SERVING ANTELOPE, BOONE, and WHEELER COUNTIES, NEBRASKA SINCE 1883

The Elgin Review

Wednesday
August 5, 2026

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In Brief

Field day this Friday at Schuchardt farm

From 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Schuchardt family and Nebraska Extension will host a field day at the Schuchardt Farm on Friday, August 7, from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm.

Rick and Jane Schuchardt along with their son Philip farm corn, soybean, oats and alfalfa on certified organic ground located northeast of Elgin. According to Nebraska Extension, cereal rye cover crops are part of their rotation to reduce erosion and improve the health of the soil. The Schuchardts are optimistic that the thick mat of rye on their fields will keep weeds down in their soybean crop.

After the field tour, lunch will be served. There is no cost to attend the field day but attendees are encouraged to register online at Schuchardt Farm Field Day Registration or by emailing Katja Koehler-Cole at kkoehlercole2@unl.edu.

Public Notices

Public notices in this week's newspaper include:

Notice of Monthly Meetings — District #18 Board of Education

Notice of Organization — Nature's Path to Wellness, L.L.C.

Notice of Tentative Agenda — 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 97 degrees recorded on July 27.

The low temperature during the same period was 59 degrees was recorded on July 31 and again on August 1. Altogether, 3.15 inches of precipitation was recorded last week.

Following are the high and low temperatures, and precipitation amounts, submitted by weather observer Leonard Orlowski.

Date	High	Low	Prec
July 26	89	72	.00
July 27	97	65	.00
July 28	89	72	.00
July 29	87	71	.00
July 30	80	67	3.15
July 31	79	59	.00
Aug 1	80	59	.00
Total for last week			3.15
Total for July			3.45
Total precipitation 2026			16.89

Alice Morrison presented the Jolene Mosel Helping Hand Award Sunday

Sunday afternoon at the Antelope County Fair proved to be very special for Alice Morrison. Shortly after noon, the Antelope County Ag Society recognized Morrison (from rural Elgin) with the Jolene Mosel Helping Hand Award recognizing her for her many contributions to the fair through the year. Participating in the presentation were (l-r): Randy Mosel, Ethan Mosel, Alice Morrison, Bailey Mosel holding Maizie, Leroy Wortman, Gail Wortman and Miranda (Mosel) Lopez.

E-R photo/LMorgan

Logann Pelster awarded Kalin Henn Memorial Scholarship Friday at fair

No one enjoys participating in 4-H at the Anelope County Fair more than Logann Pelster. On Friday, Pelster was recognized for his involvement in the poultry program at the county fair. Congratulating him is former fair poultry superintendent Rhonda Meyer. Pelster is the son of Kala and Kyle Pelster. The scholarship award is in memory of Kalin Henn who passed away in 2019. Henn was a former Antelope County 4-Her who showed poultry at the fair. The first-ever Henn Award was presented at the county fair in 2019.

E-R photo/MWright

Does Elgin need a neighborhood watch program?

Could Elgin soon have a neighborhood watch program set up?

That's the hope of at least one resident who spoke at Monday night's meeting of the Elgin City Council.

Diane Landers, a candidate for a seat on the Elgin City Council, raised concerns about an incident which occurred in June involving a man in a Minnesota-licensed vehicle who was wandering around near her home acting suspicious.

"It was scary," she said of the situation, noting at one time the man appeared to be following a child across the Pope John parking lot.

She said she contacted the Antelope County Sheriff's Department and the dispatcher on duty said they would contact an officer as he was on another call. This was during the Clearwater Rodeo. Landers said no one responded to the call.

Landers said she didn't hear from Sheriff Robert Moore til the next day.

Responding to Landers' comments, at Monday night's meeting, was Chief Deputy Sheriff Steve Mills. He said he talked to Moore and there was a miscommunication between the sheriff and the dispatcher. He said Moore (who was out of town when the call came in) told him he would have come back to Elgin or had another officer sent

See **WATCH, Page 2** ►

A lifetime of serving, Dexter has a new title, grand marshal!

Dorothy Dexter, a long-time Wheeler County resident, had a big week.

She was the grand marshal of the Wheeler County Fair parade.

Along with her husband Lawrence, they first moved to Wheeler County in 1960 to work for Warren Olson on a ranch northwest of Bartlett. They went on to raise seven kids who were all actively involved in various 4-H projects and participated annually at the Wheeler County Fair.

Lawrence was on the fair board for several years while Dorothy worked in the exhibit building as well as serving on the Extension Board.

She has been a great supporter of the Wheeler County Fair through the years, as well as other event in Bartlett and surrounding communities. She has been an active member for many years in the Bartlett Garden Club and Extension Club.

In 1999 Dorothy went to work for the Bibs and Boots Café and took over the business two years later with the help of her daughters, Becky and Natalie, along with good friends Sharon and Blondie.

As noted in the announcement Saturday night at the fairgrounds, she has appreciated lots of help - from other women and high school kids throughout her 21 years at the café. It is not uncommon to see one of Dorothy's 18 grandchildren and 28 great grand-kids helping work the tables.

Pauline Marker has been great help as of late. It was noted how Dorothy loves to take time and visit with all the friends and customers who come through her doors.

E-R photo/DMorgan

Pauline Marker (r) had the honor of driving Dorothy Dexter, grand marshal for the Wheeler County Fair Parade which was held Tuesday evening, July 28.

From JoAnn Baum's Kitchen

Delicious Snack Mix

Good day,

I'm not liking the heat! The pool is the place to be on these hot days.

Need a snack to take along to the pool or boating and camping or just for the kids to snack on? Give this week's recipe a try.

It's easy and you can put whatever crackers, pretzels, cereal or your favorites in it.

This does make a good amount, it's very addicting. I am sure your family will enjoy it.

Delicious.

JoAnn

DELICIOUS SNACK MIX

2 boxes any kind of snack crackers
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1 Tbls Lawry's® seasoning
1 Tbls garlic powder
1 Tbls onion powder
1 Tbs (dry mix) Hidden Valley® dressing mix

Mix together, coating the crackers well. Spread out on a baking sheet. Bake in a 250° oven for 45 minutes. Stir every 15 mins.

Hint: I divided it out on 2 cookie sheets. Let it cool out on the counter on paper towels! This is so delicious.

Bloodmobile coming August 12

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be coming to Elgin later this month. The Elgin Community Blood Drive will be held Wednesday, August 12. It will run from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

For an appointment, please contact Julie Dwyer at (402) 843-0151, Kyle Jensen at (402) 910-0681 or schedule online at www.redcross-blood.org.

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Watch

◄ FROM Page 1

down to address the incident.

He said the majority of the time dispatchers "do a phenomenal job," but every now and then there is a communication breakdown.

"On this occasion, it did happen," Mills said.

Landers said she thinks it would be helpful to form a community-wide neighborhood watch group which could watch/monitor activities like this until law enforcement can arrive.

Signs could be posted and meetings held to get the program up and running with a focus on protecting children as well as the elderly.

Councilman Leigh Kluthe said forming a neighborhood watch program would be a good idea.

Mills said response to calls should improve now that a new deputy has been hired, saying each community in the county now has an officer living there.

"This is the first time we've had four deputies plus the sheriff," now working in Antelope County.

Anyone interested in pursuing a neighborhood watch program should contact Landers or inquire at City Hall.

In other action:

Building permits — Two building permits were approved during the meeting. They were submitted by Marlin Matson and Susan Bartkovak.

Dates set — Due to Labor Day being the first Monday in September, the regular monthly council meeting was moved to September 9. Also, the council, at that meeting, will hold a public hearing for the One & Six Year Street Plan as required by law.

Last day for pool to be open is August 16

The date for the end of the season at the Elgin Swimming Pool has been set.

Meeting Monday night, the Elgin City Council set the closing date for the pool to be Sunday, August 16.

With the start of school being August 13 and the lack of lifeguards available to work, hours at the pool will be adjusted.

On Thursday and Friday, August 13 and 14, pool hours will be 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Over the weekend, August 15 and 16, the pool will be open regular hours.

On a related matter, the council approved Ordinance #683 establishing regulations for the maintenance and operation of the Elgin swimming pool and the bather preparation facility (bathhouse).

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Community Calendar

* See ad/story in this week's Elgin Review

Friday, August 7
Elgin Community Club/Chamber of Commerce Summer Steak Fry @ Knights of Columbus Courtyard ▪ Field Day @ Schuchardt Farm northeast of Elgin.

Tuesday, August 11
Antelope County Board of Commissioners regular meeting ▪ District #18 Board of Education regular meeting.

Wednesday, August 12
Elgin Public School open house for all grades.

Thursday, August 13
First day of school at Elgin Public and Pope John schools (dismissal at 1 p.m.).

Saturday, August 15
Pope John Alumni Golf Tournament @ the Antelope Country Club.*

Monday, September 7
Labor Day holiday.

Wednesday, September 9
Elgin City Council regular meeting @ City Hall.

Events listing courtesy of Elgin Veterans' Medical Clinic
an outpatient department of Boone County Health Center
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Good things come to those who wait

Faith

Elgin Columnist
Susan Szalewski

For most of my life I've equated that saying with someone telling me to be more patient.

Lately, though, it's taken on new meaning.

It started when a priest offered this beautiful advice: When spending time in a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament, don't be in a rush to leave. When you feel like you should go, wait a little longer; spend some more time with Jesus. He's got more graces to give you.

That advice has stayed with me, and I try to give Him a little more time.

But I also learned that the priest's advice applies to more than the spiritual life – but to life in general.

Once I went to a marsh to try to get photos of birds and other wildlife. I got up early that morning, before sunrise, and embarked alone on my adventure. I walked along a gravel trail looking for birds but only encountered a few blackbirds and some grumpy geese. I decided it was time to call it quits. Then a voice inside me echoed the priest's words, and I decided to wait a bit longer.

A short distance away I found a boardwalk, and the first creature to greet me there was a mink. It wasn't shy and let me snap several photos.

The boardwalk gave me a pathway deeper into the marsh, and there I encountered several types of birds. I was glad I didn't give up sooner.

I tried being more patient in other aspects of life, too. I gave people a few more minutes to arrive. I said a prayer while I waited. If a machine wasn't working right away, I took a break, and gave it time.

While writing this column, I couldn't open a word processing application and decided to give up – at least for the day. Then a voice told me to wait, to try something else. And it worked!

Waiting just a bit longer truly does help in most situations, but especially in prayer.

At a recent retreat, another priest suggested that while praying, don't be in a hurry to finish. Stay with a thought or feeling.

God might be speaking to you through it. Linger in your prayers, he said.

Most importantly, I've learned, is to savor that time in church before the Blessed Sacrament. Don't rush away when you think it's time to leave.

Afterall, He's been waiting there patiently for you. Give Him a few more minutes. He rewards us infinitely when we give Him just a little more.

Remember? **More than** 100 years ago, towns like Elgin had their own postcards. Here's one featuring sites in Elgin during the 1910s.

Looking Back

The Elgin Review

Sixty Years Ago — August 11, 1966

Over 200 youngsters from the Elgin area attended the Shrine Circus at Norfolk last Thursday afternoon. Tickets for the youths were sponsored by local businessmen and interested parties. The youngsters rode to Norfolk in two school buses while a number accompanied their parents. This is an annual event and profit from the circus goes to Shrine Burns and Crippled Childrens' Hospitals throughout the nation.

Joe Thramer, 10-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Thramer of Ewing, last week rode his pony from his home to Elgin to visit relatives. While making the trip in two stages—his first stop being at the Leonard Kerkman home at Clearwater after leaving home Thursday morning of last week. Joe left Leonard at 5 a.m. Friday morning and rode into the the Bill Kerkman farm yard at noon, in time for dinner.

Karen Marie Roth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Orlandis Roth, was one of 34 girls who completed the one-year nursing technician program at Mercy Hospital, Cedar Rapids, Ia. She was awarded a Nursing Technician certificate during ceremonies held Wednesday, Aug. 3.

Mr. and Mrs. Gail Koch of Papillion are the parents of a 7 lb. daughter born August 1, 1966 in an Omaha hospital. Mrs. Koch is the former Marilyn Rotert.

Miss Norine Koinzan of Bartlett became the bride of John W. Prim of North Olmsted, Ohio Saturday, August 6, 1966. The seven thirty o'clock ceremony was performed in Grace Lutheran Church in Neligh by Rev. Glenn Kalhoff of Chambers. Palms and white gladiolus decorated the chancel of the church.

Fifty Years Ago — August 11, 1976

The annual John Beckman, Sr. family reunion was held Sunday, Aug. 1 with a picnic dinner at the Elgin park. Later the group gathered at the K. of C. Hall due to the cool, damp weather. The 133 people in attendance came from Richardson, TX; Ontario, CA; Julesburg, CO; Red Oak, Council Bluffs and Manning, IA, and the towns of Madison, Petersburg, Newman Grove, Lindsay, Norfolk, Spalding, Clearwater, Herman, Pierce, Raeville and Elgin in Nebraska.

Leon Kerkman lost control of his 1972 LTD Ford about 11:10 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 4 while driving home and totally wreaked his auto. It was reported here that he met another vehicle around a mile south and one and a half miles east of Elgin prior to the accident. His auto skidded for about 270 feet before leaving the road and landing on its top.

Maurice Borer, 51, who has been employed at Farmers Cooperative Exchange elevator for several years, was killed in a fall while loading a car of grain around 11:10 Thursday morning. It is believed he fell from the loading dock or ladder while checking equipment or the car of grain. He apparently fell striking the left side of his forehead which showed a bruise.

Precipitation continues to be on the short side as corn and beans enter their grain development state. This area was fortunate in that they received three inches of moisture during the hot, dry month of July.

Social security benefits were being paid to residents of Antelope county at a rate of $247,354 a month at the start of 1976, Dale Branch, social security manager in Norfolk, said today. Of the 1776 social security beneficiaries living in Antelope county, 1419 are retired workers and the dependents. Another 292 are receiving benefits as the survivors of workers who are died, and 65 are getting benefits as disabled workers or their dependents.

Thirty Years Ago — August 14, 1996

About 130 visitors toured the new Elgin Veterans' Medical Clinic during its three-hour open house on Monday afternoon, Aug. 12. The clinic was scheduled to open for business on Tuesday, Aug. 13, with Dr. Brad Hupp seeing patients from 2 to 5 p.m.

Lyle J. Dinslage, 63, of Elgin died in an unusual storm-related accident last Tuesday night, Aug.6. Dinslage was driving on a county road two miles west and 2 1/2 miles north of Elgin during the wind and rain storm, when a large cottonwood tree fell and crushed the cab of his pickup.

A stubborn hay bale fire west of Elgin Monday evening, Aug. 12, required about seven hours for the Elgin Volunteer Fire Department to extinguish. Firemen were on duty at the fire from 6:08 p.m. Monday until about 1:10 a.m. Tuesday. Shortly before 8 a.m. Tuesday, firemen were called back to the scene to extinguish two spots that had rekindled overnight.

David and Holly Kerkman of Elgin are the parents of a daughter, Hannah Marie, born Wednesday, Aug. 7. She weighed eight pounds, one ounce. She joins a brother, Levi, at home.

Performing in opening acts for country music shows has become familiar territory for Petersburg native Justin Temme. Temme, 19, performed on the outdoor stage in a rain shower last Saturday, Aug. 10, as the opening act for "Perfect Stranger" during the Antelope County Fair.

Twenty Years Ago — August 9, 2006

Devon Baum of Elgin showed the grand champion market steer at the 2006 Antelope County Fair. She and her brother, Trey, were among many Elgin area winners in the Fair 4-H contests.

Strong winds accompanied the rainstorm last Saturday night and early Sunday morning in the Elgin area. A cedar tree at West Cedar Valley Cemetery was broken in half by the wind, which also flattened sections of some cornfields north of town.

Heather Lichtenberg of Neligh, daughter of Shirley Lichtenberg of Omaha and Stanley Lichtenberg of Neligh, and Adam Veik of Elgin, son of Patrick and Cheryl Veik of Elgin, were united in marriage Saturday, July 1, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Elgin. Rev. Tom Bauwens officiated at the double ring ceremony.

Kelly Starman of Elgin, a 2006 graduate of Pope John Central Catholic High School, was one of eight graduates receiving scholarships from the Nebraska Coaches Association (NCA) and Farm Bureau Financial Services during the NCA 39th annual convention on Aug. 3 in Lincoln. Kelly plans to attend Mount Marty College, Yankton, SD, and will play volleyball there.

St. Boniface School faculty members have been busy updating and maintaining the schools computers during the past summer. The 20 McIntosh OS/X computers in the lab, as well as classroom computers and 10 laptop computers, were updated with Accelerated Reader and the STAR program.

By Olivia Klein

It Pays to Advertise!

The Elgin Review

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

Stop Congressional insider trading

When Nebraskans send lawmakers to Washington they expect them to serve our communities.

Polling confirms that many Americans believe politicians are abusing their positions for personal financial gain.

Over 80% of Americans believe Members of Congress do a bad job keeping their personal financial interests separate from their Congressional work.

As a result, only 15% of Americans approve of how Congress handles its job.

Polling doesn't just tell the story. History does too.

Trackers on social media publish routine updates on a former Speaker's stock trades.

People follow these trades because they are profitable. As crazy as it sounds, mimicking lawmakers' trades is a legitimate investment strategy. In 2020, the Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee sold over $1.5 million in stock just days prior to the pandemic-induced market crash. Stories like these underscore the need to act.

Even the perception of self-dealing by lawmakers erodes public trust. It can also negatively impact voter participation in our democracy.

WASHINGTON REPORT

U.S. Senator
Pete Ricketts

To be clear, no lawmaker should profit off of insider information. My Stop Insider Trading Act is the solution.

President Trump has voiced his support for this legislation. Vice President Vance recently told House Republicans we need to pass it.

On July 22, the House of Representatives passed it in a bipartisan vote. Now it's time for the Senate to do the same.

My bill eliminates even the appearance of impropriety. It would prohibit Members of Congress from buying new stock. It would apply the same rules to their spouses and dependent children. If a lawmaker or their family already owns stock, they can maintain that ownership. If Members of Congress or their family wish to sell stock, they must publicly disclose those plans seven days in advance. Doing so allows the public, and the market, to get ahead of any news that could impact a stock's price.

My bill also carries significant penalties. Any violation would incur a $2,000 fine or a fine that is 10% of the transaction — whichever is greater. Any profit realized by a sale would also be forfeited.

Under my bill, if a lawmaker sold $1 million in stock without filing advanced public notice, they would be fined $100,000. They would also forfeit any profits. It's time Congress made this the standard.

Nebraskans need trust and transparency from Congress. Americans are demanding action. My Stop Insider Trading Act delivers.

There are Democrats who support this. In the House, 13 Democrats voted for the bill. As I mentioned previously, President Trump and Vice President Vance have voiced their support. Americans don't want insider trading. Congress should capitalize on this momentum.

The House has demonstrated their support. Now, the Senate needs to move this bill quickly to the President's desk. By passing it, we can rebuild Americans' trust in their elected representatives.

It's time Congress put real safeguards in place for lawmaker stock trading. I'm committed to getting the job done.

Foreign trade is a big deal, so trade mission makes sense

Some folks, I see, are criticizing Gov. Pillen for embarking on a trade mission to the Far East at a time when the state budget is bleeding red ink.

It's a fair gripe.

But someone has to get out there and try to repair relationships with our foreign trade partners.

President Trump and his wrong-headed tariffs have created friction with all kinds of countries that buy agricultural goods from us. It has hurt the price for corn and beans.

Remember China?

ALL THINGS NEBRASKA

State Correspondent
Paul Hammel

They used to purchase up to 36 million metric tons of American soybeans in a year. But those purchases slumped to 8 million metric tons in 2008 after President Trump launched a trade war with the Chinese.

That trade rebounded in 2020, but then went to zero last year when the president fired off a new round of tariffs on Chinese goods.

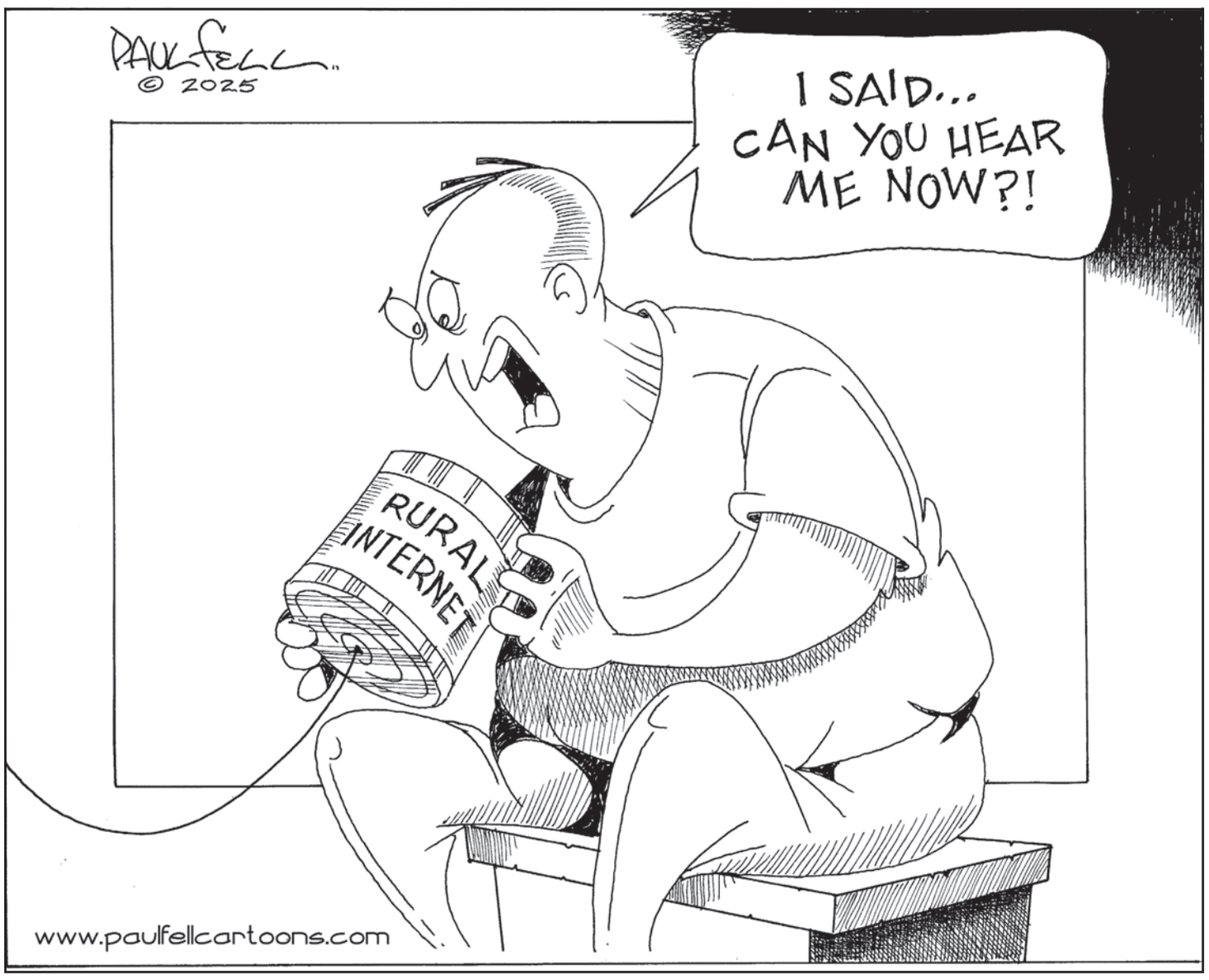
The latest trade deal with China has that country agreeing to purchase 25 million metric tons of soybeans a year, which is quite a ways from 30 million metric tons if my country school math is correct.

The normally conservative Nebraska Farm Bureau, in an essay earlier this year entitled "World Bypassing the United States," argued that our trade policies (which appears to be "threaten tariffs, impose tariffs, and withdraw tariffs once deemed illegal") are forcing foreign countries to look elsewhere for ag products. They're cutting better, more reliable, trade agreements with our competitors.

"Deals among other major export competitors (Brazil, Canada, Argentine) and major importers (China, EU, Canada) risk leaving U.S. agriculture behind. Agriculture should be concerned," the essay stated.

An estimated 30% of Nebraska's ag products are destined for export, so that's a big gulp.

Nebraska governors, over the years, have argued that trade missions like the one Pillen recently took to Japan and the Philippines are vitally important. Foreign customers want to get to know, face to face, who they are dealing with, they say.



Let's be clear about the rising tariffs President Trump is imposing. They're a tax increase on you and me, because we pay the additional cost of foreign goods caused by the new tariffs – not the country of origin.

And those court-ordered refunds of $160 billion for his earliest, unauthorized tariffs? They're going to companies, not us.

A congressional committee, the Joint Economic Committee, estimated that the average American family is on track to pay $2,500 extra this year for foreign goods due to tariffs imposed by the Trump Administration.

I don't know about you, but I wonder how making us pay more for stuff is making America great?

Meanwhile, I'm reading a lot of mixed messages about farm prospects this year.

Early in the year, the smart folks at the University of Nebraska predicted record farm income, with high prices for beef overcoming low prices for corn and beans and higher input costs.

But a recent article quoted an NU meteorologist saying that crops are facing a "make-or-break" period due to increasing drought conditions. "Decent" rains, right now, are needed to help corn yields, he said.

I'm also reading about how our relationship with Canada – our second-largest trade partner (behind Mexico) – is so poor we can't even jointly celebrate the opening of a new bridge on the border between Detroit, Michigan, and Windsor, Ontario.

Give me a break. Canada has traditionally been our most loyal ally. We should treat them like that.

We can't really impact what Mother Nature gives us in terms of rain.

But we can make an effort to mend our damaged relationships with foreign countries.

So go get 'em Gov. Pillen. Make friends; sell some Nebraska goods..

*****

Paul Hammel has covered the Nebraska state government and the state for decades.

He is a retired senior reporter for the Nebraska Examiner and the former Capitol Bureau Chief for the Omaha World-Herald. A native of Ralston, Nebraska, he loves traveling and writing about the state.

Moving forward, hitting the ground running

Now that the August district work period is officially underway, I am excited to spend the coming weeks on the road, listening to Nebraskans across the Third District and seeing firsthand the opportunities and challenges facing our communities.

I hit the ground running this week with a swing through the Panhandle, hearing directly from constituents about the issues that matter most to them and discussing how we can keep working together to make the Good Life an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

FROM THE HILL

Congressman
Adrian Smith

My first stop was Dave's Pharmacy in Hemingford, where I met with owner Dave Randolph. We discussed how patients could benefit from my Main Street Pharmacy Access Act, which would allow pharmacists to test and treat Medicare beneficiaries for common illnesses such as the flu, strep throat, and RSV. This commonsense legislation would expand access to care—especially in rural communities like Hemingford—while reducing pressure on emergency rooms and other healthcare providers. The bill has already passed the House Ways and Means Committee and now awaits consideration by the full House.

From there, I traveled to Alliance to meet with local leaders at the Alliance Chamber of Commerce.

As a senior member of the Ways and Means Committee, I remain focused on advancing pro-growth, pro-business policies that help small businesses across the Third District succeed. That includes provisions like permanent immediate business expensing, enacted through the Working Families Tax Cuts, which gives business owners the certainty they need to expand operations, invest in new equipment, and create jobs.

My next stop was Rushville, where I met with Sheridan County Sheriff Jeff Brewer to discuss the challenges he and his deputies face in keeping their community safe.

Sheriff Brewer shared how the Working Families Tax Cuts' no-tax-on-overtime provision is helping his department recruit and retain the deputies needed to continue serving Sheridan County.

I then traveled to Whitman to tour the University of Nebraska–Lincoln's Gudmundsen Sandhills Laboratory, where I received an update on the latest agriculture research and joined local producers for lunch.

As Chairman of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade, one of my top priorities is expanding market access for Nebraska's farmers, ranchers, and manufacturers.

As USMCA negotiations continue, I will keep fighting to ensure that Nebraska producers maintain access to the export markets they depend on while holding our trading partners accountable to the commitments they have made.

My recent travels also took me to Mullen, where I met with Jessica Marks and Le Anderson, owners of Sandhills Beef Co., a newly opened, family-owned beef processing facility. By partnering with local ranchers to provide high-quality, locally raised beef to Mullen and surrounding communities, Sandhills Beef Co. is a great example of the entrepreneurial spirit that helps rural Nebraska thrive.

Whether I am meeting with healthcare providers, learning about cutting-edge agriculture research, or visiting local businesses, the best part of serving Nebraska's Third District is getting out across the district and meeting constituents where they are.

Every conversation I have back home helps inform the work I do in Washington.

I take what I learn from Nebraskans with me to Congress, where I will continue fighting to ensure our communities have a strong voice in the decisions that shape our future.

I look forward to spending the rest of August on the road and meeting with many more of you in the weeks ahead.

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

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: barry.dekay@leg.ne.gov.

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2026

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The men who signed the Declaration of Independence

Editor's note: This week marks another installment in a 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.

*****

Thomas McKean, born of Irish descent in Chester County, Pennsylvania and after elementary instruction, was placed under Reverand Doctor Francis Allison studying Latin, Greek, history and moral philosophy. So happens another future Signer of the Declaration, George Read, was his classmate. McKean continued with law under David Finney, entering the bar before age 21. While studying, he proved himself within months, capable of assistant clerk of Court of Common Pleas, even fulfilling duties of the principal clerk. His fine reputation had the Attorney General appointing him as Deputy Attorney General to prosecute all claims for the Crown in Sussex County at age 22. In 1762 Thomas was elected to the Delaware House of Assembly. The Stamp Act moved him to stand against the British, being elected to the Stamp Act Congress (1765) which further led in his election to the Continental Congress (1774), serving as its President in 1781.

Mr. McKean seemed to be in demand everywhere. He became a member of the House of Delaware Representatives and was commissioned to help author the Delaware Constitution in 1776. 1777 found him the President (Governor) of the State of Delaware. At this time, he was also appointed Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, serving 22 years. During the Revolution he was an officer in the Continental Army (even at age 80, he helped form a strong Philadelphia troop to fight in the War of 1812). He was a member of the Pennsylvania State Convention to ratify the federal Constitution in 1787.

Thomas McKean was placed on a committee by the Continental Congress in 1781 to oversee the first printing of the Bible in America through Robert Aitken. A Bible shortage of the English language occurred during the Revolution. Congress unanimously placed their stamp of approval on this Bible with a printed statement in the front of each Bible declaring: Whereupon, Resolved, That the United States in Congress assembled…recommend this edition of the Bible to the inhabitants of the United States. A point to be made here by an early historian, W.P. Strickland in his book, History of the American Society from its Organization to the Present Time (pub. 1849) states: "Who, in view of this act, will call in question the assertion that this is a Bible nation? Who will charge the government with indifference to religion when the first Congress of the States assumed all the rights and performed all the duties of a Bible Society long before such an institution had an existence in the world!" John Adams wrote of Thomas McKean that he was, "one of three men in the Continental Congress who appeared to me to see more clearly to the end of the business than any others in the body."

To John Adams (September 19, 1777) in a letter from Thomas McKean: "May the Almighty give the Congress and our Generals wisdom, fortitude and perseverance, and teach the fingers of our army to fight. Our cause is good, our army in health and high spirits, and more numerous than that of the enemy. May the divine Disposer of all events crown our virtuous endeavors with success and save our country; of this we may be confident, 'for he delights in virtue and that which he delights in must be happy.'

A famous quote by Thomas McKean which I wish everyone today would see the current need and take on as their personal pledge: "I shall risk everything for my country."

DeKay reacts to OIG report on YRTC

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

District 40 Senator
Barry DeKay

This week, I wanted to highlight the recent work of the Office of Inspector General. On July 28, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of Nebraska Child Welfare released a report concerning an investigation regarding alleged sexual abuse at the Youth Rehabilitation and Treatment Center (YRTC) in Kearney. The YRTCs in Nebraska are secure, state-run facilities administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) which provide programming to help youths with their mental and behavioral health.

In the July 28 report, the OIG reported handling 44 distinct sexual-abuse-related allegations involving 37 youth against 19 different staff members in the past year. To date, four former staff members have been criminally charged. Investigators also uncovered that 11 of the 19 accused staff members at Kearney had prior disciplinary records which had previously gone unaddressed.

Following the investigation, the OIG found a systemic "cultural problem" which normalizes inappropriate staff behavior with youths.

This finding is disputed by DHHS, which says the alleged "cultural problem" at YRTC-Kearney is unfounded and had not been documented by inspectors general going back to at least 2016.

While there is active disagreement between the agency and investigators, circumstances like this are what originally spurred the creation of the OIG of Nebraska Child Welfare by the Legislature in 2012. The OIG is a product of an interim study carried out by the Health and Human Services Committee the previous year. One of the Committee's recommendations was to create the OIG of Nebraska Child Welfare within the legislative branch to enhance accountability and facilitate reform in the child welfare system.

The work of the OIG continued until 2023 when the Attorney General issued a legal opinion stating that the OIG of Nebraska Child Welfare and OIG of the Nebraska Correctional System unconstitutionally violated the separation of powers. The Attorney General argued that the Legislature gave these watchdogs too much independent power over executive agencies.

In response, the Legislature passed LB298 in 2025 to structurally reform the OIG into the newly formed Division of Legislative Oversight. The OIG of Nebraska Child Welfare, OIG of the Nebraska Correctional System, and the Legislative Audit Office were permanently merged into the new Division of Legislative Oversight and reorganized under the Legislative Oversight Committee to solidify the legal basis for their crucial work. By securing these structural reforms, senators guaranteed continued legislative oversight into the state's child welfare system. It is in part thanks to LB298 and the Division of Legislative Oversight that the public has access to the July 28 report. The task now turns to the Judiciary and the Health and Human Services committees to monitor changes that may be necessary based on the OIG's recommendations.

I invite you to let me know your thoughts or concerns. My Capitol office telephone number is (402) 471-2801; however, my email recently changed: barry.dekay@leg.ne.gov. My mailing address is: Senator Barry DeKay, District #40, P.O. Box 94604, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE 68509.

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1 Corinthians 16:13-14

"Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love."

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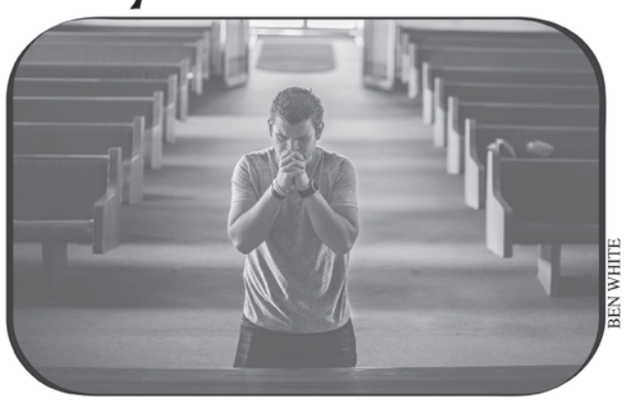
ON BEING PRESENT….

"The church was custom built by Jesus, and we are all works in progress. We do not expect people to get their sin in order before attending church any more than a hospital expects people to get healed before they show up."

Only Trust Him



When the Lord is involved, all things are possible.

We just need the courage to begin.

Giant obstacles become manageable.

Our Lord invites us not to fear because He is near.

Hear words to boost your trust in the Lord this week in church.

Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid. Matthew 14:22-33

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28 Romans 10:5-15 Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b

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Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts for Sunday, August 9, 2026 Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

St. Boniface Catholic Church
Elgin, NE
Fr. Frank Baumert, Parish Administrator
Rev. Anthony Weidner, Associate Pastor
Confessions: 5-5:30 on Wednesdays.
Weekend Mass: Sunday, 10 am.
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.
cppnebraska.org

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.

Trinity Lutheran Church
Elgin, NE
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
(facility is handicap accessible plus Facebook Live and broadcasts on cable channel 65, Tuesday at 10:30 am.)

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Insurance Mart Janet - Tracey Independent Insurance Agent 402-843-2410 Elgin, NE

Good Samaritan Society Albion In Christ's Love, Everyone Is Someone. 1222 S. 7th Str. Albion, NE (402) 395-5050

Elgin Veterans' Medical Clinic An outpatient department of Boone County Health Center. Dr. Joel Travis; Dr. Sean Kohl; Dr. Bridgette Pudwill; Jason Olnes, PA-C; Danielle Krohn, APRN 402-843-5910 116 N. 2nd St. Elgin, NE

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~ Proverbs 19:11 ~

A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an

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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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Hebrews 11:1

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Wheeler County Fair Livestock Champions

Ryker Plugge - Champion and Reserve Champion Duck

Camara Armknecht - Champion and Reserve Champion Market Rabbit

Cort Freouf - Reserve Champion Market Steer and Reserve Champion Rate of Gain

Jackson Wright - Champion Market Steer

Hadley Pokorny - Champion and Reserve Champion Market Lamb

Landon Glup - Champion Market Barrow and Reserve Champion Market Gilt

Elyse Sattler - Champion Market Heifer

Tyler Perkins - Reserve Champion Market Barrow

Macy Reich - Reserve Champion Market Heifer

Hadley Pokorny - Champion and Reserve Champion Market Goat

Casey Freouf - Champion Rate of Gain

Levi Glup - Champion Market Gilt

Jacob Perkins - Champion 2nd Year Bucket Calf Market Heifer

Wheeler County Premium Auction photos and captions courtesy of Morgan Johnson with MJ Media.

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Court News

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

Lokesh K Gandham, Duluth, GA 7/3/26 Speeding 75/65 MPH, Fined $75.00 - Kudera.

Cadin J Jenkins, Plainview, NE 6/1/26 Speeding 75/65 MPH, Fined $75.00 - Hartley.

Brett D Vetter, Gretna, NE 6/15/26 Acts declared unlawful-license/driving, Fined $50.00 - Detlefsen.

Lee M Pofahl, Pofahl Trucking, Neligh, NE 6/15/26 Overweight on axle or group of axles, Fined $325.00 - Asche.

Grant D Robinson, Watertown, SD 5/30/26 Speeding 75/65 MPH, Fined $75.00 - Johnson.

Kaiden R Eichberger, Osmond, NE 7/24/26 Speeding 75/65 MPH, Fined $75.00 - Mohr.

Sarah L Pike, Surprise, AZ 3/9/26 Speeding 85/65 MPH, Fined $200.00 - Valverde.

Cristian E Sanchez, Forney, TX 6/22/26 Speeding 90/65 MPH, Fined $300.00 MPH - Price.

86 Nebraska counties facing drought approved for USDA loan assistance

LINCOLN — U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins has approved another disaster declaration for 13 Nebraska counties due to drought, bringing the total number of counties covered by a USDA declaration for drought conditions this year to 86 of 93 counties.

Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen announced Rollins' latest approval last week, one day after she approved it. A secretarial designation frees up loan assistance for Nebraska farmers impacted by drought for up to eight months after the declaration is issued. Six counties are now covered for the first time in 2026.

Local USDA Farm Service Agency offices can provide affected farmers with additional information, according to Pillen's office.

Rollins has approved similar drought-related orders for nearly all Nebraska counties since April. Some are listed multiple times, particularly those in western and north-central Nebraska. The eight-month deadline is restarted for any Nebraska county under a subsequent drought disaster declaration.

"I appreciate Sec. Rollins, her constant attention to the needs of [our] farmers and ag producers who might require this assistance as a result of the drought impact during this growing season," Pillen said in a Wednesday statement.

The secretary also signed off on a disaster declaration for 21 counties affected by wildfires in early July. President Donald Trump issued a federal emergency for five of those counties, too.

Rollins' latest drought-related declaration designates Lancaster and Saline Counties as primary counties plus any adjacent counties: Butler, Cass, Fillmore, Gage, Jefferson, Johnson, Otoe, Saunders, Seward, Thayer and York.

All but seven Nebraska counties on the eastern edge of the state are covered under recent declarations due to drought conditions: Burt, Douglas, Nemaha, Pawnee, Richardson, Sarpy and Washington, according to USDA data up through June 17, plus the latest declaration.

More than 76% of Nebraska faces at least "moderate" drought conditions, according to the most recent state-level data from the U.S. Drought Monitor, which is produced through a partnership among the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the USDA, NOAA and NASA. That's estimated to be 636,883 Nebraskans. Data is released each Thursday.

Nearly 94% of the state faces at least "abnormally dry" conditions, and over 24% of Nebraska is at the "extreme" or "exceptional" drought designation.

County commissioners hear push back on proposed NPPD line

Bridge replacement projects discussed Tuesday morning with McDonald

By Greg Tharnish
Special to The Elgin Review

Push back was heard on NPPD's proposed 345kV Transmission Line Project at yesterday's (August 4) meeting of the Antelope County Commissioners (ACC).

Landowners affected by NPPD's preferred route, Route A, proposed alternative Route B. Concerns over farm operations and irrigation systems being disrupted were expressed.

The ACC listened to the concerns expressed with no action taken as the issue was not on the commissioner's agenda. Questions were raised as to who, besides NPPD, has the "official say" on the transmission line's route.

One landowner said that the ACC does have a say in the matter. More discussion and possible action to take place at the next ACC meeting on August 11th.

County Engineer Brian McDonald talked with the ACC about bridge replacement projects that need done sooner than later.

A 209' concrete bridge north of Clearwater on 516th Avenue needs re-decked at a cost of approximately $500,000. Two small bridges scheduled for replacement are on 840 ½ road and 523 Avenue. One bridge, known as the "Starman Bridge," will be replaced with a box culvert and the other with a steel culvert. Local traffic will be affected on this well-traveled road.

A public hearing took place concerning closure of 852nd road between 522nd and 524nd Avenue.

Several landowners along 852nd road expressed support for the road closure as it is being used for trash and tire disposal by as yet unknown parties. A resolution for road closure will be written up and voted on at next week's meeting.

Finally, at 12 noon the ACC settled in for budget talks. After a lengthy discussion, solid numbers should be ready for reporting at next week's meeting.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Stay in the know. Read the Public Notices

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

NATURE'S PATH TO WELLNESS, L.L.C.

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

The name of the limited liability company: NATURE'S PATH TO WELLNESS, L.L.C.

The address of the designated office is: 52005 852nd Road, Clearwater, Nebraska 68726. The name and mailing address of the initial agent for service of process of the company is Martin V. Klein, 101 W. 4th Street, P.O. Box 166, Neligh, NE 68756. It is organized to transact any lawful acts concerning any and all lawful business, other than banking or insurance, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska.

This company commenced upon filing the Certificate of Organization with the Secretary of State on July 22, 2026, and its existence shall be perpetual. The affairs of the limited liability company are to be conducted by the members under an operation agreement duly approved by its members.

NATURE'S PATH TO WELLNESS, L.L.C.
Martin V. Klein
Klein Law Office, P.C.
P.O. Box 166
Neligh, NE 68756-0166
(402)887-4190
PUBLISH: July 29, August 5 & 12
ZNEZ

MEETING AGENDA

DISTRICT #18 BOARD OF EDUCATION

TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR AUGUST 2026 MEETING

Mtg. Date: Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 7:00pm in the EPS Board Room

Agenda Items

Open Meeting
Roll Call of Members
Pledge of Allegiance
Announce Posting of Open Meetings Law

Consent Agenda

Minutes of Previous Meeting
Adopt the Agenda
Financial Report
Board Bills
Recognize Visitors
Reports
Reports of Standing Committees
Report of Principal/AD--Extra duties review
Superintendent Report

Action Items

12. Approve Classroom Capacities for 2027-2028 school year; Policy 5006; Option Enrollment Resolution.
13. Approve the Junior Trip in June of 2027
14. Approve the transfer of funds from the General Fund to the Nutrition, Depreciation, and Activities Funds.
15, Approve the transportation for the Music Booster Trip in the spring

Discussion Items

16. Set the next regular meeting and the budget hearing and special hearing to set the final tax request.
17. Adjourn

A current copy of the meeting agenda is available in the superintendent's office. The agenda shall not be altered within 24 hours of the meeting unless the item is of an emergency nature.

For a board to have a "closed" session, a majority of the voting members must vote for the session and it must be clearly necessary for either:

Protection of the public interest; or The prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual, and if the individual has not requested a public meeting.

PUBLISH: August 5, 2026
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

SCHOOL DISTRICT #18

NOTICE OF ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

Elgin Public Schools generally schedules regular board meetings for the second Wednesday of each month. Regular meetings are typically held at Elgin High School. Official meeting notices for each regular and special meeting, including date, time, and location will be posted on the school district's website and in The Elgin Review. Please check our website for all meeting notices as the date, time, or location may change.

PUBLISH: August 5, 2026
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Elgin Community Center meals

Monday, August 10: Breaded pork tenderloin, stuffing, mashed potatoes & gravy, mixed vegetables, peaches, bread & butter, milk

Tuesday, August 11: Taco salad, refried beans, Spanish rice, pineapple, milk.

Wednesday, August 12: Chili cheese dogs, French fries, carrots & celery, apricots, bread & butter, milk.

Thursday, August 13: Goulash, lettuce salad, peas, cinnamon apples, garlic stick, milk.

Friday, August 14: Cream chicken over biscuits, mixed vegetables, lettuce salad, tropical fruit, bread & butter, 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!

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Each Wednesday, they are at Leifeld's, usually around 11 am. Just $1 per paper and in each issue, you'll find the inserted flyer for Dean's Market with his weekly specials. While in Elgin, it's a perfect time to get your presciptions filled and OTC meds at Elgin Pharmacy.

In our paper, look for upcoming activities happening with your "neighbors to the north".
As always, continue to support your Petersburg businesses and remember our Elgin businesses who will gladly work with you for additional needs.

A very wise man, Socrates, once said
this guy!
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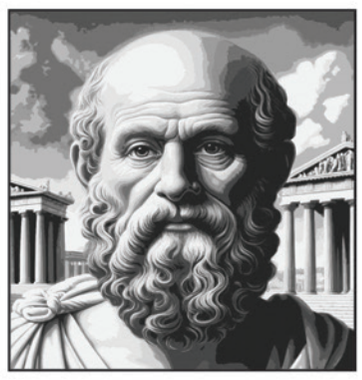

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Small town bar raises a glass to the village of Hordville

Hordville lost its only butcher, grocery store and school. Now, a lively bar has renewed the small town's sense of community.

By Pierce Gentry
Flatwater Free Press

On a warm, rainy July afternoon in the village of Hordville, a farmer, banker and local mayor all walk into a bar.

These friends and staples of the community gather over a round of beers at a large table near the center of the bar. Around them, the walls painted with maroons, greens and yellows provide a splash of color as hearty laughs bounce off lofted ceilings. Historic village photos adorn the bar with reminders of Hordville's past.

Well ahead of the evening rush, the bar is milling with people, mostly area farmers who came in out of the rain.

This scene is one that plays out in any number of small town watering holes. But this is no typical bar for Hordville – "Banana Rams" has quickly staked its place as an important gathering space for the town and restored some of its dwindling sense of identity.

"This town really needed this," local farmer Tom Gustafson said. "It gets people to socialize."

Since opening in 2018, Banana Rams has steadily grown in popularity.

Founder Justin Blase said he set out to help put Hordville "back on the map" by offering a clean, friendly tavern with a wide selection of beer, wine and liquor. Now, people have a place to gather again.

"We've built a community," he said. "That's what gives me pride of keeping this going."

Above: Arcade games line a wall in Banana Rams. The bar is one of the few businesses in the small village of Hordville. Right: Justin Blase, 37, opened Banana Rams in Hordville in 2018 with the goal of putting his hometown back on the map.
Photos by Pierce Gentry/Flatwater Free Press

A SLOW DECLINE

About 30 miles east of Grand Island, the village of Hordville sits nestled among the cornfields and their farmsteads. The quiet town officially has 131 people, with a few dozen houses, a post office, First State Bank and a Baptist church.

Established in 1906 as a stop for the Union Pacific Railroad, Hordville began with a Lutheran church and a small schoolhouse. It grew to over 200 people – with a grocer, general store, barber, doctor and other services.

Traveling long distances was expensive and inconvenient, so many of Hordville's residents worked, shopped and played in town.

The village's success took a turn in the 1980s, said Rod Blase, Justin's dad who also is the chairman of the village council and de facto historian of Hordville.

"You start getting big-box stores opening like Walmart and things like that," Rod Blase said. "And then people just drove."

The butcher and grocer were some of the first to go. Then the barbers and doctors. The school system merged with neighboring villages to form the High Plains Community School District in 2001. Three years later, Hordville's school was shuttered altogether.

"There are not a lot of work opportunities in Hordville," Justin Blase said. "So you can't really even spend your time socially in Hordville, and you can't make money in Hordville, so then what? What does it become?"

After growing up in Hordville in the 1990s, Justin Blase moved to Lincoln for college, where he got a job at James Arthur Vineyards and learned about the wine industry. He decided he would one day go into business for himself.

In 2015, an abandoned, historic storefront on Hordville's Main Street went up for sale. At 26 years old, Justin bought the building for $10,000.

He and his family spent three years remodeling the building. His bar wouldn't serve food – just plenty of drinks and good company in a friendly environment.

The unique name came from a term hunters use to refer to young bighorn sheep. Originally suggested by one of his friends as a joke, Justin decided to keep it. He painted the bar's storefront a bright, banana-colored shade of yellow.

'WORD GOT OUT'

Today, people have a reason to stop in the village again, even if just to say they have stopped by the bar with the strange name.

People from across Hamilton County regularly drive into town just for the bar. Tim Boling is the mayor of Central City, located about 10 miles from Hordville. He said he and his friends get together at Banana Rams twice a month.

"In the last seven or eight years, word got out," Boling said over a bottle of Coors Light. "There's people that come in here not as frequently as we do, but they stop in maybe once a month and just check it out."

Many of Banana Rams' patrons stop in to socialize with old friends. A few are there to make new friends. Some just want a drink.

"I like to talk to people; it builds community," Boling said. "And Justin, he'll listen to everything, too."

Justin still wonders about the future of Hordville. There's excitement over talk that a family just bought a new home at the edge of town and will be moving in soon.

"I know my family's put in a lot of effort into keeping Hordville going, and a lot of other families have, too," Justin said. "But what about the next generation? What does that look like?"

Future questions aside, Justin said he's proud of what he's built.

"The traditional Hordville community might be gone," he said. "But then I really truly feel like we have a community here at least, and we're open to anybody."

The Flatwater Free Press is Nebraska's first independent, nonprofit newsroom focused on investigations and feature stories that matter.

Proper storage of your silage

IT'S ALL ABOUT BEEF

Beef Systems Asst. Ext. Educator
Ben Beckman

Silage season is just around the corner, but even before anything is cut, proper preparation now can improve chances of a successful harvest. Improper silage storage and fermentation can result in losses up to 20% prior to feeding.

The enemy to good silage is oxygen. Quality silage needs anaerobic fermentation to occur to maintain quality and ensure stability over the storage period. While factors like moisture content at harvest and packing density are important to maintaining an oxygen free environment, the physical location and way silage is stored can play an equally impactful role.

When too much oxygen is present in the silage pile, respiration occurs, turning plant sugars into heat and carbon dioxide. This results in lower forage quality and overall yield, though it may not look like it at first glance. The burning off of sugars during respiration causes the left over plant structural components to condense. In the end, the visible layer of spoilage often seen on silage piles may represent 2-3 times that amount, as layers shrink and condense while they degrade.

Respiration also produces heat. This heat build-up causes three negative outcomes in silage piles. First, it limits the activity of lactic acid bacteria. These microbes prevent protein binding to plant lignin during fermentation, without which feed becomes less digestible by the animal. Second, heat encourages the growth of undesirable fermentation bacteria, yeasts, and molds, all of which lower forage quality and can reduce yield. Lastly, heat early on in the ensiling process can end up with browning caused by a Maillard reaction. While these browned bits may be highly palatable, they are a sign of denatured protein, once again lowering silage quality. Maillard browning produces even more heat during reaction, increasing the risk that temperatures rise to the point spontaneous combustion is possible.

Selecting a good storage location is the first step we need to tackle. Bags and piles should be placed on elevated locations that allow snow and rain to drain away from the silage and feed out area. Special consideration should be taken for snow drift patterns to prevent restricted access during the winter. Equipment traffic for feeding out of a pile or bag will be high and the ground will take a beating, Sites with poor drainage can result in ruts and mud holes making feeding more difficult. Provide plenty of room around the silage for maneuvering of equipment during both harvest and feed out. Finally, keep the area around bags or piles away from trees, trash piles, and other possible shelters for small animals. Creatures like mice, squirrels and other small animals will gnaw holes in silage coverings, seeking food and shelter. By limiting possible shelters, keeping weeds and grass around silage trimmed up, and immediately repairing any holes noticed, wildlife damage can be kept to a minimum.

Once we've selected a location, how we plan to store our silage needs to be considered. Bagged silage is a versatile option that allows the storage location to move year to year. An additional bonus is the oxygen free environment right away, especially if we are vigilant in repairing any holes or tears in the bag. Silage piles are the more traditional approach and can allow for greater volumes of silage to be stored in a smaller area. Placing your pile on a cement pad or bunker is optimal for oxygen exclusion, but be sure to check these structures for cracks and repair any that are found annually to maintain their integrity. If silage is an annual feedstuff on your operation, the reduced loss a permanent structure provides can offset the cost when spread out over several years.

Even temporary piles can be made more oxygen free if planed for ahead. Line the sides of your planned pile with bales and place an oxygen barrier plastic down on the sides and for several feet under the bottom to really seal the pile's sides. At a bare minimum, placing plastic on top of the pile is an investment worth the time, labor, and money. By covering the pile we prevent oxygen from moving into the pile from the top and reduce precipitation exposure. Both rain and snow can penetrate the pile if uncovered, bringing more oxygen into the pile dissolved in the water itself, can throw off fermentation by upsetting the moisture balance leading to spoilage, and can result in the pile "weeping" and leaching out valuable energy and protein.

Corn silage is a valuable feed resource, but can suffer from high levels of loss when stored incorrectly. Whether choosing temporary option like bag or drive over pile or something more permanent like a concrete bunker, doing what you can to keep oxygen out of your silage requires planning now. Pick an appropriate location for harvest and feed out success and store correctly to minimize feed losses later on.

- 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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Screen Time

Parents are advised to encourage healthy screen habits

Screen usage is a fact of modern life, and it's an issue parents find themselves navigating on a daily basis. Though even especially young children use devices like tablets, the desire for screens may grow considerably once kids enter elementary school. Many schools now utilize tablets and laptops in the classroom. While studies have found screens can foster cognitive development in young children, the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry urges parents of school-aged children to limit activities that include screens. Excessive screen use can lead to a host of negative outcomes, including sleep disturbances, poor academic performance, obesity, and poor self-image and body issues, among other problems. The AACAP does not offer specific recommendations for school-aged kids regarding daily screen usage, but the organization notes children age five and younger should be limited to no more than one hour per day. A reasonable increase on that recommendation may not adversely affect school-aged kids, though parents are advised to encourage healthy screen habits and turn screens off 30 to 60 minutes before bedtime.

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Steak fry to be Friday night

An event steeped in tradition will again be held this week. The Elgin Community Club/Chamber of Commerce will be hosting the 'Annual Steak Fry'. This year's event will be held this Friday night, August 7. Tickets are now available for purchase at Dean's Market, *The Elgin Review* newspaper office and at the Bank of Elgin. The location for the steak fry will be the courtyard adjacent to the Elgin Knights of Columbus building. Social hour will begin at 6 p.m. with steaks to be served at 7 p.m. Big A will be available for child care during the evening, manned by students from PJCC.

Photo and caption submitted

Wheeler County has new sherriff

County Judge Kale Burdick administered the Oath of Office to Tim Larby on Monday, August 3. Sheriff Larby will be replacing Dale King, who recently resigned. Christi Larby is shown placing the sherriff badge on her husband.

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School will start at **8:00 a.m.** and will dismiss at **1 p.m.**, the **FIRST DAY** for all students **K–12.**
Morning Preschool & Afternoon Preschool will begin on **Monday, August 17th.**

Regular schedule will be observed starting **Friday, August 14th** with school hours: **8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for high school** (7–12) and **8:00 a.m. to 3:27 p.m. for K–6.**

Morning Preschool (4 year olds) will be held **each weekday 8:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Afternoon Preschool** (3 year olds) will be held **Monday thru Thursday 12:45 p.m. – 3:25 p.m.**

PUBLIC NOTICE ~ CHILD FIND
Residents of District 18, Elgin, are notified that School District 18, Elgin, NE participates in all required Special Education Services for all resident students, ages 0–21. If you know of any student not currently being serviced by an appropriate educational program or have questions concerning the Special Education Program, contact the Superintendent's office at Elgin Public School.
Elgin Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or handicap. Further, the school complies with all Title IX and Equal Employment Opportunity guidelines as determined by Federal directives.

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If your name is not listed and you need bus service, please contact the Elgin Public School administration at **843–2455.**
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BREAKFAST/ LUNCH SERVICE
Breakfast and Lunch will begin on **Thursday, August 13th. Breakfast** will be **$2.25** and will **begin at 7:30 a.m.** Student lunches will be priced at **$3.00 for PreK– 6; $3.25 for Grades 7–12 per meal.**
Families will need to apply for free and reduced lunches.

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Spinning Tales

Farmers and rain

Farmers love rain, so do people who live in town.

It's Thursday night and once again, the Heavens have opened up and its raining.

The skies are dark and rain drops are bouncing off the sidewalk and street, doing some kind of liquid dance seldom seen anymore here in the county.

SPINNING TALES

Publisher
Dennis Morgan

No, this isn't a desert by any means, but it just doesn't seem to rain like it used to years ago. Ask any of the farmers who have tilled the soil most of their lives.

Some believe wind towers have changed how rain storms track through this area. I'm not yet convinced, but the weather app on my phone has given me plenty of reason to think anything is possible.

Before today's rain (over 3 inches in town, more to the west), a few weeks ago we had a good rain. Before that, you could see on your phone the storms forming in the west appearing like a sure thing they will come through Elgin. Then, as if the devil waves his arm, the storm clouds shift away from here. How does that happen time and time again?

The amateur meteorlogist in the building says the preponderance of wind towers operating creates an upper atmosphere disturbance which has reshaped weather patterns.

Maybe it has, maybe it hasn't. I havent trusted any weatherman since Linda Beermann (doing the weather on Channel 10 KOLN-TV) retired years ago. Her husband was former Secretary of State Allen Beermann who went on to become the executive director of the Nebraska Press Association for many years. Together, they took us places we would never have gone before. Thanks to him I experienced rain on the ocean as part of a VIP aboard the USS Nebraska submarine 30 years ago. That's another story for another day. Back to rain.

Rain has a sound uniquely its own. There's the simple sound of a gentle rain falling from the sky which differs from a heavy rain. It's all about intensity.

There's the sound of rain hitting the metal roof of a barn which is loud, real loud.

Outside now the rain is coming down harder than before and there's thunder and lightning in the air.

The artist Prince referred to rain in a song called 'Raspberry Beret'. He sang, *'The rain sounds so cool when it hits the barn roof*

And the horses wonder who you are

Thunder drowns out what the lightning sees

Sometimes it will rain so hard you decide to wait it out in the barn or machinery shed. The low spots in the farm yard, ditches too, collect the rain that runs off the buildings.

It doesn't happen often enough any more, but when it does its worth savoring.

Then there's the smell of rain. That, my friends, is a gift from God above. Nothing cleans the air like a good rain. Literally, it's something one can't put into words, but I think you know what I'm alluding too.

Best down pour of rain of all time? More than 2,000 years ago, just moments after Noah completed the ark and got the animals loaded inside. Now that would have been one heckuva storm cloud?

I think farmers are the happiest to see meaningful rainfall occur. They get to shut the center pivots off for a day, maybe two. Their disposition gets better and, depending on how much rain falls, they may be able to get away for a couple of days.

Being caught in the rain means rain-soaked clothes. It's rare, but it does happen. You don't see too many rain-soaked farmers, kids are another story. They love it. And, I think, parents might growl but inside they love it too, especially in the summer time.

Seldom will you ever hear a farmer in July or August wishing rain to go away. That's just who we are. So, as Clapton recorded, "Let it Rain!"

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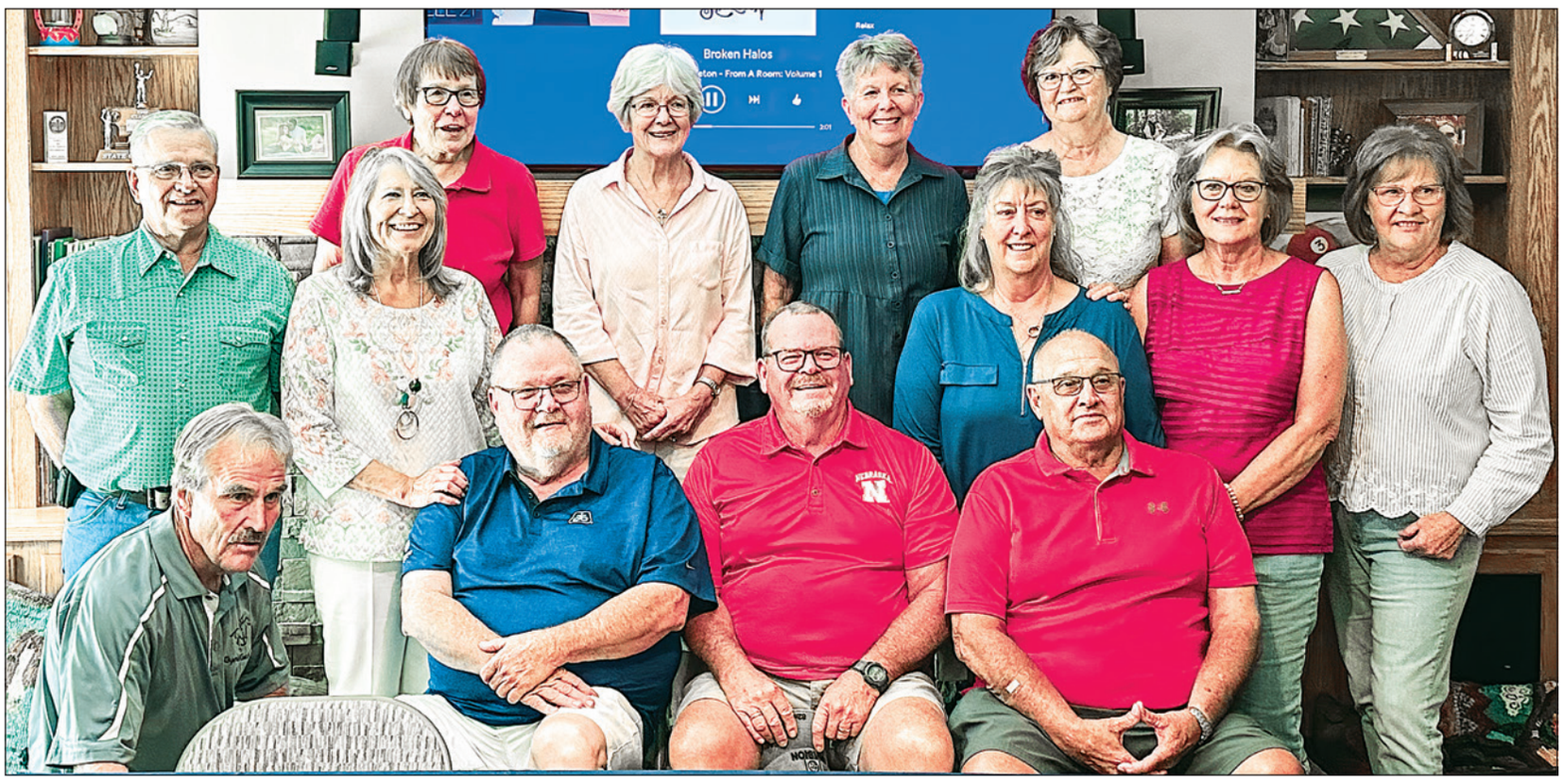
Pope John '71 alumni gather at Bellevue for reunion



The 1971 graduating class of Elgin Pope John celebrated their 55th class reunion at the home of Denise (Baum) Hoffman in Bellevue, NE. Thirteen classmates and several spouses attended. Shown are (back row, l-r): Linda Wiehn, Sue (Borer) Wangler, Tini (Vanderheiden) Oehlertz and Pat (Bode) Burgert. Middle row: Chuck Stokes, Janette (Funk) Feijoo, Denise (Baum) Hoffman, Barb (Kerkman) Hoffart and Deb (Zegers) Petsche. Front row: Roger Pelster, Rick Bode, Paul Schrage and Steve Stokes.

Photo/caption submitted by Barb Hoffart

Donnie Kahl presented WC Good Hand Award

Donnie Kahl, a friend to many, was selected as recipient of this year's Wheeler County 2026 Good Hand Award.

A long-time Wheeler County resident, his dedication to the community has made a lasting impact on countless lives.

Announced Saturday night at the 101st Wheeler County Fair Rodeo, "Donnie devoted 40 years of service to Wagonhammer Ranches where he earned a reputation as a dependable, hardworking and humble individual.

Throughout the years, he has also generously volunteered his time and talents to numerous community activities, including the Wheeler County Progress Show, the 4-H Horse Show as well as the county fair.

The following is from the announcement of Kahl's selection.

"Those who know Donnie describe him as someone who is always willing to lend a hand. He has a special way with kids and is an all-around volunteer who never misses an opportunity to help. If there is a job that needs to be done, you can count on Donnie to step in and get it one without being asked.

While some people seek recognition for their efforts, Donnie quietly serves others because he genuinely cares. He never seeks praise or attention - he simply enjoys helping people and making his community a better place.

Whether at brandings, county fairs or any community event, Donnie is always looking for what needs to be done and takes care of it so others don't have to worry.

His kindness, reliability, patience and willingness to serve have earned him the respect and appreciation of everyone who knows him.

Although his given name is Don, most everyone knows him as Donnie — a fitting name for someone who truly is a "Good and Fun Man" and an even better friend.

Donnie's greatest pride is his family. He has two children - Chelsey and Dave. His family includes granddaughter, Maddie and her fiancé Camryn Pelster, grandson Dylan Kolm and Trevor and Georgia, along with their sons Liam and Louie. Congratulations Donnie!

Photo submitted

Donnie Kahl is surrounded by family as he accepts the 2026 Good Hand Award during a ceremony Saturday evening at the Wheeler County Fair. Shown (l-r) are Dylan Kolm, WC Fair Board member Alan Snider, Donnie Kahl, Peg Kahl, Chelsea Kolm and Dave Kolm.

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DRIVERS:

- **Slow Down** near schools zones and in the residential streets.
- **Keep Your Distance** Allow at least ten feet between you and other cars and buses.
- **Bus Signals** When bus lights are flashing yellow, they are preparing to stop. When the lights flash red and the stop arm is extended, buses are loading/unloading. WAIT. Do not pass the bus or any stopped bus.
- **Be Alert** Kids can suddenly enter a road or street. Especially when backing out of your driveway -- look for students and/or bicycles on the sidewalks and streets.
- **Respect the Signs** ALWAYS stop for pedestrians (on foot and on bikes) attempting to cross the streets and watch for children around playgrounds, parks and side streets.

PARENTS:

Quiz your children on traffic safety rules -- don't assume they know them.

- Keep 10 feet away from the curb until ready to cross the street or enter a bus. 10 feet = 5 big steps for little kids.
- If riding a bus, always wait for it to come to a complete stop and wait for the bus driver to say it's okay to enter -- use those handrails to prevent falls.
- Face forward and, if the bus has seat belts, buckle up!
- Look both ways when exiting a bus. **NEVER** cross behind a bus.
- If an item is dropped outside the bus, never bend down (out of sight) to pick it up. Tell the bus driver and follow their instructions.

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Also.... **Thank You!** to Ted Baum, Corey Curtis, Cassie S., Tom, Rowdy, Courtney, Greg and Cassie C. for their help this year.

Names of buyers provided by the organizers of the auction.