity, wind, sunlight, and whether animals can cool down overnight all pqqqqqq lay a role.

IT'S ALL ABOUT BEEF



Beef Systems Asst. Ext. Educator Ben Beckman

A couple of tools can help producers monitor risk before animals are already in trouble. The Nebraska Mesonet Adult Cattle Comfort Index uses real-time weather station data to estimate cattle comfort levels across the state. The USDA Agricultural Research Service also has cattle heat stress forecast resources from the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center at Clay Center. Producers can find these by searching "Nebraska Mesonet cattle comfort index" or "USDA ARS cattle heat stress forecast."

Preparation should start before the heat arrives. For cattle in pens, consider marketing finished or nearly finished cattle ahead of a major heat event. If that is not possible, move high-risk cattle to pens with better shade, airflow, water access, or bedding options. High-risk groups include finished or heavy cattle, dark-hided cattle, high-intake animals, livestock with previous health issues, and pens or pastures with limited water, shade, or airflow. Bulls are also worth watching, as heat stress can affect fertility for several weeks.

Water is the most important piece of heat stress management. Make sure tanks are clean, water flow is adequate, and animals have room to drink without crowding. In pens, temporary tanks can help spread cattle out. In pastures, check tanks, pipelines, ponds, and automatic waterers to be sure they can keep up with demand. Weak water flow may not be noticed until animals are already under stress.

Shade and airflow also matter. Shade needs to be large enough to avoid crowding and high enough to allow air movement. Poorly designed shade can concentrate animals and make conditions worse.

In pasture settings, natural shade can help, but make sure water access is not forcing animals to travel long distances during the hottest part of the day. In feedlot pens, sprinklers can help when used correctly and started before cattle are in severe distress.

Limit handling during extreme heat. Avoid receiving, processing, sorting, hauling, rotating, or moving animals during the heat of the day. If livestock must be worked, do it early in the morning and keep the process quiet and low stress. Evening may feel cooler to us, but cattle may still be carrying heat from earlier in the day. For feedlot cattle, also avoid large or sudden feed changes. Storm rations or diets with more roughage may help lower metabolic heat load, while added fat should be avoided during extreme heat.

Signs of heat stress include open-mouth breathing, excessive salivation, bunching, restlessness, standing rather than lying down, and crowding around water or shade. Severe cases may become weak, uncoordinated, or go down. Once severe signs appear, options are limited, so prevention and early response are key.

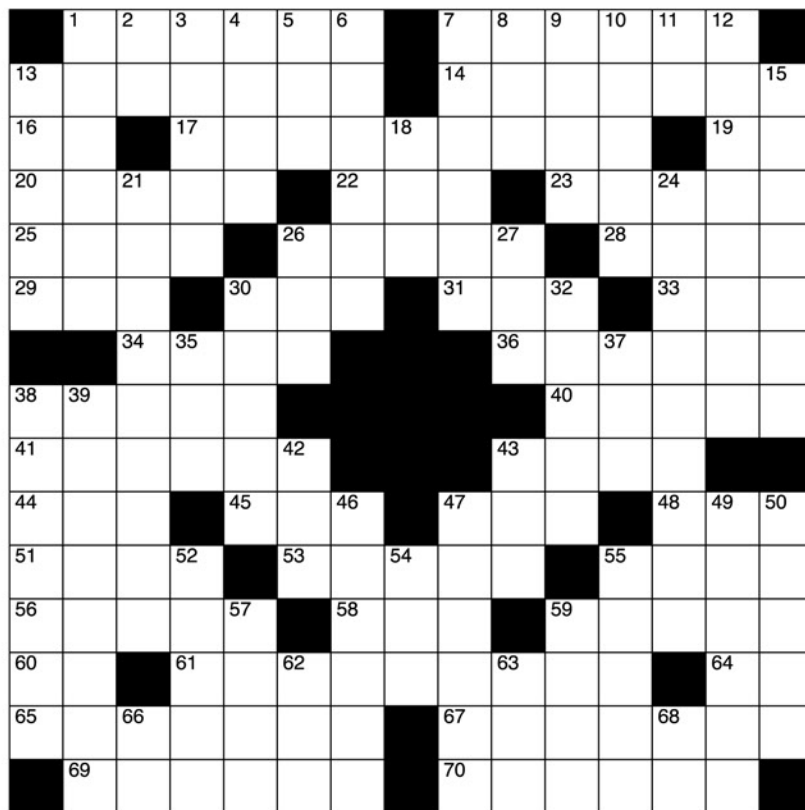
Heat stress is serious, but preparation makes a difference. Watching the forecast, using heat stress tools, maintaining water, improving shade and airflow, reducing handling, and identifying high-risk animals can all help limit losses. For questions specific to feedlot heat stress, Dr. Alfredo DiCostanzo, Nebraska Extension Beef Systems Educator in Cuming County, is a great resource. He can be reached at 402-372-6006 or by email at adicostanzo3@unl.edu.

- Ben Beckman is a beef systems Extension Educator serving northeast Nebraska. He is based out of the Cedar County Extension office in Hartington. You can reach him by phone: (402) 254-6821 or email: ben.beckman@unl.edu



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CLUES ACROSS

- Mended
- Hymns
- Commercial transport of goods
- Poked holes in the ground
- They precede C
- Branch of knowledge concerned with wealth



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CLUES DOWN

- Hard things to kick
- Collective of countries
- Letter of Hebrew alphabet
- One-time Alabama running back
- Eddie
- One's sense of self-esteem
- Of the teeth
- Treat with care
- Type of whale
- Curved structure
- Emits coherent radiation
- One of the Gospels (abbr.)
- Smallest interval in western music



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Crossword Clues

- A place to sleep
- Annual music awards show
- Made over
- Hard, stony substance
- Incantations
- Long-legged, wading bird
- Breathe noisily
- Congressman
- Rip off
- Golf score
- Popular pickup truck
- Where infants sleep
- Musical term
- Small opening in a surface
- Musical term meaning "very"
- Soviet Socialist Republic
- Treats with powder
- Email subject line feature
- A British lawyer
- Expression of laughter
- Farmer's calendar
- Seeds used as food
- Eurasian shrubs
- Periods of inactivity

- Netherlands seat of government
- Gives to charitably
- Lout
- Pastas
- Release from restrictions
- Female sibling
- Title of respect
- Silver coins
- Region in India
- Partner to cheese
- Dark or dusky
- Musical term
- Exaggerate
- Toddler
- Touch lightly
- Fundamentals
- Jeopardies
- Curved structures
- Isolated, flat-topped hills
- Forming the bottom layer
- Reciprocal of sine
- Genus of Old World birds
- New York college
- Clack
- Kawhi Leonard's team (abbr.)
- Vietnamese offensive
- "The Great Lakes State"
- "_, myself and I"



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Kill Cows.....	147.50 to 167.50	
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7 BLK Bulls.....	2203.....	240.00

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NOTICE OF MEETING TO VOTE TO INCREASE BASE GROWTH PERCENTAGE

THE DISTRICT #18 BOARD OF EDUCATION

**NOTICE OF BOARD MEETING
NOTICE OF VOTE TO INCREASE
BASE GROWTH PERCENTAGE
USED TO DETERMINE PROPER-
TY TAX REQUEST AUTHORITY**
The Elgin Public Schools Board

of Education will meet on Wednesday July 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Elgin High School Board Room for a board meeting. Among other topics to be discussed, pursuant to Nebraska State Statute 79-3405,

the Board will vote on whether to increase the school district's base growth percentage by up to 7 percent (7%). A copy of the agenda, kept continuously current, is avail-

able for public inspection in the superintendent's office during normal business hours.
PUBLISH: July 8, 2026
ZNEZ

Over 100 new laws to go into effect July 18

First, I hope everyone had a safe Independence Day holiday weekend. I again want to express my gratitude to our veterans and first responders for your courage, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to our communities, our state, and our country. For this week and the next few following weeks, I want to highlight several of the over 100 new laws that will go into effect on July 18.

According to Article III, Section 27 of the Nebraska Constitution, legislative bills become law (operative) three calendar months after the legislative session adjourns. The exceptions are if the legislative bill passes with an emergency clause or if a specific operative date is written into the text of the bill. Because legislative sessions and adjournment dates differ each year, the operative dates of legislative bills likewise fluctuate.

This year, since the Legislature adjourned on April 17th, the operative date for most legislative bills is July 18th. Some legislative bills going into effect on July 18th include:

LB60 by Senator Quick which

removes the prohibition that lottery tickets cannot be sold through a vending or dispensing device. Of the forty-five states with lotteries, Nebraska was one of two that did not allow lottery tickets to be sold through a vending or dispensing device;

LB110 by Senator Hughes which broadly prohibits a health care provider from performing pelvic exams on an unconscious person unless the patient provides written consent, the examination is necessary for emergency treatment purposes, or a court orders the performance of the examination for the collection of evidence;

LB202 by Kauth which exempts any doctor licensed under the Medicine and Surgery Practice Act from disciplinary measures for solely expressing an opinion that disagrees with the medical consensus on an issue of health or disease, unless the opinion or advice is disseminated with malicious intent or an intent to deceive;

LB203 by Senator Kauth which requires local health directors to secure prior writ-

ten approval from local elected officials before enacting community-wide directed health measures (e.g., mask mandates). Any approved directed health measures expire within 7 days unless reauthorized by local elected officials;

LB384 by Senator Storer which revises Nebraska's "pink postcard" law by requiring the county assessor and at least one elected member of each applicable governing body (e.g., school board) to attend joint public hearings when property tax requests are increased; and

LB429 by Senator Murman which requires school boards to provide equal access to employees' mailboxes, meetings and events to any professional employees' organization if the same access is given to one professional employees' organization. Examples of profes-

sional employees' organizations include teacher unions and similar organizations. The measure also requires equal treatment for signage and informational materials and prohibits naming school calendar days or breaks after such professional employees' organizations.

I invite you to let me know your thoughts or concerns. My Capitol office telephone number is (402) 471-2801 while my email is bdekay@leg.ne.gov.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



District 40 Senator
Barry DeKay

Court News

All fines in addition to \$49 court costs. *Denotes an amendment of original charge(s).

McKayen A Larock, Omaha, NE 4/25/26 Hunt/fish/trap without permission, Fined \$200.00 - Johnson.

Arion K Galbreath, Cheyenne, WY 6/9/26 Speeding 75/65 MPH, Fined \$75.00 - Hartley.

Jeri J Claussen, Tilden, NE 4/8/26 No valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, Fined \$25.00 - Mohr.

Curt J Thiele, Clearwater, NE 4/23/26 Speeding 75/65 MPH, Fined \$75.00 - Mohr.

Cain L Mortensen, Neligh, NE 6/8/26 Violate load contents requirements, Fined \$100.00 - Kavan.

Dallus L Christiansen, Neligh, NE 11/13/24 DUI-alcohol-2nd offense/Speeding 80/65 MPH, Fined \$575.00 - Wiggins.

Kaden A Cameron, Oakdale, NE 5/20/26 Display fictitious plate/no proof of ownership/CMV-Brake general/CMV-Brake general, Fined \$200.00 - Asche.

Brett J Kielty, Tilden, NE 4/26/26 Careless driving, Fined \$100.00 - Ternus.

Martin R Siems, Clearwater, NE 1/29/26 DUI-alcohol-1st offense, Fined \$500.00 - Barker.

Paul M Juergens, Sheridan, WY 5/29/26 Speeding 78/65 MPH, Fined \$125.00 - Barker.

Jake J Wagner, Creighton, NE 6/2/26 Careless driving, Fined \$100.00 - Barker.

Anaya Margarito Cortez, Columbus, NE 5/23/26 Violate fishing regulations, Fined \$50 - Stahlecker.

Jose A Garcia Quinones, Columbus, NE 6/9/26 Speeding 74/65 MPH, Fined \$75.00 - Ahrendt.

Juan A Montoya Ramirez, Sioux City, IA 5/18/26 Speeding 75/65 MPH, Fined \$75.00 - Hartley.

Robert L Kargle, Homer, NE 6/12/26 Speeding 80/65 MPH, Fined \$125.00 - Walker.

Garret M Belitz, Neligh, NE 5/8/26 No valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, Fined \$25.00 - Mohr.

Trent A Morrow, Oakdale, NE 2/27/26 No valid registration/truck+No registration in vehicle+CMV-Marking, Fined \$275.00 - Asche.

Timothy G Arehart, Neligh, NE 4/7/26 No proof of ownership+Overweight on axle of group of axles, Fined \$375.00 - Asche.

Julio A Mendez Melara, Grand Island, NE 6/14/26 No operators license/waiverable, Fined \$75.00 - Fausti.

Brian D Kershner, Olathe, KS 6/2/26 Speeding 76/65 MPH, Fined \$125.00 - Ahrendt.

Joshua C Duncan, Omaha, NE 6/14/26 Speeding 75/65 MPH, Fined \$75.00 - Hartley.

Ayodele N Laudat, Shelton, CT 12/30/23 Speeding 75/65 MPH, Fined \$25.00 - Dostal.

Thad D Hazen, Plainview, NE 6/8/26 No valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, Fined \$25.00 - Koch.

Michael L Kumm, Castle Rock, CO 3/8/26 Speeding 83/65 MPH, Fined \$200.00 - Hartley.

Brandon D Evans, Tilden, NE 6/22/26 CMV-Brake general, Fined \$50.00 - Asche.

Sean J Throckmorton, Oakdale, NE 3/15/26 DUI-alcohol-2nd offense, Fined \$500.00 - Barker.

Sunday K Wilson, Kenmore, WA 2/27/26 Speeding 80/65 MPH, Fined \$125.00 - Barker.

Tyler A. Falen-Gerde, Rush City, MN 2/10/26 Speeding 75/65 MPH, Fined \$75.00 - Hartley.

Hector Aleja Solorzano Sanchez, Elgin, NE 6/28/26 No proof of ownership, Fined \$50.00 - C.D. Moore.

Alejandro S Marguez, Thornton, CO 6/26/26 Violate stop or yield sign, Fined \$75.00 - R.E. Moore.

The men who signed the Declaration of Independence

Editor's note: This week marks another installment of a new series tied to our nation's 250th birthday in July 2026.

As we celebrate 250 years of Independence, it seems appropriate to review the Declaration of Independence and to explore the background of those who created and signed the most important document in our country's history. It is written by Caroline Epp of Giltner, Nebraska.

Many know the name, John Hancock, being the largest signature, large enough so the King did not need his spectacles, on the Declaration of Independence and synonym today of the word 'signature'.

His father and grandfather were pastors. By reason of inheritance from an uncle, he became one of the wealthiest men of Massachusetts at the early age of 26. I am going to give you a concise rundown of his life as found in the book, Original Intent by David Barton: John Hancock...Soldier, public official; graduated from Harvard (1754); served several terms as a Selectman of Boston; member of the Provincial Legislature (1766-72); member of the Continental Congress (1774-78) where he was the first signer of the Declaration of Independence (1776) and President of Congress (1774-77); Senior Major-General of Massachusetts Militia (1778); delegate to the State constitutional convention (1779); Governor of Massachusetts (1780-85, 1787-93).

Mr. Hancock, a true patriot, quickly embraced independence. He stood against taxation by the British and you might say had a hand in the Boston Tea Party since he was a member of the Sons of Liberty.

He also smuggled goods from other countries with his ships for the colonies. Hancock encouraged boycotting English products but not for his own gain. He knew there was a time to stand for what was right no matter the cost.

Hancock, with Sam Adams were warned by Paul Revere that the British were coming to Lexington and Concord to destroy the patriot's supply of ammunition. From the ensuing battle, over 50 colonial militiamen were killed; the "shot heard around the world," the start of the Revolutionary War. As current President of the Continental Congress, Hancock commissioned George Washington as chief military officer of the united army of the colonies.

Hancock held nothing back in fighting for the cause of liberty for our nation. He would be first to encourage the same from us.

To better acquaint ourselves with John Hancock, here are some of his quotes:

"I conjure you, by all that is dear, by all that is honorable, by all that is sacred; not only that ye pray, but that ye act."

"The more people who own little businesses of their own, the safer our country will be, and the better off its cities and towns; for the people who have a stake in their country and their community are its best citizens."

"Resistance of tyranny becomes the Christian and social duty of each individual. ... Continue steadfast and with a proper sense of your dependence on God, nobly defend those rights which heaven gave, and no man ought to take from us."

"Sensible of the importance of Christian piety (reverence for God and the love of His character) and virtue to the order and happiness of a state, I cannot but earnestly commend to you every measure for their support and encouragement...Manners, by which not only the freedom, but the very existence of the republics, are greatly affected depend much upon the public institutions of religion and the good education of youth; in both these instances our fathers laid wise foundations, for which their posterity have had reason to bless their memory."

"Without freedom of thought, there is no such thing as wisdom; and no such thing as liberty, without freedom of speech."

It should also be noted that while John Hancock was Governor, he called his state of Massachusetts, to fasting and prayer or thanksgiving to God 22 times!!

Sister leaving is a big change

Editor's note: This is the first of what we hope to become a regular feature in the newspaper. Anna Stuhr, a student intern at The Elgin Review, will be writing stories, personal columns and taking photos as part of an ongoing internship.

Siblings. The light of our lives, the terrors in our nightmares, and the people we'd do anything for. Well, almost anything. I have three of them, and right now, we're going through a change in our family.

My oldest sister Reese has graduated high school, and she's about to leave the nest. She's decided to join the Air Force, and she left on July 7th. As the middle child, that opens up a whole new world of options for me, as the new oldest child at home. But, as I'm standing here, celebrating this incredible win for middle children everywhere, I can't help but stop and think. Now, thinking isn't something that I do all that often, but I had to think. About what it will be like with my nemesis gone. And about the other two who still linger.

Five questions. That's what I came up with. Not in any particular order, they were: Am I happy that Reese is leaving? Well, yes and no. Yes, because all of the power she had as the oldest is now passed to me. For instance, I get to leave the younger two at home if they aren't ready to go to school in time. But at the same time, I'm not happy that she's leaving. I mean, how do you say goodbye to the person who has been there for you your whole life? How do you say goodbye to the woman whose shared some of your fondest memories? Who taught you how to stand up for yourself? How am I supposed to say goodbye to my first best friend?

Second, what's it going to be like, now that she's leaving? Is my status in the sibling's ranking order going to get upgraded to number one, or will Reese always have a spot reserved for her? Can I take her room, her clothes, her stuffed animals, and her diary? Or will I be stuck with my room, my clothes, my stuffed animals, and my nonexistent diary?

Third, what's it going to feel like to lose her? My big sister. The person who's been one of the biggest parts of my life up to this point. The person I could always count on to have my back in the most serious situations, and the stupidest. For example, one of the continuing arguments that goes on in our house is "Dad's always right", and Reese and I would join forces and bring up all the instances where he's been wrong (which are few and far between). I could always count on her to enrage me to world destructive levels, and then make me laugh until I cried five minutes later. How is it going to feel to lose someone like that?

Fourth, am I going to be treated with all the love and respect that the oldest is treated with, or will I forever be the middle child, cursed to load and unload the dishwasher for eternity? Am I always going to have to do my brother's laundry? Will I be forced to care for the two beings who simply...exist? The two who are responsible for 95% of my bad moods? The munchkins who get me into trouble for being moody when mom knows that it's their fault!?

Finally, will I still be safe, now that my main line of defense is gone? Or will Melissa and Thomas be ganging up on me until the day that I graduate? Will I forever be a target, now that Reese isn't going to be here to protect me? Not that I need her help to defend myself. But still, I need to know. Will I be a target?

As I write about this terrible change in our family, tears of heartache and pain are streaming down my face. Now, if you weren't able to figure it out halfway through my heartfelt spiel, I don't like change. And Reese leaving, well, that's a big change. And it's one that I'm not entirely ready for. Despite all of my joking, I love her. She's my big sister. And I can't help but worry about her. About her getting hurt, or her getting sick, or any number of things that could happen and/or go wrong when she's deployed. I mean, her job is going to be Aircraft Armament Systems. She's gonna be testing weapons! What if one of them goes off when it's not supposed to, and she's in the way?!

But, in the wise words of Heartland, the band, "Time changes everything, life must go on, and I'm not gonna stand in your way."

So, what's now yours will soon be mine, and what's mine now will still be mine.

WASHINGTON REPORT

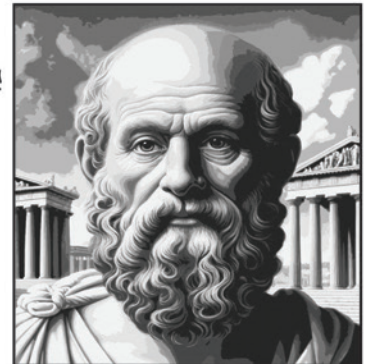


U.S. Senator
Pete Ricketts

A very wise man, Socrates, once said

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KNOW WHAT
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this guy!



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Photo submitted

The Elgin PeeWee baseball team finished second last week at the Quad County League Tournament. Wearing their medals are (front row, l-r): Boyd Spieker, Mark Schindler, Rexx Uecker, Leo Spieker, Diedrick Klein, Carter Lemburg and Harrison Lodge. Back row: Coach Adam Spieker, Coach Curtis Lemburg, James Moser, Bryson Kuhlman, Bentley Kittleson, Reid Kielty, Hunter Labeledz, Mikahia Hoefler, Coach Brett Kielty and Coach Martin Klein.

Spinning Tales Winning baseball, Elgin style

Summer baseball in Elgin couldn't get any better than what was witnessed last week.

As is the case at the end of June, teams hold their end of the season tournaments. Trophies and medals are up for grabs when players step across the white line and onto the field of play. Neligh does a fantastic job hosting these tournaments and such was the case again

this year. All year long I've heard from our office manager about how well the peeewe team has played and they saved their best for last, making a run all the way to the championship game Thursday night. Earlier in the week, Lynell and I took in the game between Elgin and O'Neill Gold. It was the late game Tuesday night and the lights were on, illumi-

nating what arguably could be described as an 'instant classic'.

Elgin took an early two-run lead only to see their opponent put nine runs on the board.

Undeterred, Elgin chipped away at the lead, tying the score in the bottom of the fifth inning 10-all.

In the sixth inning they fell behind by two runs. That's when the baseball gods took over. Elgin got two on when Reid Kielty stepped to the plate. He hit a rope down the third base line and then turned on the jets to score the winning run on an inside-the-park homerun. The victory came one night after defeating Neligh 14 to 13.

Kielty's home run sent Elgin to the next round and a match-up against Creighton. And, as fate would have it, Elgin won again, 6 to 5, on a walk off home run by Hunter Labeledz. Trust me, the jubilation felt by players like Kielty and Labeledz is no less than what is felt in the major leagues.

One would only have to ask Joe Carter who won a World Series for Toronto back in the 90s with a walk off home run to defeat the Atlanta Braves.

Three one-run victories propelled Elgin to Thursday night where, to win the championship, they would have to defeat O'Neill Green twice. They won

the first game 15 to 5. Green then snapped Elgin's winning streak 12 to 10.

That's a wild ride, full of everything that makes town team baseball and softball fun for family and fans who find a night at the ballpark enjoying a hot dog and nachos from the concession stand to be far better than staying at home. No distance seems too far for grandparents to come to the tournament games. Our office manager, Kari Schindler said her parents made the trip every night to watch grandson Mark Schindler play. That's approximately 80 miles one way. And, from the expressions I observed on their faces, the trip was well worth it. Some grandparents put on the miles to follow all their grandchildren whenever possible.

It wasn't always that way. Farm kids, I remember from when I was that age, didn't

SPINNING TALES



Publisher
Dennis Morgan

See TALES, Page 10 ▶

USED VEHICLES

Check out the quality used vehicles on our lot!

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CARS

- 2013 Chevy Impala LTZ, Runs Good, High Miles
- 2001 Buick Regal LS, 3.8L, High Miles

SUVs

- 2023 Jeep Wagoneer L Series II, 4x4, 8 Passenger, 61K
- 2021 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo X, 4x4, V-6, Heated Seats, 46K
- 2022 Jeep Grand Cherokee Limited, 4x4, 3.6L, Sunroof, Heated Seats, 99K
- 2021 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo, 4x4, 3.6, Tow Pkg., 65K
- 2019 Dodge Durango GT AWD, V-6, 6 Passenger, 70K
- 2016 Lexus NX200T, 4x2, 2.0L, Loaded, 107K

VANS

- 2017 Dodge Grand Caravan GT, V-6, Remote Start, 89K

PICKUPS

- 2022 RAM 2500 Laramie Crew Cab, 4x4, 6.4L, 5th Wheel Ball, Rear Air Suspension, 34K
- 2021 RAM 2500 Tradesman Crew Cab 4x4, 6.7L Diesel, Longbox, 94K
- 2020 Jeep Gladiator Sport S, 4x4, V-6, 23K
- 2020 RAM 1500 Bighorn Crew Cab, 4x4, 5.7L, 6'4" Box, 79K
- 2019 RAM 1500 Laramie Crew Cab, 4x4, 5.7L, Leather, 101K
- 2019 RAM 1500 Bighorn Crew Cab 4x4, 5.7L, Remote Start, 157K
- 2014 RAM 2500 Tradesman Crew Cab, 4x4, 6.4L V-8, 119K
- 2014 RAM 1500 Bighorn Crew Cab 4x4, 3.0L Diesel, Remote Start, 205K
- 2011 RAM 1500 SLT Crew Cab 4x4, 4.7L, Auto, 80K

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PARK UCC PRESENTS ONE DANDY

4th of JULY CELEBRATION!

Happy 250th



Tales

◀ FROM Page 9

always play summer ball because there was too much to do at home. Some years I played, some years I didn't. I think I finally wore my dad down to the point I could play pony ball for the great spot in the road called Ulysses. While I got to play, it was rare that Mom and Dad came to watch - too much work to do. Neighbors would take turns hauling kids to away games. The joy of an away game was being able to stop at the Dairy Queen in Seward for a crunch cone.

One thing is for certain, Elgin has some fine ball teams, both boys and girls. They give parents, family and fans plenty to cheer about. There's only one drawback I can see from being at the ball park night after night. If you don't bring lawn chairs and you don't like standing, eventually you end up sitting on the bleachers.

Being parked on the bleachers for an hour or two more than once a week can, over time, lead to a medical condition called flatrumpus. There's no known cure other than walking to the car or SUV after every game. You may find temporary relief, but it comes back the next time bleacher meets butt before the first pitch.

June was a blur, but it did leave some lasting memories. After 53 years, the New York Knicks are NBA champs again. Jim Klein would be proud, RIP. June was the College World

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Stop in & pick up a **POP & POPCORN TO GO** even if you're not viewing the movie.

Show Time...7:30 pm
 Ticket sales begin at 7:00 pm
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Fri., Sat. & Sun.
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ILLUMINATION'S minions & monsters Rated PG
 Next Weekend: Disclosure Day

Now more than ever...

NEWSPAPERS MATTER

CURATED CONTENT

Sure, you can get anything you want any time of the day online. Then you have the fun of deciding what is real vs fake, what matters to your community, to your life. Plus, those decisions would be made based on information from... who? Your Aunt Sally who claims she was held captive for a week by a bigfoot? Your high school buddy who is facing his 5th DUI? Not too reliable, are they.

Bonafide, legal newspapers are written and edited by professionals who have been trained to know what news stories are important and how to present them accurately. They spend hours researching, shooting photos and writing to put them into one organized "post" delivered to your mailbox each week.

The internet -- AI, social media, websites -- is doing its best to overwhelm, confuse and mislead you. It gives you snippets of truth surrounded by a lot of junk. Newspapers are doing everything they can to give you only what you need. Plus, each weekly newspaper is preserving -- in permanent print -- the history of your town, your family. Imagine how families will do genealogy in the future (weddings, births, deaths) using only facebook, instagram, X -- after they disappear? Here one second, gone the next.

YOU CAN'T BEAT A PHYSICAL PAPER

The smell, the touch of folding and refolding over a cup of coffee, the feeling of thumbing through the pages, of cutting out that favorite article or photo and putting it on your refrigerator or in your scrapbook, of always having a "print record" to go back to years down the road. That is what newspapers are. Scrolling through an article on your phone screen while in the doctor's waiting room feels different than reading your community newspaper while sitting in your favorite chair.

Here's to a informed reader, soaking up life - and an extra cup of coffee. Enjoy your reading!



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FEEL BETTER ABOUT THIS COMMUNITY

Whether you prefer the sports, politics, city/county stories, recipes or crosswords, every newspaper offers everyone something good. When you concentrate on your community that you participate in, you can gain perspective on state/national/world events that you have absolutely no control over... that can lessen frustration, anger and potential violence.

When you include a newspaper into your routine, you remind yourself to slow down a bit.

According to a 2024 survey by Reviews.org, the average American checks his/her phone **205 times per day**, that's once every 5 minutes during waking hours. **EMPLOYERS:** make note of that statistic!

DISENGAGED VS COOL

A newspaper is a great tool to prepare yourself for life. You learn to concentrate, to let the words and meanings soak in. It frees you up to take part in and enjoy life. A disengaged person is that person walking down the sidewalk -- or worse yet, DRIVING -- with his/her face glued to a phone, completely unaware of what is going on. Now imagine someone sitting cross-legged, sipping a latte and reading a newspaper. That person oozes cool. That person should be you.

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