



**PJCC Class of 2006 holds 20-year reunion**  
See page 6



**Black Hills Energy awards EVFD \$1,000 for fire masks**  
See page 10

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

# The Elgin Review

Wednesday  
August 26, 2026

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## In Brief

### Village of Bartlett advertising for clerk/treasurer

Until position filled.

For the second time this year, the Village of Bartlett Board of Trustees is advertising for a new clerk/treasurer.

The ad for the position can be found on Page 12 of this week's Elgin Review newspaper.

The opening came about following the resignation of clerk/treasurer Teri Ellenwood.

The position involves administrative and financial record-keeping for the Village.

It is a part-time position.

Interested candidates must submit a letter of application and resume to [villageofbartlett@gmail.com](mailto:villageofbartlett@gmail.com) or contact the Village at (402) 419-8876.

Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

Teresa Swick will serve as interim clerk.

## Public Notices

Public notices in this week's newspaper include:

- Proceedings — The Village of Bartlett
- Notice of Budget Hearings — The District #18 Board of Education
- Notice of September meetings — The Antelope County Board of Commissioners

*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 85 degrees recorded on August 16.

The low temperature during the same period was 59 degrees was recorded on August 19 and 20. Altogether, 0.26 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  |
|--------------------------|------|-----|-------|
| Aug 16                   | 85   | 61  | .00   |
| Aug 17                   | 84   | 63  | .00   |
| Aug 18                   | 81   | 67  | .00   |
| Aug 19                   | 77   | 59  | .00   |
| Aug 20                   | 83   | 59  | .10   |
| Aug 21                   | 80   | 64  | .16   |
| Aug 22                   | 80   | 61  | .00   |
| Total for last week      |      |     | 0.26  |
| Total for August         |      |     | 4.30  |
| Total precipitation 2026 |      |     | 21.09 |



## St. Boniface Quilters celebrate 50 years

**By Jane Schuchardt**  
*Special to the Elgin Review*

Just like a precious heirloom quilt, Elgin's St. Boniface Quilters have stayed stitched together for a long, long time, 50 years to be exact.

To celebrate this milestone, mark your calendars for a Quilt Turning at 1:00 pm Sunday, September 27, 2026 at the Elgin Knights of Columbus Hall. Organizer Nancy Shavlik, Bartlett, plans for some 30 quilts to be folded back from a bed, each in turn, while a narrator tells the captivating story of each. Most of the quilts were made by the St. Boniface group with a selective few added from elsewhere. A dessert will be served.

Five local quilters gathered in the St. Boniface Convent building recently to recount days gone by with hopes of continuing what they do so beautifully — hand quilting.

Making a quilt is a multi-step process beginning with the selection of a pattern. Then there's cutting and sewing fabric pieces together to make the top. This piece is layered with batting and backing, then stretched across a frame. The final step is quilting the layers together and binding the edges.

Shavlik said that while piecing continues in popularity, that last step of hand quilting, as compared to the now popular machine quilting, is nearly a lost art. Sitting around a soon-to-be 72 x 72-inch, multi-colored wall hanging provided by Margaret Jensen, Elgin, five women conversed nearly non-stop about everything except politics. At the same time they skillfully threaded tiny needles, pushed the thread in a running stitch through the layers with a thimble, and secured knots. Breaks only occur to take a necessary phone call or switch to a new thread color. It's fascinating to see the stitch length



A tiny needle, a well-worn thimble, nimble fingers, acute eyesight, and a passion for hand quilting turn fabric into a work of art at the hands of Bernadine "Bunny" Coleman, Elgin.

about the same though done by different people.

The group has two main purposes — first, to complete the quilt that's raffled off at the annual St. Boniface Thanksgiving Bazaar. The one for 2026, which Shavlik pieced, earned an open class blue ribbon at the Wheeler County Fair (where she resides) and now will be entered into competition at the Nebraska State Fair. The group put in 200 hours of quilting time on this piece and expects it to earn about \$1,000 for the church.

The second priority is to prepare a wall hanging or a quilt of any size for every St. Boniface priest, based on his colors of choice. Once those two priorities are completed, the group is paid for hand quilting of pieced projects others provide.

Bernadine "Bunny" Coleman, Elgin, said that last year the group completed four quilts. "We've lost a lot of quilters," she said. "It takes good eyesight and nimble fingers. What we can get done depends on the size, pattern complexity, and number of people available." Money raised goes back to the church for electricity and other expenses to keep the quilting room available to them.

The group takes summers off, then meets every Tuesday usually 9:00 am — 5:00 pm from September through May with time away for lunch, generally at the Elgin Community Center. An

afternoon snack break is accompanied by prayer, including gratitude for the women who started this group. New members, including those who wish to learn the skill, always are welcome.

The St. Boniface Quilters launched in 1976 as a neighborhood ladies club for those living southeast of Elgin. Mary Helen Schrage, Juan Hoefer, and Auralia Meis were among the early organizers. Since no one had a home large enough to block a quilt (sometimes as large as 120 x 120 inches), the St. Boniface Church basement was just the answer. Eventually, the group moved to the convent.

Shavlik and Jensen agreed that "Back in the day, there was no machine quilting. Most of the quilts were made for everyday use out of scraps of fabric." Today, quilts often are priceless gifts to signify events such as births and weddings.

Quilting skills often are passed down from one generation to the other. For example, Patricia Spieker, Elgin, learned from her grandmother how to "do the sandwiching" as she called it of the bottom layer, batting, and pieced top. Then, it takes at least four people, one at each corner, to secure the layers to the frame. The quilters start on the outside edges and keep rolling the piece inward until their knees often touch while quilting the center to

See QUILTS, Page 2 ►



This striking piece, a work of the St. Boniface Quilters, will be raffled off at the 2026 St. Boniface Thanksgiving Bazaar.



The 2026 version of the 50-year St. Boniface Quilters includes (l-r) Deb Hemenway, Bernadine "Bunny" Coleman, Nancy Shavlik, Patricia Spieker, and Margaret Jensen. All are from Elgin except Shavlik who is from Bartlett.

## District #18 valuation up by \$5.4 million

In August every year, school superintendents put the finishing touches on proposed budgets for the coming fiscal year.

District #18 School Superintendent Mike Brockhaus, like other superintendents, has been waiting for new county valuation figures from the county assessor's office to put the finishing touches on the budget.

Last week he received the necessary valuation information from Antelope Boone and Wheeler counties to plug into the budget process.

Combining valuations from land in Antelope, Wheeler and Boone counties, the total valuation for District #18 in August 2026 is \$1,081,599,571, up from \$1,076,131,896.00 one year ago. That's an increase of just over \$5.4 million from last year.

The new figure is made up from \$977,121,476 (Antelope County), \$72,112,218 (Boone County) and \$32,365,877 (Wheeler County).

According to the budget document which can be found on Page Eight of this newspaper, The proposed operating budget totals \$7,333,790. One year ago, the proposed budget (general fund and special building fund) came to \$6,898,040.

The proposed tax rate for the 26/27 budget totals 0.362541. One year ago, the tax rate was 0.355912.

Valuations are set, by law, no later than August 20 by county assessors.

Brockhaus said the proposed 26/27 budget is such that the school district will not be required to participate in the Joint Public Hearing at the county courthouse in Neligh in September.

## Benefit sort for Seier family to be September 12-13

On March 14, Cooper, Peyton, and Gracyn, the children of Adam and Kelly Seier, were in an accident on the way home from school. Cooper was hospitalized for ninety-three days after suffering multiple injuries including facial trauma, aortic dissection, a traumatic head injury, a right femur fracture, pulmonary contusions, and splenic injury, all of them life-threatening. He is now home and is going to therapy four days a week in Columbus.

There will be a benefit for the Seier family at Don Schmitz's Arena, just north of Elgin, on September 12-13. This two-day benefit event kicks off with a 10:00 am Cowboy Church service on September 12. Both days include a two-man ranch sort (a timed event where riders must sort cattle in two pens in correct numerical order). Along with the sort, there will also be a Silent Auction and Potluck. Those attending are asked to bring a side dish.

Cooper's dad Adam said on Sunday, "Cooper's doing great. It's a slow process, but he's doing great." Adam also mentioned that Cooper will be attending the benefit, and that they hope it will be a fun, joyful event, where everyone in attendance will have a wonderful time.

All are invited to come out and have fun while also supporting a

See SEIER, Page 3 ►

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From JoAnn Baum's Kitchen

# Refrigerator & Kosher Dill Pickles



Good day, Well, where did our summer go? How are all of your gardens doing this year? Mine is not doing as well as in other years. I am still enjoying all I need.

This week I am sharing a couple of dill pickle recipes that I use. They are very simple and don't take long to make. The refrigerator pickles are best when you leave them in the fridge for awhile.

If you were needing a recipe maybe try one of these. Happy pickling!

JoAnn

## REFRIGERATOR PICKLES

4 cups sugar  
4 cups vinegar  
1/2 cup canning salt  
1 1/3 tsp turmeric  
1 1/2 tsp celery seed  
1 1/3 tsp mustard seed

3 onions thinly sliced  
6 lbs cucumbers sliced 1/4 inch thick

Slice cucumbers and onions into jars.  
Mix sugar, vinegar, salt, turmeric, celery seed and mustard seed.  
Do not heat, this syrup is cold. Pour the syrup over the cucumbers and cover with lids. Let set in the refrigerator for 5 days.  
Ready to enjoy!

(The number of jars depends on the cucumber size you use)  
3-4 quarts

## KOSHER DILL PICKLES

1/8 tsp alum  
1 clove garlic  
2 heads dill  
1 hot red pepper

1 quart vinegar  
1/2 cup pickling salt  
3 quart water

Put 2 heads of dill in a quart jar. Pack cucumbers in jar.  
To each jar add alum, garlic and red pepper.  
Combine vinegar, salt and water. Bring to boiling and fill the jars.  
Seal with lids and rings. Put in a large canner and cover with water and bring just to a boil.  
Turn off the heat and let the jars cool!

# Quilts

◀ FROM Page 1

finish it off.

About quilting, Deb Hemenway, Elgin, with agreement from Spieker, said, "This is my relaxation therapy." Jensen chimed in by lifting up the camaraderie - "Every stitch is filled with love." "And friendship," said Shavlik, "and nimble fingers," added Coleman.

When it comes to a passion for hand quilting, these women are cut from the same cloth. This anonymous quote applies - "In the rhythm of the needle, there is music for the soul."

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# New resource helps owners navigate renewable energy lease agreements

Farmers and landowners are increasingly being approached about leasing land for solar, wind, and battery storage projects. According to the Center for Rural Affairs, these agreements can create opportunities to generate long-term, stable income from their property as renewable energy development grows.

A new fact sheet from the Center for Rural Affairs aims to help landowners better understand the leasing process.

"Renewable energy development can be a strong opportunity for rural landowners, but lease agreements are long-term commitments that deserve careful review," said Laura

## IN TWO WEEKS!

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# BLACKSTONE Builders



# Bartlett News

The Bartlett Lions Club held their monthly meeting Wednesday evening, August 12 at 7 p.m. The meeting was held at the Fairgrounds with 7 members present. Several members cleaned out the Lions Stand before starting the meeting around 7:30. Discussion included peach sales with a good report. 281 lugs, each 10 lbs., were sold.

Members talked about food sold during the fair. This included likes, dislikes, how much to order next year etc. They discussed the possibility of purchasing a larger air conditioner for the Lions Stand.

Wheeler Central opened their doors to students August 17. Map testing was held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. A little stressful, but testing will be finished this week.

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# FFA STUDENT of the MONTH

# Lillian Moser



Lillian Moser is the FFA Member of the Month!

Lillian is the daughter of Michael and Gina Moser of Elgin and is a Sophomore at Pope John.

Since the beginning of her freshman year, she has taken initiative to be an active member and leader of the Elgin FFA Chapter. She has participated in and competed in almost every event a freshman member could participate in, including range & livestock judging, saying the FFA Creed at Districts, and the Agriscience CDE.

One of Lillian's biggest accomplishments as a freshman was earning a Chapter Officer position last May, as she was elected the Chapter Jr. Advisor!

Lillian now leads her own group of FFA members and has shown tremendous leadership through her outgoing, positive personality.

We are lucky to have Lilly as a member and an officer! Congratulations!



Wishing our local students families, and school staff a **safe, successful, and rewarding year ahead.**

**Invenergy** 

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# BLACKSTONE Builders









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

Edward R. Murrow

# “Rag-tag” paid circulators in state spawn brewing scandal

You’ve barely stepped out of your car at the drug store when a disheveled person, toting a couple of clipboards, confronts you.

“Are you a registered voter in Nebraska?” they ask. That person, male or female, is a signature gatherer for a Nebraska initiative petition drive.

These people get paid by the signature, so guess what, there’s an incentive to be aggressive.

There is also, it clearly appears, an incentive to affix fake names of voters on said petitions. After all, you get paid by the signature.

### ALL THINGS NEBRASKA



State Correspondent Paul Hammel

That system has now spawned a growing scandal after it was alleged that hundreds of fraudulent signatures were found on petitions seeking changes in City of Lincoln ordinances. It spread to petitions seeking to put former State Sen. Brett Lindstrom on the November ballot for governor as a nonpartisan, and might impact other petition drives, too.

Five people, all from outside Nebraska, now face felony charges for falsely swearing that their signatures were legitimate, and for accepting or offering money for fraudulent signatures.

This wasn’t a mistake or two, according to the allegations. A whopping 65% of the signatures turned in by a group called “Good Government Lincoln” were flagged as potentially fraudulent.

Lindstrom’s petition drive, which employed three of the accused circulators, faced similar problems.

The petition circulators being charged were employed by a company called Axiom Strategies, which includes Jessica Flanagan, a former aide to then Gov. Pete Ricketts who has directed a string of successful Republican campaigns.

She helped Deb Fischer win her job in the U.S. Senate, and worked for Jim Pillen when he defeated Falls City businessman Charles Hebster in the 2022 GOP primary.



Axiom and Flanagan are again working to elect Ricketts, now a U.S. Senator (perhaps you’ve seen the deluge of TV ads), and to re-elect U.S. Rep. Mike Flood. She quit working for Pillen earlier this year.

Flanagan doesn’t win many popularity contests among political types in Lincoln, but she does craft winning GOP campaigns.

She has told the media that “criminal actors” – the circulators – defrauded her firm, and that one of those charged was a manager responsible for assuring that the rules were followed.

These rag-tag petition circulators are hired because they have been effective in gathering signatures in other

states. They must also like stalking folks on super-hot sidewalks and parking lots.

I am not against paying people to gather signatures. If it’s legal for corporations and the wealthy to pour millions into campaign advertisements because that’s deemed “freedom of speech,” then it should also be free speech to hire folks to collect signatures on initiative petitions.

But there must be rules. Signatures must be from legitimate, registered voters. And you cannot pay someone, or take money, to sign a petition (just like you can’t pay someone to vote – Elon Musk seemed to discover that in 2026 when he offered \$1 million to

voters in Wisconsin).

Big money has changed politics in our land, and not for the better.

Campaigns now tend to me more about who has the dirtiest TV ads rather than who has the best ideas and abilities. Who can raise (or has) the most money? It’s not always who is best suited to represent us.

\*\*\*\*\*

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.

# Third District travels offer new insights

There is nothing I enjoy more than returning home to Nebraska, traveling across the Third District and meeting with constituents in their communities.

While my work in Washington is important, nothing can replace hearing directly from Nebraskans and seeing firsthand the opportunities and challenges they face.

This week, my district travels took me across Central Nebraska, where I met with small business owners, manufacturers, and community leaders, to hear firsthand about the issues impacting them and discuss how we can continue working together to keep Nebraska strong.

I started this week at a small business roundtable with Citizens for Free Enterprise Nebraska. Nebraska’s small businesses are the backbone of our communities, creating jobs, supporting families, and helping our local economies thrive.

That is why I worked to craft and pass the Working Families Tax Cuts, which provide important certainty for small businesses competing in today’s economy.

We made the 199A Small Business Deduction permanent, allowing eligible small businesses to deduct 20 percent of qualified income and giving owners more resources to reinvest in their operations, grow their businesses, and create new opportunities for their employees. For small business

owners like Amara Block, owner of Frontier Frau in Cozad, these policies are making a real difference, while the law’s no-tax-on-tips provision is helping her hardworking employees keep more of what they earn.

From there, I visited BluePrint Engines in Kearney to tour their manufacturing

facility. For more than 40 years, Blue-Print Engines has been building crate engines for automotive enthusiasts and others around the world.

Founder Norris Marshall shared how the immediate expensing provision for new equipment, included in the Working Families Tax Cuts, has helped his company invest in new technology and remain competitive in the global marketplace.

I then traveled to Broken Bow to meet with local business leaders about how we can continue working together to keep rural communities like theirs strong. These conversations are exactly why I look forward to the August work period every year. Throughout my travels, I am always listening and learning. I take what I hear from Nebraskans back with me to Washington and use those lessons to help shape stronger policies that will enable our families, businesses, and communities to thrive. I am grateful for every conversation, every handshake, and every opportunity to hear directly from the people.

See RICKETTS, Page 5 ►

# Investing in communities across America

Now that Congress has adjourned for its August work period, I’m doing what I enjoy most — get out and travel across our great state. Last week alone brought meetings with local officials, small business owners, volunteers, veterans, first responders, and healthcare leaders.

The week began with an inspiring day in North Platte, where a new airport terminal and a planned tribute to the North Platte Canteen showed what’s possible when we invest in our communities.

Completed in just two years, the new terminal at North Platte Regional Airport is the product of local, state, and federal collaboration.

I was proud to help secure \$17 million to fund the project and bring taxpayer dollars back home to Nebraska.

I also visited the future site of the North Platte Canteen public art piece. During World War II, Canteen volunteers served more than 6 million soldiers traveling through on the Union

Pacific Railroad. The new installation will recreate a servicemember’s view arriving in North Platte, honoring everyone who took part in that remarkable effort.

In Valentine, I stopped by Heart City Childcare, a facility recently opened thanks to the hard work of the local community. Boosting access to affordable child care has been one of my top priorities, and it’s why I introduced my bipartisan Child Care Modernization Act last year.

In Gordon, I visited the American Legion Veterans Memorial, a powerful tribute to more than 775 men and women from Sheridan County who have served our nation. It was an honor to reflect on this lasting symbol of gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

I made a stop in Rushville at Modisett Ball Park, known as the “Diamond in the Sandhills,” a legendary hub of Nebraska baseball.

It was great to see the ballpark restored and once again in use by local teams.

Our ranchers and producers are working through difficult times, so I was grateful for the chance to visit the Crawford Livestock Market and hear directly from them about the challenges facing their operations. I continue to advocate for their needs and elevate their concerns to the administration.

Tragically, this year has brought historic wildfires to Nebraska. So, I toured some of the damage near Fort Robinson State Park. In addition to expediting U.S. Department of Agriculture assistance through my Emergency Conservation Program Improvement Act, which became law this year, I am focused on finding more ways we can better support local law enforcement and recovery efforts in the wake of these disasters.

I also attended a ribbon cutting at Western Nebraska-Scottsbluff Regional Airport, celebrating a project that protects and extends the life of the airport’s runway — a key economic

driver for the region. I’m proud to have secured \$3.5 million in federal funding for this work through my role on the Senate Appropriations Committee and voted for \$16 million to support this airport through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

To close out the week, I sat down with Jason Petik, CEO of Sidney Regional Medical Center, and State Sen. Paul Strommen for a productive conversation about how we can work together to ensure quality health care for Nebraskans.

It was a full week, but a rewarding one. I’m looking forward to more stops across the state in the days ahead.

# For wildfires, Nebraska must be better prepared

Wildfires are a natural part of the prairie landscape. This year, we had the largest wildfires in our state’s history. Over a million acres were burned. Property was lost and livestock were hurt. We are grateful for our first responders who helped contain these fires. Their dedication and sacrifice protected communities across the state.

In the aftermath of these fires, I visited local fire stations and toured fire lines. I flew over the damage with Governor Jim Pillen and Agriculture

Secretary Brooke Rollins. I listened to local communities on how we can rebuild and prepare for future wildfire events. My commitment to supporting the impacted communities and our first responders continues.

I also visited with the Sandhills Fire Prevention District and Crawford Volunteer Fire Department. Sandhills first responders saved the town of Ashby in the middle of the night. Crawford firefighters saved Fort Robinson State Park. They also evacuated residents from an assisted living facility. One

of the things I heard was that the best way to contain a fire is to get a head-start. Quick reaction times cut down the rate of fire growth. For fast-moving fires, aerial attacks can slow wildfires and support ground crews. That’s why I introduced the Pilot for Regional Emergency Prepositioning of Aerial Resources and Equipment (PREPARE) Act.

As Governor, I always looked for ways to confront fires sooner. As

## 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](http://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](http://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/writerp/>.

Nebr. Unicameral Website [www.unicam.state.ne.us](http://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](mailto:barry.dekay@leg.ne.gov).



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Ricketts

◀ FROM Page 4

Senator, I'm doing the same. The backbone of federal firefighting is aerial attack. That's the tanker planes and bucket-carrying helicopters that drop water and fire retardant.

The PREPARE Act would strengthen our federal firefighting response efforts at the U.S. Forest Service and Wildland Fire Service. It would establish a pilot program that positions firefighting aircrafts earlier in the year. That way, they are ready to go when fires break out. We can't wait until local resources are overwhelmed to dispatch aerial support. It also targets fine fuel — the prairie grasses that quickly burn in Nebraska.

I'm also working to support current and future rebuilding efforts. I helped secure a FEMA grant that will cover 75% of the firefighting costs from the South Forks Fire. This grant makes sure that local communities do not bear the entire cost of the wildfire. I worked with the Trump Administration to open up grazing access at the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge.

I also brought Undersecretary of Agriculture Richard Fordyce to Nebraska. He oversees Farm Production and Conservation, which includes wildfire recovery programs. We heard from Nebraska ranchers impacted by the fires. We listened to them about the challenges for rebuilding. We heard about policies that get in the way. They said they needed flexibility, not one-size-fits-all policies. After these discussions, the Department of Agriculture loosened requirements for replacing fence posts damaged in the fires. I also introduced the Fencing Eligibility for New Conservation Equipment (FENCE) Act. The legislation would allow virtual fencing to be an option under the Emergency Conservation Program. The FENCE Act builds on the flexibility farmers and ranchers are asking for.

This year is a reminder that efforts to combat devastating wildfires must improve with changing landscapes. I'm grateful for the quick response of our brave law enforcement and local authorities. I will continue to make sure our state has the resources needed to recover and rebuild.

WASHINGTON REPORT

U.S. Senator  
Pete Ricketts

Auditor's probe looking at DHHS 'highly questionable billing'

LINCOLN — A Nebraska auditor's probe has discovered examples of "highly questionable billing" and alleged weak oversight in a Health and Human Services program whose costs increased nearly 600% in the past decade.

Auditor Mike Foley's team released a 34-page report Monday detailing findings after examining the Medicaid Aged and Disabled Waiver program administered by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

In a news release, Foley said extraordinary growth of the program, funded by a mix of federal and state tax dollars, makes having stronger and effective controls in place "ever more crucial," though he noted that he is encouraged DHHS already is implementing measures to "catch dishonest providers."

Foley's team cited examples that raised red flags:

Some personal care providers billed for more than 24 hours of service in a single day. "A certain provider billed for an impossible 47 hours in only one day," Foley said.

Auditors identified 15 providers who were paid for DHHS services but allegedly were working elsewhere at the time.

Auditors found that providers could adjust their billable time after an Electronic Visit Verification system had verified hours worked.

"One agency increased its billable time by 434.5 hours in a single month," Foley said.

Foley said it is "all but inevitable" that Nebraska's aging population will lead to further demands on resources.

"A major challenge in controlling surging costs is eradicating fraudulent billing by unscrupulous providers who exploit the program's current administrative weaknesses," Foley said.

The AD Waiver program is designed to help Medicaid-qualified older adults and individuals with disabilities receive care in their own homes or community settings instead of an institution.

Payments for services increased from about \$65 million in 2016 to about \$434 million in 2025, reflecting the nearly 600% increase.

According to the auditor report, 1,985 providers delivered services last year to 8,694 program recipients. The number of recipients two years earlier was about 6,100.

Courtesy of The Nebraska Examiner

INFORMATION & REFERRAL

The League of Human Dignity is here to provide the information you need about public and private long-term care programs, including services, providers, and resources. We are a partner agency with Nebraska's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). Call on us to see how we can help.

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Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them....

Exodus 3:1-15

Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28 Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c

Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts for

Sunday, August 30, 2026

Fourteenth 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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Rev. Anthony Weidner, Associate Pastor

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cppnebraska.org

St. Bonaventure Catholic Church

Raeville, NE

Fr. Frank Baumert, Parish Administrator

Rev. Anthony Weidner, Associate Pastor

Weekend Mass: 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 8 am.

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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: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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: 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday, 5:30 am.

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St. Paul Lutheran Church

Chambers, NE

Pastor Leif Hasskari

Sunday Worship: 8:30 am.

Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:30 am.

Immanuel-Zion Lutheran Church

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Rural Albion, NE

Pastor Elizabeth Goehring

Worship Service: 9:30 am.

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## ESU8 workload stretches across seven counties

If you think education happens under just one roof or within a single building—think again. At the Educational Service Unit 8 (ESU 8), located in Neligh, the work of supporting students stretches far beyond the walls of a single building. With staff spread across 7 counties and 18 school districts, ESU 8 is a hub of collaboration, creativity, and commitment.

ESU 8 employs 108 dedicated staff members, all working together to support students and schools.

A large and impactful portion of that team is in special education, where professionals with a wide variety of expertise come together with one shared goal: helping every student succeed. Although many departments work together at ESU 8, let's take a closer look at our Special Education Department.

Special education isn't just one job—it's a team effort made up of many different roles, each bringing unique skills and perspectives.

These educators support students with diverse needs, ensuring access to learning, communication, independence, and growth. And the best part? These programs continue to grow, reaching more students and making a difference every single day. For example, in 2014-2015, ESU 8 employed 71

educators in special education, whereas now, we employ 83 educators in special education.

So, what does a career in special education actually look like? Here's a closer look at some of the roles that make it all happen:

### Special Education Administrators

- Lead programs, support staff, ensure compliance with laws, and help shape services for students.

- Degree: Master's or higher in Special Education or Administration

### Administrative Assistants

- Keep everything running smoothly behind the scenes—scheduling meetings, managing paperwork, and supporting staff and families.

- Degree: High school diploma or associate's degree (varies)

### Special Education Teachers

- Provide direct instruction, adapt curriculum, and support students with individualized learning needs.

- Degree: Bachelor's degree in Special Education

### Paraprofessionals

- Work alongside teachers to support students in the classroom with academics, behavior, and daily skills.

- Degree: High school diploma; additional certification or coursework may be required

### Teachers of the Deaf and

### Hard of Hearing

- Support students with hearing loss through specialized instruction and communication strategies.

- Degree: Bachelor's or Master's in Deaf Education

### Early Childhood Special Education Teachers

- Work with young children (birth–age 5) to build foundational developmental and learning skills.

- Degree: Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Special Education

### Teachers of the Visually Impaired

- Help students with vision loss access learning through alternative methods such as Braille and assistive technology.

- Degree: Master's Degree in Visual Impairment

### School Psychologists

- Assess student needs, complete evaluations for special education eligibility, support mental health, and help teams develop plans for student success.

- Degree: Ed Specialist degree in School Psychology

### Speech-Language Pathologist Assistants (SLPAs)

- Work under the supervision of an SLP to help deliver speech and language services.

See ESU8, Page 10 ►



Photo submitted

## Niewohners host PJCC 2006 class reunion

The PJCC Class of 2006 held their 20th class reunion at the home of Craig and Jessica Niewohner on Friday, August 21. Attending were (front row, l-r): Clay Pelster, Kylie (Hoefer) Brown, Nathan Kuhlman and Megan (Beckman) Heying. Back row: Father Patrick Moser, Kevin Moser, Jessica (Henn) Niewohner, Wade Hoefer, Eric Dinslage and Justine (Beckman) Dvorak.



Photo submitted

The ESU 8 SPED Department met for end of the year meetings in May at the Clearwater Learning Center.

## Lease

◀ FROM Page 2

Priest, policy associate with the Center. “Understanding each step of the process helps landowners protect their interests, set clear expectations, and build a productive relationship with developers.”

The fact sheet provides information on the renewable energy leasing process, from early conversations with a developer to site review, lease negotiations, construction, operation, and eventual decommissioning.

The process often begins with

an initial consultation, when a developer gathers basic information about the property. If the site appears to be a good fit, the developer may then conduct a more detailed evaluation of factors that will impact the success of the development.

“Marginal or lower-producing agricultural land may be especially well suited for some projects, allowing landowners to generate predictable payments over multiple years from acres that are less productive for traditional farming,” Priest said.

“Projects can also incorporate dual-use solar practices that keep land in agricultural use through grazing, crop inte-

gration, or beekeeping.”

The fact sheet also highlights things to consider before entering into a lease option, notice of intent, or long-term agreement. Landowners are encouraged to ask questions, seek professional guidance, and understand that organizations can support them through the process.

“Clear communication from the beginning is key,” Priest said. “A strong agreement should address not only how the project begins, but how the land will be used, maintained, and restored over time.”

To read and download the fact sheet, visit [cfra.org/publications](http://cfra.org/publications). The fact sheet is also available in Spanish.

## In Loving Memory of Christopher William Hanson

Born on February 13, 1991 in Scottsdale, Arizona, Christopher William Hanson, aged 35, was the beloved son of David Hanson and Cheryl Mackel Hanson.

Family was at the heart of Christopher's life. Those who knew and loved Christopher will remember him for his big smile and captivating blue eyes; they will remember his love for



music, his blue maraca, and his orange spoon. Christopher was blessed in his life to be constantly surrounded by his loving family. His memory will live on in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Christopher passed away peacefully on August 13, 2026, surrounded by his loved ones. He is survived by his parents, David and Cheryl Hanson, his sisters- Ashley, Kelsey, Nicole, and Alex, their spouses- Adrian, Nathan, Josue and Jeff, three nephews-Jake, Josh and Jonny; Grandparents- Lyle and Betty Mackel, Uncle and Aunt Dale and Theresa Mackel and Cousins- Aaron & his family, Joe and Nathan plus many beloved extended family members, caregivers CeCe and Diane and friends

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Phoenix Children's Hospital in Christopher's memory. <http://action.phoenixchildrens.com/goto/christopherhanson>

Christopher leaves behind a legacy of love, perseverance, and countless cherished memories. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

## 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.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Stephen Hopkins may not be well known today as a Signer of the Declaration of Independence, but his contribution must not be overlooked. He was a man of great integrity. He authored one of the first laws forbidding slavery in Rhode Island. Hopkins was self-educated as many in his day. He understood the duty to be responsible for oneself and involved in government. At first, Mr. Hopkins was a farmer. He married Sarah Scott in 1726 and had 7 children. In 1731 they moved to Providence, RI to run a mercantile business which eventually led to shipbuilding, even an iron foundry supplying canons for the Revolution.

Shortly after his move, political involvement began. Chosen a member of the General Assembly (1732-52, 1770-75) and its speaker (1738-44, 1749); Chief Justice of the Court of Common Pleas (1739); founder of the town library of Providence (1750); Chief Justice of the Superior Court (1751-54); delegate to the Colonial Congress (1754); Colonial Governor of Rhode Island (1755-56, 1758-61, 1763-64, 1767); Chief Justice of the Superior Court (1773); member of the Continental Congress (1774-1776) where he signed the Declaration of Independence (1776); member of the committee to prepare the Articles of Confederation (1777); member of the General Assembly (1777-79). (Original Intent by David Barton, 5th Edition, 3rd Printing, April 2010)

An interesting story from his day was the burning of a British ship, Gaspee, in 1772. It stopped commercial ships in the Narragansett Bay to search them. The Deputy Governor Sessions wrote a letter to Governor Joseph Wanton, after consulting with Hopkins, then Chief Justice, questioning this activity. The Governor told the Gaspee ship Lieutenant and Admiral to stop but they did not heed his request. Thanks to true freedom loving colonists, the ship was destroyed by fire. The British, outraged, formed a royal commission to find and indict those who destroyed the Gaspee ship. “Officially” the state leaders including Hopkins cooperated, but after consulting with Samuel Adams from Massachusetts, they did everything in their power behind the scenes to keep those colonists a secret. After a year, the British gave up!

See MEN, Page 8 ►

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★ OUR STORY ★

On March 24, 2026, all three Seier children, Peyton (16), Cooper (9) and Gracy (7) were in a car/semi accident on their way home from school.

Cooper suffered multiple life-threatening injuries including a traumatic brain injury, facial trauma, aortic dissection (stent placed), right femur fracture, splenic injury, and pulmonary contusions.

Cooper spent 93 days in the hospital fighting to heal. Today, Cooper is back home and continues to fight hard every day. He is relearning how to walk, talk, eat, and do the little things most of us take for granted. He continues to work hard at 4 days a week therapy in Columbus as he rebuilds his life.

If blessed enough not to need all of the funds raised, we fully intend to pay it forward to another local family or Children's Nebraska or Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital that support families during unimaginable situations.

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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.

Boone County Health Center

OUT-PATIENT CLINIC SCHEDULE

SEPT 2026

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Allergy -- Dr. Kinberg .....SEPT. 14<sup>th</sup>

Aesthetics Services -- Dr. Pudwill .....SEPT. 17<sup>th</sup>

Audiology -- Dr. Foss..... SEPT. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

Behavioral Health (Telehealth) .....Call for appt

Bryan Heart Institute -- Dr. Tessendorf/Dr. Pacini.....SEPT. 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

Dermatology -- Dr. Clarey .....SEPT. 25<sup>th</sup>

Endocrinology -- Dr. Brau/Leah Haak-Beck .....SEPT. 8<sup>th</sup>

General Surgery -- Dr. Schneider/Dr. Luebbe.....SEPT. 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

Heartland Radiology.....SEPT. 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

Neurosurgery -- Dr. Bixenmann .....SEPT. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>

Norfolk Cardiology -- Dr. Hartzell/Dr. Rome....SEPT. 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>

OB-GYN -- Dr. Albin.....No September Visit

Orthopedics -- Dr. Ochs/Kendra Thiem .....SEPT. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>

Orthopedics -- Dr. Rickert/Sean Craig.....SEPT. 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>

Otolaryngology -- Dr. Jazwick/Kayla Dicke .....SEPT. 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>

Podiatry -- Dr. Borer ..... SEPT. 11<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>

Urology -- Dr. Hill/Dr. Stegman/Schiessler .....SEPT. 17<sup>th</sup>

Wound -- Dr. Kohl/Candice Schnoor. ....SEPT. 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>st</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>

Clip & Save!



The Elgin Volunteer Fire Department members gathered earlier this month to recognize a \$1,000 donation from Black Hills Energy.

## Black Hills Energy supports local fire departments

### More than \$165,000 awarded to fire departments across the state

Black Hills Energy is proud to support local firefighters again this year with \$165,000 in safety grants through the Funds for Firefighters program, a 2026 giving initiative of the Black Hills Corp. Foundation.

Earlier this month, the Elgin Volunteer Fire Department was presented a check for \$1,000 to be used to obtain wildland firefighting masks.

The Funds for Firefighters program provided financial assistance to professional and volunteer fire departments within Black Hills Energy's service territory to help them purchase essential equipment and supplies that enhance emergency response and public safety. Seventy-two grants were awarded across 72 communities in Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wyoming.

"Safety starts with people — and the courage to serve," said Andy Storf, general manager of Nebraska operations at Black Hills Energy. "Our volunteer firefighters embody that spirit every day, and we're proud to stand beside them. At Black Hills Energy, we believe that when we invest in those who protect our communities, we're building a stronger, safer future for everyone."

In Nebraska, \$40,000 was distributed to the other 23 community partners:

- Atkinson Fire & Rescue Department: thermal imaging drone
- Auburn Volunteer Fire Department: 2 ALTAIR 4XR multigas detectors
- Bertrand Fire & Rescue: to help build a 1-ton wildland firefighting truck with a tank/pump skid unit
- Curtis Rural Fire Protection District: F-500 encapsulation fire suppression system
- Dannebrog Fire & Rescue District: replacement of bunker gear
- Doniphan Fire District 6: new bunker gear
- Eustis Fire Protection Board: wildland fire shelters PPE

- Firth Rural Fire District: replacement of bunker gear
  - Franklin Rural Fire Protection District: HyperSight units on grass trucks
  - Garden County Rural Fire Protection District #2: replace worn/damaged wildland firefighting gear utilized fighting the Morrill Fire
  - Gibbon Volunteer Fire Department: upgrade trucks with fittings, nozzles, and hose
  - Gordon Volunteer Fire Department: wildland firefighting equipment upgrades
  - Gosper County Rural Fire Protection District #1: wildland nozzles and chainsaws
  - Loomis Fire Protection District #4: hoses, nozzles, chain saw
  - Loup City Fire Department: Super Vac fan
  - Milford Volunteer Fire & Rescue Department: Rescue Randy for training
  - Minden Fire & Rescue: battery-operated ventilation fan
  - Osceola Fire Department: replace fire helmets
  - Pierce Volunteer Fire Department: portable meters
  - Plattsmouth Volunteer Fire Department: replace K-12 saw
  - Shelton Volunteer Fire Department: wildland PPE
  - Trumbull Rural Fire District: Motorola R7 Portable Radios
  - Wakefield Volunteer Fire Department: bunker gear and PPE
- Many volunteer departments also serve as emergency medical technicians, lead search and rescue operations, teach fire safety in schools and conduct emergency preparedness drills.
- "At Black Hills Energy, our mission is to improve life with energy," Storf said. "This includes creating a positive work environment that recognizes the contributions of our employee team. Our Funds for Firefighters program shines the spotlight on employees who go above and beyond and serve in these volunteer first responder roles. We are grateful for their service."

## Duane Childers & Marv Koch Memorial Trap Shoot held August 15



Earlier this month, the annual Duane Childers & Marv Koch Memorial Trap Shoot was held. At the conclusion, the families presented a \$3,000 check to the Antelope County Shooters Club. Taking part in the check presentation (above) were (l-r): Kathy Koch, Gina Kuck, Andrea Jarzynka, Chelle Childers, Doug Koch, Walter Counts (President of the Antelope County Shooters Club), Morgan Walters, Tyler Childers, Curtis Childers, Andrew Childers and Kyle Childers. (Left) Division winners were Youth, Greyson Frank; Women, Koral Jarzynka; and Men, Mitch Koch. A great day was had by all.

Photos submitted

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# Controlled substances, disturbing the peace cases heard in Antelope County Court

The Honorable Danielle Fliam presided over several criminal case hearings during an Aug. 19 session of Antelope County Court.

Baylee J. Bigbee, 29, of Sioux City, Iowa, appeared for a hearing on one count of possession of a controlled substance, a Class IV felony.

Bigbee's attorney, Doug Stratton, requested a continuance. Antelope County Attorney Joe Smith did not object.

Fliam granted the motion and set a Sept. 2 date for a preliminary hearing for possession of cocaine.

A \$12,000-10% bond will remain in effect.

On July 26, a Nebraska State Patrol trooper observed a northbound vehicle speeding on Highway 14 near Neligh. A traffic stop was initiated. Bigbee provided an Iowa driver's license but was unable to locate the insurance or registration for the vehicle.

During a records check, the trooper learned an active extraditable warrant, from South Dakota, was active for Bigbee and involved drug charges.

Bigbee was placed under arrest.

While conducting an inventory of the vehicle, the trooper located a marijuana bong, grinder and marijuana in the rear passenger seat floorboard. A probable cause search led to discovery of a small bag with a white powdery substance inside a mint container, which tested positive for cocaine.

\*\*\*\*\*

A. Jared L. Blevins, 41, of Neligh, waived his right to a

## Oakdale man charged with sex offender registry violation

A 54-year-old Oakdale man appeared before the Honorable Danielle Fliam, during an Aug. 19 hearing, on a charge of violating the sex offender registration act.

John A. Bishop appeared on the Class IIIA felony count. An indigency inquiry was held and Fliam found the defendant to be indigent.

Michael C. Moyer was appointed counsel for Bishop.

Fliam ordered Bishop to appear Sept. 2 for further arraignment.

Bishop was originally convicted of attempted sexual battery, a C Felony, in Cheatham County, Tennessee, in 1991.

The current charge stems from an Aug. 3 check conducted by Nebraska State Patrol Investigator Brandon Viterna, who found Bishop in violation for failing to report or update information about his registered vehicles and vehicles in which he has access or operates. Bishop also failed to provide an updated copy of a valid operator's license or ID card.

Bond, set at \$5,000-10%, is continued.

Courtesy of SAM

## Men

◀ FROM **Page 6**

Also in 1772, Stephen Hopkins set a slave free with this written statement:

But, principally, and most of all finding that the merciful and beneficent goodness of Almighty God; by the blessed Gospel of Jesus Christ our Lord: hath by the blessed Spirit taught all, who honestly obey its Divine Dictates, that, the keeping any of his rational Creatures in Bondage, who are capable of taking care of, and providing for themselves in a State of Freedom: is, altogether inconsistent with his Holy and Righteous Will.

But when it came time to sign his name on the Declaration of Independence, he determined to do so on his own no matter how shaky his name appeared. He stated while signing that, "My hand trembles, but my heart does not."

preliminary hearing for three felony charges and was bound over to Antelope County District Court.

He will appear Sept. 30 for arraignment on possession of a deadly weapon by a prohibited person, a Class III felony; one count of DUI-cause serious bodily injury, a Class IIIA felony; and one count of possession of a controlled substance, a Class IV felony.

The counts stem from an April 22 incident, when 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 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.

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.

Bond, set at \$35,000-10% remains in effect, with all conditions in effect.

\*\*\*\*\*

Blake A. Kitto, 31, of Elgin, failed to appear on a Class III misdemeanor charge of disturbing the peace. The charge stems from an Aug. 12 incident.

Fliam noted the county attorney may file a motion and order for an arrest warrant.

No action was taken during the hearing.

Courtesy of SAM

# PUBLIC NOTICES

Stay in the know. Read the Public Notices

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE AUGUST 17, 2026 MEETING THE BARTLETT VILLAGE BOARD

### VILLAGE OF BARTLETT VILLAGE BOARD MEETING 17 August 2026

The Board Meeting of the Village of Bartlett was called to order at 7:04 p.m. on August 17th, 2026. The meeting met at the Village Office, 425 Randolph St. The meeting was called to order by Chairman D. Williamson. The members present were D. Williamson, S. Plugge, M. Nordhues, S. Tetschner and K. Einspahr. Also present: TJ Ellenwood, village clerk and members of the community. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by posting at: Bartlett Post Office, WeMart, and Village Office. Board member Plugge proclaimed the meetings to be a legal meeting and acknowledged that the Open Meetings Act was posted in the meeting room.

**MINUTES:** It was moved by S. Tetschner, seconded by K. Einspahr to approve the July 13, 2026, regular meeting minutes. Roll call vote: Yes—Tetschner, Einspahr, Plugge, Williamson and Nordhues. No: None. Absent: None. Abstained: None. Motion Carried.

**STREETS:** The board discussed the street washing out by the culvert by the state yard. The board discussed the 1 & 6 year street plans. It was moved by S. Plugge, seconded by M. Nordhues to renew the contract with Street Superintendent Jay Meyer. Roll call vote: Yes—Tetschner, Einspahr, Plugge, Williamson and Nordhues. No: None. Absent: None. Abstained: None. Motion Carried.

**WATER:** Will be testing water again. Maco out of South Dakota will be coming to inspect water tower.

**SEWER:** Was discussed and will be talking to the Town of Burwell about cleaning the lines in town and having it done on a regular schedule.

**USER FEES:** Were discussed.

**JULY CLAIMS:** It was moved by K. Einspahr, seconded by S. Plug-

ge to pay all claims except those to Mark Nordhues for Professional fees of \$450. Roll call vote: Yes—Tetschner, Einspahr, Plugge, Williamson and Nordhues. No: None. Absent: None. Abstained: None. Motion Carried. It was moved by K. Einspahr, seconded by S. Tetschner to pay Mark Nordhues' claim. Roll call vote: Yes—Tetschner, Einspahr, Williamson and Plugge. No: None. Absent: None. Abstained: Nordhues. Motion Carried.

**GENERAL:** Postage, Stamps, \$246.00; Kick-It Spraying, Spring & Summer Spraying, \$150.00; Central District Health Dept, Water Testing, \$81.00; One Call Concepts, Apr, May, June Locates, \$5.70; Country Partners, Spraying Chemicals, \$67.38; Internal Revenue Service, Payroll Taxes, \$86.86; Rick Custard, Potholes, park restrooms, weed eat park & shop; \$1,020.00; NNTC, Internet, telephone, \$131.08; Elgin Review Newspaper, printing, \$58.47; Wemart, Gas for mower and spraying, \$163.78; Spalding Farm & Home, Park Bathroom Supplies & cleaning, \$29.96; Plugge's Rod Shop. Mower Repair, \$131.19; L & L Sanitation, Garbage pick-up, \$1,742.00; Sherry Tetschner, Board Member Expense, \$50.00; Kurt Einspahr, Board Member Expense, \$50.00; Mark Nordhues, Board Member Expense, \$50.00; Scott Plugge, Board Member Expense, \$50.00; Dan Williamson, Board Member Expense, \$50.00; Teri Ellenwood, Salary, \$524.24; Emma Smith, Salary

**TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES:** \$4,137.58

**TOTAL KENO EXPENSES:** \$0.00

**SEWER:** Loup Valley RPPD, Utilities, \$66.11

**TOTAL SEWER EXPENSES:** \$66.11

**STREETS:** Loup Valley RPPD, Utilities, \$980.15

**TOTAL STREET EXPENSES:** \$980.15

**WATER:** Loup Valley RPPD, Utilities, \$610.53; Mark Nordhues, Professional Fee, \$450.00

**TOTAL WATER EXPENSES:** \$1,060.53

**GRAND TOTAL OF EXPENDITURES:** \$6,244.37

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Troy Plugge brought in a bill from Serve Pro for \$12,296.28 for cleaning up the residence at 310 Main Street after a sewer back up on 6/20/26. It was moved by S. Plugge, seconded by S. Tetschner to pay Troy's claim for \$12,296.28. Roll call vote: Yes—Tetschner, Einspahr, Plugge, Williamson and Nor-

dhues. No: None. Absent: None. Abstained: None. Motion Carried.

The board discussed an interim village clerk. It was moved by S. Plugge, seconded by S. Tetschner to have Teresa Swick as the interim village clerk. Roll call vote: Yes—Tetschner, Einspahr, Plugge, Williamson and Nordhues. No: None. Absent: None. Abstained: None. Motion Carried.

Splash pad was discussed.

Updating the computer and billing software for the village was discussed. Tabled to next meeting

PUBLISH: August 26, 2026  
ZNEZ

## NOTICE OF SEPTEMBER MEETINGS ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

### NOTICE OF MEETINGS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, ANTELOPE COUNTY, NEBRASKA FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 2026

Notice is hereby given that the County Board of Commissioners of Antelope County, Nebraska will hold meetings in the County Commissioner's meeting room in the Antelope County Courthouse Annex, Neligh, Nebraska on the following dates and times:

September 1, 2026 at 9:00 AM  
September 8, 2026 at 8:00 AM



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## Notice of Special Hearing To Set Final Tax Request

Elgin Public Schools (02-0018-0000) in Antelope County, Nebraska

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Section 77-1632, that the governing body will meet on the 9th day of, September 2026 at to follow the Budget Hearing o'clock P.M., at Elgin Public Schools Board Room for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to setting the final tax request.

|                     | 2025-2026     | 2026-2027     | Change |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|--------|
| Property Valuations | 1,076,131,896 | 1,081,599,571 | 1%     |

| 2025-2026 Budget Information |                            |                                |               |                                                                 | 2026-2027 Budget Information |                                         |                        |                    |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Fund                         | 2025-2026 Operating Budget | 2025-2026 Property Tax Request | 2025 Tax Rate | Property Tax Rate (2025-2026 Request Divided By 2026 Valuation) | 2026-2027 Operating Budget   | 2026-2027 Proposed Property Tax Request | Proposed 2026 Tax Rate | Change in Tax Rate | Change in Operating Budget |
| General Fund                 | 5,723,000.00               | 3,628,062.00                   | 0.337139      | 0.335435                                                        | 6,073,500.00                 | 3,719,216.00                            | 0.343863               | 2%                 | 6%                         |
| Special Building Fund        | 1,175,040.00               | 202,020.00                     | 0.018773      | 0.018678                                                        | 1,260,290.00                 | 202,020.00                              | 0.018678               | -1%                | 7%                         |
| Total                        | 6,898,040.00               | 3,830,082.00                   | 0.355912      | 0.354113                                                        | 7,333,790.00                 | 3,921,236.00                            | 0.362541               | 2%                 | 6%                         |

## NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING AND BUDGET SUMMARY

Elgin Public Schools (02-0018-0000) in Antelope County, Nebraska

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given, in compliance with the provisions of State Statute Sections 13-501 to 13-513, that the governing body will meet on the 9th day of September, 2026 at 7:00 o'clock, P.M., at Elgin Public Schools Board Room for the purpose of hearing support, opposition, criticism, suggestions or observations of taxpayers relating to the following proposed budget and to consider amendments relative thereto. The budget detail is available at the office of the Clerk/Secretary during regular business hours. For more information on statewide receipts and expenditures, and to compare cost per pupil and performance to other school districts, go to: <https://nep.education.ne.gov>

| FUNDS                                 | Actual Disbursements & Transfers | Actual/Estimated Disbursements & Transfers | Budgeted Disbursements & Transfers | Necessary Cash Reserve | Total Available Resources Before Property Taxes | Total Personal and Real Property Tax Requirement |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
|                                       | 2024-2025 (1)                    | 2025-2026 (2)                              | 2026-2027 (3)                      |                        |                                                 |                                                  |
| General                               | \$ 4,711,485.00                  | \$ 5,435,000.00                            | \$ 6,073,500.00                    | \$ 1,870,568.00        | \$ 4,262,044.00                                 | \$ 3,719,216.00                                  |
| Depreciation                          | \$ 163,590.00                    | \$ 80,000.00                               | \$ 629,315.00                      |                        | \$ 629,315.00                                   |                                                  |
| Employee Benefit                      | \$ 17,138.00                     | \$ 21,000.00                               | \$ 154,744.00                      | \$ -                   | \$ 154,744.00                                   |                                                  |
| Contingency                           | \$ -                             | \$ -                                       | \$ -                               |                        | \$ -                                            |                                                  |
| Activities                            | \$ 199,633.00                    | \$ 200,000.00                              | \$ 437,791.00                      | \$ -                   | \$ 437,791.00                                   |                                                  |
| School Nutrition                      | \$ 186,371.00                    | \$ 197,000.00                              | \$ 430,000.00                      | \$ -                   | \$ 430,000.00                                   |                                                  |
| Bond                                  | \$ -                             | \$ -                                       | \$ -                               | \$ -                   | \$ -                                            | \$ -                                             |
| Special Building                      | \$ 174,595.00                    | \$ 200,000.00                              | \$ 1,260,290.00                    |                        | \$ 1,060,290.00                                 | \$ 202,020.00                                    |
| Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking | \$ -                             | \$ -                                       | \$ -                               | \$ -                   | \$ -                                            | \$ -                                             |
| Cooperative                           | \$ -                             | \$ -                                       | \$ -                               | \$ -                   | \$ -                                            |                                                  |
| Student Fee                           | \$ -                             | \$ -                                       | \$ -                               | \$ -                   | \$ -                                            |                                                  |
|                                       | \$ -                             | \$ -                                       | \$ -                               | \$ -                   | \$ -                                            |                                                  |
| TOTALS                                | \$ 5,452,812.00                  | \$ 6,133,000.00                            | \$ 8,985,640.00                    | \$ 1,870,568.00        | \$ 6,974,184.00                                 | \$ 3,921,236.00                                  |

| PUBLISH: August 26, 2026 | ZNEZ | Breakdown of Property Tax | Bond Purposes | Non-Bond Purposes | Total           |
|--------------------------|------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
|                          |      |                           | \$ -          | \$ 3,921,236.00   | \$ 3,921,236.00 |



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## Uncertain of how to price your silage?

Corn silage harvest is fast approaching. When evaluating whether to harvest a field for silage or grain, how to price and value the corn is often a point of uncertainty. Corn silage is usually priced at one of three points—standing in the field, packed in the silo, or delivered to the bunk.

UNL research has shown that corn silage standing in the field before harvest can be valued at 7.65 times the price per bushel of corn when silage is harvested at 65% moisture. This multiplier is consistent regardless of corn price. Using an estimated harvest-time corn price of \$4.25 per bushel, \$4.25 times 7.65 equals \$32.51 per ton standing in the field. Producers can substitute their own local harvest corn price when making this calculation.

This standing value accounts for not having to combine or haul grain to market. Harvest, hauling, packing, and silage storage costs are added separately.

When estimating costs in the silo, harvest, hauling, and packing expenses can vary. The 2026 Nebraska Farm Custom Rates publication shows an average custom rate of \$13.50 per ton for chopping, hauling, and packing. Adding that to the \$32.51 standing value brings our cost to \$46.01 per ton in the pile. Add another \$5 per ton for storage expense, and the value becomes \$51.01 per ton.

When valuing silage out of storage and into the bunk, remember that ensiling and storage cause shrink and dry matter loss. Losses of 10 to 20% or more can occur between when silage is packed and when it is fed. With 10% shrink, our \$51.01 silage becomes worth \$56.68 per ton delivered to the bunk. At 20% shrink, that climbs to \$63.76 per ton. Good packing, covering, and feedout management can help keep those losses as low as possible.

One final consideration is drought-stressed or hail-damaged corn. Harvesting these crops as silage may be an option to salvage the crop and produce

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**Ben Beckman**

needed forage, but both yield and quality can vary. Drought-stressed corn silage is usually 85 to 95% of the nutritive value of normal corn silage. A starch analysis can help estimate how much grain is present. Dividing starch percentage on a dry matter basis by 0.70 gives an estimate of grain content in the silage. For example, silage testing 35% starch would be estimated at about 50% grain.

Nitrates are another concern with drought-stressed corn. Ensiling can reduce nitrate concentrations by roughly 40 to 60%, and cutting higher can reduce nitrate levels because nitrates tend to accumulate in the lower stalk. However, higher cutting means giving up yield, and ensiling does not guarantee that high-nitrate forage will become safe. Suspect silage should be tested for nitrates after fermentation before feeding.

Hail-damaged corn may also warrant extra attention, particularly where severe damage has disrupted normal plant or grain development. Late-season hail can damage ears and increase the opportunity for mold growth. Some molds can produce mycotoxins, and while proper ensiling stops further mold growth, it does not destroy mycotoxins already present. If visible mold is present, consider testing and contact your local Extension office or another expert for guidance.

Finally, remember that the 7.65 multiplier assumes relatively normal silage yield and quality. With severely drought- or hail-damaged fields, lower yield, higher harvest cost per ton, or reduced feeding value may require adjusting the price.

Corn silage is a cornerstone feed for many producers, and knowing how to put a price on it can help make sure you capture its true value in your operation. - Ben Beckman is a livestock systems Extension Educator 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](mailto:ben.beckman@unl.edu)

## Rae Valley Heritage Days 44th annual Nebraska State Antique Tractor and Horse Plowing Bee

Intermittent rain dampened but couldn't stop this past weekend's gathering at Charlie's Park, north and west of Petersburg. The event gives young and old a chance to see tractors and equipment from year's past, along with a few modern examples. If you haven't attended in a while - or ever - mark your calendar for next year's gathering!

E-R photos/MWright



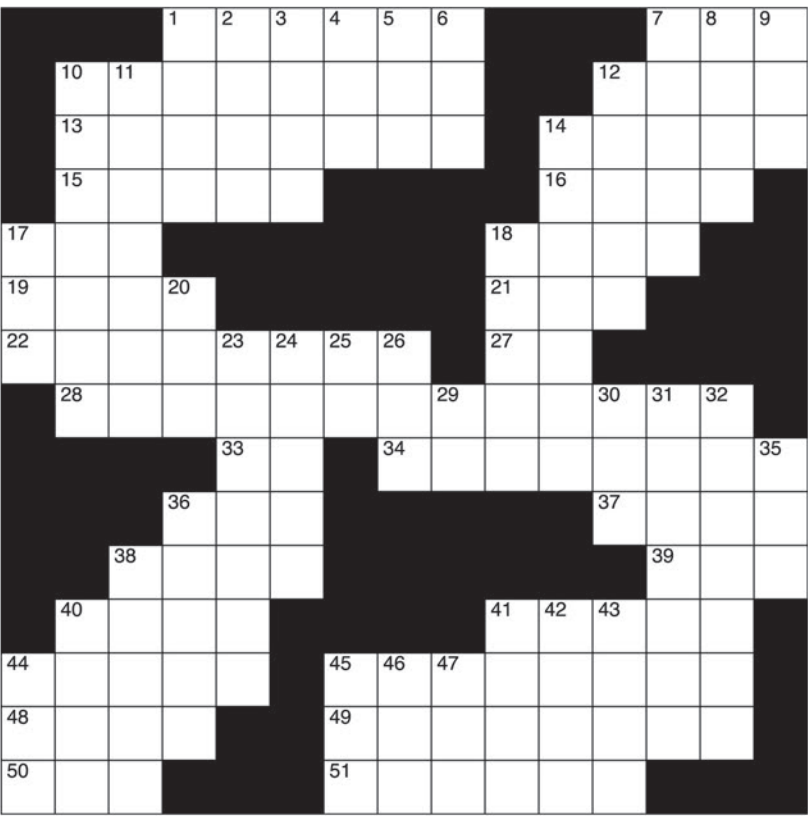
# Crossword Puzzle

CLUES ACROSS

1. A vast desert in Africa  
7. Reciprocal of a sine  
10. Type of phone  
12. Biblical figure  
13. One who renounces a religious belief  
14. Warren and Monroe are two  
15. Wild ox  
16. Dismounted a horse  
17. Cave dweller  
18. Where infants sleep  
19. Popular type of shoe  
21. Clumsy large person  
22. Evil-like  
27. Integrated circuit  
28. Austin-based athlete  
33. Postscript  
34. Follows 18  
36. People of Gambia  
37. Popular actor Nicolas  
38. Platform for a lectern  
39. Taxi  
40. American songwriter Sammy  
41. Iranian city  
44. Heavy clubs  
45. One who is expelled  
48. In bed  
49. Lifelessness  
50. Former CIA  
51. Most slick

CLUES DOWN

1. Slovenly person  
2. In addition  
3.hovels  
4. Pie \_\_\_\_ mode  
5. Subway rodent  
6. They \_\_\_\_  
7. Indigenous S. American people  
8. Fine sand  
9. Central nervous system  
10. Nightclub entertainment  
11. The perfect example of something  
12. Supreme Islamic leader



14. Pain  
17. Binary-coded decimal  
18. Projecting corner of an angle  
20. "Succession" actor Brian  
23. Dinner table decor  
24. Ancient settlement in modern Turkey  
25. You can call Paul Simon this  
26. Opposite of a pro  
29. Atomic #28  
30. Type of drug (abbr.)  
31. Arrives at  
32. Nullifies  
35. Bird's beak  
36. Partner to "ooohed"  
38. Ray-finned fishes  
40. Taxis  
41. Sat on and controlled  
42. Sea eagles

43. Remain as-is  
44. Chinese revolutionary  
45. Tooth caregiver  
46. Snakelike fish  
47. Compensate



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74 Red/Char Heifers.....916.....285.00  
66 BLK/Char/Red Steers .....906.....289.00  
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Photo submitted

## Elgin Knights add three new members

On Sunday, August 9, following a State Knights of Columbus Regional Growth meeting, Council 2411 added three new members. Pictured with the state officers, local members Gary Hoefer & Mark Dwyer are new members Brayden Burenheide, Jerry Pelster, and Camryn Pelster.

### ESU8

◀ FROM Page 6

- Degree: Bachelor's degree in communication disorders
  - Speech Paraeducators**
    - Assist in implementing speech and language activities with students who are receiving speech therapy from an SLP via teletherapy
    - Degree: High school diploma; additional training often required
  - Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs)**
    - Diagnose and treat communication disorders, helping students find their voice—literally.
    - Degree: Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology
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- At ESU 8, that commitment is alive and well—and making a difference across northeast Nebraska, one student at a time.

# NEW YEAR. SAME FIRE.

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### CROSS COUNTRY

#### BOYS & GIRLS JUNIOR HIGH/VARSITY

Sept. 4 Boone Central Invite (Alb. CC)..... 10:00  
Sept. 10 Boyd Co. Invite (Butte GC)..... 4:30

### FOOTBALL

#### VARSITY

Aug. 28 ....@ Boyd County (Spencer) ..... 7:00  
Sept. 4 ....vs Wynot ..... 2:30  
Sept. 11 ...vs GACC ..... 3:00

#### JUNIOR VARSITY/JUNIOR HIGH

Aug. 31..vs Fullerton ..... 4:30/6:00  
Sept. 10 .@ Creighton (no JV) ..... 4:00

### VOLLEYBALL

#### VARSITY

Aug. 27 ...@ Lutheran High Northeast ..... 7:30  
Sept. 1 ...@ Burwell ..... 7:00  
Sept. 3 ...Tri @ Stuart ..... 5:00  
Sept. 8 ...Double Tri @ \*Niobrara-Verdigre ..... 5:00  
Sept. 10.vs Boyd County (EPS) ..... 6:30

#### JUNIOR VARSITY & C TEAM

Aug. 27 ..@ Lutheran High Northeast ..... 5:30  
Aug. 31..vs Fullerton (PJ) ..... 5:30  
Sept. 1 ...@ Burwell ..... 5:00  
Sept. 8 ...Double Tri @ \*Niobrara-Verdigre ..... 5:00  
Sept. 10.vs Boyd County (EPS) ..... 4:30

#### JUNIOR HIGH

Sept. 2...vs Niobrara-Verdigre (EPS) ..... 2:00  
Sept. 10 .@ Creighton ..... 2:00

### SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Aug. 27 .....EPS school pictures  
Aug. 28 .....EPS no preschool • MAPS testing (7-11)  
Sept. 1 .....EPS MAPS testing (7-11)  
Sept. 2 .....FFA District Range Judging  
South @ Sargent  
Sept. 4 .....ALL SCHOOLS early dismissal  
Sept. 7 .....Labor Day  
Sept. 9 .....PJCC Senior Parent Financial Aid • EPS , 1  
PM dismissal • EPS School Board Meeting  
• PJCC One Act Practice  
Sept. 10 .....FFA A rea V Range Judging @ Pierce

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- Starman Seed & Supply, Inc.**  
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Jake Schindler 402-843-8812
- Sands Truck Service & Repair**  
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Paul Ruterbories 402-649-5827
- River Mill Coffee Company**  
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- Precision Repair**  
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Monty & Teri Reicks 402-386-5207
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- Kittelson's Home Repair**  
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- Jonny Dodge CJ**  
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- Insurance Mart**  
Janet-Tracey 402-843-2410
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402-843-2307

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- ELGIN PUBLIC-POPE JOHN WOLFPACK**



WOLFPACK

# Wolfpack Sports

## Opponents beware: EPPJ volleyball team is ‘loaded’

ELGIN — Every year marks a new challenge for coaches - to take the talent they have and mold it into a competitive team. For Elgin Public-Pope John, the team returns a wealth of experience, making it a serious contender for a state tournament berth in November.

“We have a lot of experience across the board,” Wolfpack Head Coach Jordynn Luettel said last week.

The team returns six seniors from last year’s team which saw their season end one step short of the state tournament, compiling a (21-11) record.

Braelyn Martinsen, Mady

Kurpgeweit, Elizabeth Moser, Brooke Kinney, Libby Evans and Sadie Thiessen all bring a wealth of experience for one more run at a state championship. The road won’t be easy, it never is when you are an elite team, but the leadership this group of veteran players brings will be tough to beat.

Martinsen is arguably the team’s best all-around player. She can attack at the net, block, serve receive and, if necessary, set the ball.

Kurpgeweit’s play in the front row will be a key to the season. With her height and knowledge of the game, she is an excellent

attacker/blocker. When she’s ‘on’ she gives opposing teams fits.

“I’m really excited to have both of them back and ready to go,” Luettel said. “Mady will play opposite of Bray in the rotation so we don’t have a single rotation where one of them is not in the front row.”

Also - on the front row will be the only junior on the varsity roster Kinley Druke.

Moser returns for her final season as the team’s setter. With the team playing a 6-2, she will be adding on to her career stats in a big way. Any team which returns a strong setter

like the Wolfpack will be doing this season, has an excellent opportunity to ranked among the state’s best.

Luettel said sophomore Jael Lammers will be the other setter as she is expected to be a six-rotation player. Lammers played a big role last season and, like many of her teammates, will only be better this year.

Senior Brooke Kinney will fill, arguably, the most important position on the team - libero.

“Liberos are always hard when they leave (graduation) because if you don’t have that first ball contact, the rest of

your offense can’t really click as easily. Liberors are very challenging to replace,” Luettel said about the position. “We have two (Kinney and Gentry Zwingman) who have the capabilities of being our libero.”

Evans and Thiessen will come off the bench to lend their talents when necessary.

A number of underclassman will see their roles expanded this season. A trio of sophomores are expected to play prominent roles. Zwingman is among the best on the team at serve receive and will also see time at libero, when necessary.

On the front row will be a trio

of sophomores making their mark as middle hitters. Lillian Moser played a lot last season and has gotten better. A late addition to the varsity roster one year ago, Sydney Niewohner with her height should see lots of playing time on the front row.

Sophia Burke came on last season, becoming one of the team’s best servers. Her role on the team will continue to grow in this, her sophomore season.

Filling out the varsity are junior Molly Thiessen and, as the only freshman suiting up for varsity, will be Tenley Schindler.

“All of the girls have improved,” Luettel said heading into the season.

Some of the bigger matches where the Wolfpack will be able to get a good read on the season and where they need to improve will be matches against Hartington CC, Norfolk Catholic and an October tournament at Hebron.

Also, another set of big matches will be against Nebraska Christian and Riverside.

“We want to make sure we’re competing at a high level with those opponents,” Luettel said. “Not only is it good competition, but a lot of them are ahead of us in class so it gives us good power points.”

Assisting Luettel with coaching duties are longtime assistants Sandi Henn and Jill McNally.

Joining the team as an assistant coach this season is Sydney Bode.

The Wolfpack played a jambo-ree game against Stanton last week, losing 15 to 12 in the fifth set.

The regular season opener will be Thursday night, August 27, on the road at Lutheran High Northeast in Norfolk.



E-R photo/LMorgan

**Making up** the Wolfpack volleyball team are (front row, l-r): Mady Kurpgeweit, Elizabeth Moser, Brooke Kinney and Libby Evans. Middle row: Braelyn Martinsen, Cielo Kuhlman, Gentry Zwingman, Jael Lammers, Sydney Niewohner, Kinley Druke, Molly Thiessen, Macy Rokahr, Lillian Moser, Sophia Burke, Kynlee Tillis, Aurora Burke and Sadie Thiessen. Back row: Ass’t. Coaches Sandi Henn and Sydney Bode, student managers Melissa Stuhr, Brooke Borer, Kinley Selting, Elise Hoefer and Aubrey Starman, Victoria Evans, Chloe Kieley, Rylee Rokahr, Tenley Schindler; student managers Harper Evans, Kate Barlow, Linley Seier, Emery Borer, Ellie Vanis, Harper Childers, Head Coach Jordynn Luettel and Ass’t. Coach Jill McNally. Not pictured: Cara Romej.

## Pack ‘reloads’ to contend for Class D3 State Championship

ELGIN — The Wolfpack football team will likely follow a ‘pipeline’ to victory this season. Beginning this Friday night against Boyd County at Spencer, Elgin Public-Pope John’s fortunes will ride on it’s own version of the ‘pipeline’ made famous decades ago by the University of Nebraska in its 1990s’ heyday.

Graduation hit the Wolfpack hard as standouts Jarek Erickson, Grady Druke and Karson Kallhoff completed their Wolfpack careers. While they are no longer eligible to compete, that means new faces in new places for this year’s team under the direction of co-coaches Nick Heithoff and Matt Euse.

Heithoff told The Elgin Review last week that the strength of the team coming into the season will be the offensive and defensive line. Jayvin Erickson, a sophomore, returns at center and will be flanked by senior guards Justice Blecher and Brayden Burenheide.

“Ground and pound,” he said, noting the three boys will form one of the largest lines in Class D3.

The center position is very important, Heithoff said. “If we have good enough play at center, where we don’t have to double up the other team’s nose guards and we can find their linebackers, it just opens things up a lot more.”

Add to the threesome junior Christian Preister and another junior tight end/receiver Max Henn and you have the makings of an impenetrable wall. Henn’s big play ability will be a strong feature to the Wolfpack attack as there are few defensive backs who can match his great hands, height and speed. Fans should

expect Henn to find his way into the endzone often in the team’s inaugural season competing in the newly-formed Class D3.

“That’s a big man (Henn) at

6’6” and 220 pounds ... There’s not too many people who can match up against that man.”

Their success at blocking by the ‘pipeline’ will be key for the

Wolfpack as new faces will be filling some of the skill positions. At quarterback, Michael Selting will be taking most of the reps. Heithoff said he has

confidence in the new signal-caller as the season begins, noting he can attack defenses with his arm and his legs.

“He’s been a good leader

for us,” the coach said about Selting.

Aside from Henn, Selting will

See FOOTBALL, Page 12 ►



E-R photo/LMorgan

**Members of** the Wolfpack football squad this season are (front row, l-r): Max Henn, Justice Blecher, Gavin Kallhoff, Brayden Burenheide, Michael Selting and Joseph McNally. Middle row: Braedon Hinkle, Raaf Klein, Ethan Hansen, Christian Preister, Jayvin Erickson, John Zwingman and Evin Pelster. Third row: Brayden Clark, Nolan Seier, Carter Selting, James Lodge, Sawyer Veik, Cael Bottorf, Garrett Busteed, Cecil Shavlik, Braxtyn Eisenhauer, Harmon Borer and Liam Pelster. Back row: Student managers Logann Pelster, Jacob Niewohner, Myles Veik, Jory Druke, James Moser and Bentley Kittelson.

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Spinning Tales

It's all about finding the answers

ELGIN — A new high school sports season begins tomorrow across the state.

Volleyball and football teams will don uniforms, some old and some new, to put their skills on display.

Like you, I'm looking forward to watching football and volleyball again. Elgin Public-Pope

SPINNING TALES



Publisher  
Dennis Morgan

John has, the past few years, made it fun to be in the stands.

Yet, like some of you, I have questions about what lies ahead. Maybe you have the same questions. One thing is for certain, over the next two months the answers will make themselves known.

Let's start with volleyball.

They open the season tomorrow night (August 27) on the road at Lutheran High Northeast.

A formidable foe at home, the Eagles were up and down last year. A win by the Wolfpack sets in motion good things to follow.

One of my questions looking ahead is who will fill the stat sheet in place of departed seniors' Camry Kittelson and Kayton Zwingman? Kittelson may have been the team's best all-around player last season and Zwingman dominated at the net against lesser foes. If EPPJ finds players who can step up their games in those positions, good things will surely follow.

In volleyball, you're only as good as your libero. Brooke Kinney and Gentry Zwingman came on last season. This year, will they continue to grow into the position?

Can Mady Kurpgeweit use her net skills on both offense and defense to force opposing

teams to have to adjust, opening up opportunities for others?

Will senior Braelyn Martinsen continue her ascent as one of the best all-around players in the area? There's nothing she can't do whether near or far away from the net.

Another senior, Elizabeth Moser returns as the team's top setter. Before the season is over, she may write her name into the Wolfpack record books. Who will stand out among the underclassmen? I'm betting on sophomores Jael Lammers, Sydney Niewohner and Lillian Moser. What say you?

Wouldn't it be great if the team adopted 'Jump Around' by House of Pain as their team song? After all, they're "Coming to Getcha"!

Then there's football. Coming off a 6-3 season one year ago, co-coaches Nick Heithoff and Matt Euse have some work to do to this season.

Will the offensive line (Brayden Burenheide, Justice Blecher and Jayvin Erickson) become the big nasties which teams fear? Blecher and Erickson played a lot last season while Burenheide will be a starter for the first time.

Can new quarterback Michael Selting turn in a stellar season? Will Gavin Kallhoff become a workhorse running back? Max Henn will be the Wolfpack's big-play man. With his height and size, there are few defenders who can match up to him on the field. Does that mean more touchdown receptions this year?

Let's not forget Evin Pelster. The most elusive of all EPPJ player, can he take his game to the next level? Remember his second half kickoff return against Overton in the playoffs last season which ignited a Wolfpack comeback which fell just short of an upset? The football just seems to find its way to Pelster at the most opportune moments. Will that happen again this season?

It will be hard to replicate the kind of offense production

turned in last season by departed seniors Grady Drueke and Jarek Erickson.

This year's team has potential, especially with the infusion of some ready for prime time freshmen, too many to name here.

Let's talk cross country. Senior Samantha Stuhr and junior Matthew Kerkman will don the Wolfpack colors, representing a program which is poised for a breakout season. Can Stuhr and Kerkman place high enough to qualify for the State Cross Country Meet in October?

Success in October doesn't just happen overnight? Runners who rise above the field earn those spots working out on their own months before the season starts.

Maybe the question here should be how many rooms to book in Kearney for the state

championships featuring the first ever entries from Wolfpack nation?

I, for one, am looking forward to watching the Wolfpack compete. Will I see you cheering in the stands?

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