



Residents celebrate Santa's arrival in Elgin

See page 6



Wolfpack athletes shine as winter seasons begin

See page 11

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The Elgin Review

Wednesday
December 10, 2025

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In Brief

Red Cross Bloodmobile here in Elgin today

Starting at 9 a.m.

The Red Cross Bloodmobile will be making a stop in Elgin this week. Bloodmobile workers will be accepting donations today (Dec. 10) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Elgin Knights of Columbus Hall. Walk-ins are welcome. Sponsoring the bloodmobile are Elgin Public and Pope John schools.

Food pantry to disperse food on December 16

At Neligh American Legion Club.

The mobile food pantry, sponsored by the Neligh Faith Community Church as well as various other churches, individuals, and businesses in the area, will be dispersing food on Tuesday, December 16, 2025. The event will be held from 2-3:30 pm at the American Legion Club in Neligh.

Pope John Christmas Concert is next week

At St. Boniface Auditorium.

The Pope John PreK-12 Christmas Concert will be held Wednesday night, December 17. It will begin at 7 p.m.

Public Notices

Public notices in this week's newspaper include:

- Proceedings — The Antelope County Board of Commissioners
- Proceedings — The Elgin City Council
- Ordinance #679 — The City of Elgin
- Ordinance #680 — The City of Elgin

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 46 degrees recorded on Friday, December 5.

The low temperature during the same period was nine degrees recorded on Sunday, November 30.

One inch of snow fell on Monday, December 1.

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

Date	High	Low	Prec
Nov 30	16	09	TR
Dec 01	26	12	.00
Dec 02	39	19	.00
Dec 03	28	11	.00
Dec 04	30	14	.00
Dec 05	46	21	.00
Dec 06	38	17	.00
Total for last week			0.00
Total for December			0.00
Total precipitation 2025			25.83



E-R photo/LMorgan

A mother, daughter moment with Santa

It was a festive evening Wednesday night, December 3, when Santa Claus arrived in Elgin. Children were waiting for him when he arrived at the Elgin Community Center. Approximately 180 children took their opportunity to share their Christmas wishes with Santa Claus. Some hopped onto Santa's lap, while others decided to wait til next year to approach the man with the long, white whiskers and red suit. Then there was Bergen Schindler, age 5, the daughter of Courtney and Nash Schindler. Encouraged by her mother, Bergen made it clear she wasn't quite ready for the moment. Seconds later she was all smiles after Santa gave her a bag of candy, courtesy of the Elgin Community Club/Chamber of Commerce. Outside, horse drawn rides were going on around town. The evening concluded with a Grinch sighting and bright lights as part of a Christmas parade. More pictures from the evening's activities can be found on Page Six.

DeKay offers update on 60-day legislative session to begin in January

With the holidays now fast approaching, final preparations are being made ahead of next year's regular legislative session. Pursuant to the Nebraska Constitution, the Legislature will convene its shortened 60-day legislative session at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, January 7.

In the latest memo provided by Speaker of the Legislature John Arch to senators and staff, public hearings on bills and resolutions will begin on Tuesday, January 20 and continue through the month of February. Full day floor debate will begin on Tuesday, March 3. The Legislature is tentatively scheduled to adjourn for the year on Friday, April 17.

Additionally, the Speaker announced that he will not recognize the priority designations for any bills and resolutions that were carried over from the 2025 session. What this means is that any bill or resolution that was prioritized in 2025 will likely not be scheduled for debate again unless a senator or committee chooses to reprioritize the bill in 2026. Furthermore, any carryover bills and resolutions from the 2025 session that are currently pending on Select File or Final Reading will also not be scheduled for debate again unless there is a new priority designation conferred by a senator or committee next session.

Heading into the session, the state has a projected deficit of \$471.5 million below the minimum reserve for the current biennial budget (FY2025-26 and FY2026-27). Addressing this deficit will likely be the dominant issue facing the Legislature next year. Given the size of this projected shortfall, I anticipate the Legislature will be devoting a significant amount of time to making adjustments to the state budget to reestablish a 3% General Fund minimum reserve that is required by statute. In addition to the budget bills, this will likely mean any bills dealing with raising revenue, such as increases to taxes or fees, or cutting expenses to the state will likely take precedence over all other bills and resolutions when it comes to scheduling by the Speaker.

A number of other issues may also be on the horizon. Landowners will be looking for additional relief on property taxes. Several proposals that are on the table in the Legislature for possible consideration include LR12CA which limits taxable valuations. The Governor and a number of senators are also considering their own separate proposals for next year.

Additionally, there is considerable pressure to extend state child care subsidies. A concern among groups like the Chamber of Commerce is that an end of the subsidy will result in more people leaving the workforce to become stay-at-home parents. However, a pending bill to extend the subsidies, LB304, would cost the state between \$10 million to \$14 million each year.

See SESSION, Page 6



State Senator
Barry DeKay

Commissioners discuss open meetings act

By Greg Tharnish

Special to The Elgin Review

The Antelope County Commissioners (ACC) met yesterday for their last meeting of 2025. Commissioner Neal Williby was absent.

County Attorney Joe Smith addressed the ACC focusing on the Open Meetings Act, a law that is posted in

every county courthouse in the state. Smith's main concern was continued adherence to the Act to prevent issues that are happening in Knox County. Multiple lawsuits have been or are being filed in Knox County and Smith wishes to avoid any such issues in Antelope County. The ACC agreed and will continue to follow the appropriate laws pertaining to discussions, procedures and actions involved with Antelope County business.

In another matter, the ACC directed Smith to come up with what is known as an "interlocal agreement" between Antelope County and the towns/vil-

See ACC, Page 7

Early retirement packages on agenda for #18 School Board

In past years, December has been the time when the District #18 Board of Education looks at the possibility of current teachers opting for early retirement.

That will again be the case this year when the school board meets in regular session on Wednesday, December 10, beginning at 7 p.m.

The board will discuss and take action on approving the number of early retirement packages to be offered this year.

That's just one of a number of 'action' items to be presented to the board. Other items are:

- Approve the Teacher's Negotiated Agreement for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years.
 - Approve the Superintendent's Contract for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years.
 - Approve the removal and replacement of the flooring under the gym bleachers
 - Approve transportation for an upcoming Music Booster Trip
- The meeting is open to the public.



E-R photo/DMorgan

Elgin, Neligh Knights donate to AC Food Pantry

The Elgin and Neligh Knights of Columbus made separate donations to the Antelope County Food Pantry last week. Each organization presented \$1,000 checks to the food pantry. Taking part in the presentation were (l-r): Elgin Grand Knight Paul Bartak, Bev Alderson (representing the food pantry which is based in Neligh) and Neligh Grand Knight Francis Hanzlik. The presentation took place at the Elgin Knights of Columbus Hall.

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From JoAnn Baum’s Kitchen

Peach Cobbler



Good day, Hungry for something yummy? Here is a quick and easy cobbler recipe. I have some canned peaches I did this summer. If you don't have your own, a can from the store works fine. Make sure it's the bigger can

and make sure you drain the juice from them. While this doesn't make a big amount, you could still share if you want. Make sure you have some vanilla ice cream on hand. Hope you enjoy the idea! Yummy!


JoAnn

PEACH COBBLER

1 large can sliced peaches (drained)
1 cup Bisquick® mix
1 cup milk

1/2 tsp nutmeg
1/2 tsp cinnamon
1/2 cup melted butter
1 cup sugar

Mix Bisquick®, milk, spices and butter
Toss the peaches with sugar
Pour batter in a 9 x 9 inch baking dish, spoon the peaches over top the batter, do not stir
Bake 375° for 30-35 minutes or until golden brown. Let rest 10 minutes and serve with ice cream. Yum!



AMH offers “Move It to Lose It” contest

“On January 5, 2026, our next ‘Move It to Lose It’ Contest begins here at Antelope Memorial Hospital,” said Vanessa Carpenter, AMH Wellness Director.

“I look forward to offering a fresh start to area residents – in supporting their wellness goals. It often helps to be more accountable when one teams up with family or friends to initiate healthier habits. This contest is an excellent way to kick off 2026 and reach their goals!”

The contest has three categories for men, women and teams. It runs for 12 weeks from January 5 - March 27.

For early registration (by January 2), the cost is \$40 for individuals and \$120 for teams of four.

After January 2, the costs are \$45 and \$125, respectively (no refunds once registered).

The entry fee includes a t-shirt, body composition measurements, weekly weigh-ins (Mondays - Thursdays), STAC classes and use of the AMH Wellness Center. Cash prizes will be awarded to the overall first-place winner of each category.

Other prizes will be awarded to the second and third-place winners in each category.

Individuals who are not contest participants may become members of the AMH Wellness Room for \$20/month for individuals under age 55 and \$17 for those 55 and older.

Punch card options are available as well. Regular hours are Monday – Friday from 7:30 am to 4:00 pm. (Hours may vary.)

For more information or to register (required) for AMH’s “Move It to Lose It” Contest or wellness program, please contact Vanessa at 402.887.6204 or wellness@amhne.org.

An online registration form for the contest may also be obtained from www.amhne.org (see “Wellness Center” under “Services”) and mailed with payment to AMH Wellness, PO Box 229, Neligh, NE 68756.




Photo submitted

On January 5, the next ‘Move It to Lose It’ Contest begins at Antelope Memorial Hospital for toning and weight loss. Pictured: Vanessa Carpenter, AMH Wellness Director, is shown in the AMH Wellness Center where members and contest participants may exercise.

Dr. Jamie Olsen

UROLOGY SPECIALIST





Dr. Jamie Olsen, urologist from North Sioux City, offers an out-patient urology clinic at Antelope Memorial Hospital on the **3rd Wednesday** of each month.

Dr. Olsen provides services for treating urological issues such as: incontinence, blood in urine, difficulty urinating, an excessive need to urinate that gets worse at night, bedwetting, kidney stone treatment and management, low testosterone, recurrent urinary tract infections, erectile dysfunction, evaluation and treatment of vaginal prolapse, BPH (enlarged prostate), infertility issues for men and painful bladder and pelvic conditions. His favorite areas to treat are prostate, bladder and/or kidney cancers.

The surgical options that Dr. Olsen offers include: pediatric and adult circumcisions, vasectomies, prostate biopsies, cystoscopies, hydrocelectomies, spermatocelectomies and much more.

Dr. Olsen’s next urology clinic at AMH is **scheduled on Wed., December 17th**. For an appt., call **402.887.6210**.



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Community Calendar

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

Wednesday, December 10
Regular meeting of the District #18 Board of Education* Community development meeting at KC Hall (7 p.m.) ■ December Red Cross Bloodmobile to be held at the Elgin KC Hall.

Thursday, December 11
Great Plains State Bank Holiday Open House @ Petersburg 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.*.

Monday, December 15
Petersburg Community Club Christmas Party @ Werner Hall*

Tuesday, December 16
Mobile Food pantry distribution at the American Legion Club in Neligh*.

Wednesday, December 17
Pope John Pre-K – 12th grade Christmas concert at St. Boniface Auditorium at 7 p.m.* ■ Anson Electric Customer Appreciation Event at Ewing location.*

Events listing courtesy of
ELGIN VETERANS' MEDICAL CLINIC
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When the hits just keep on coming

One thing in life is certain, there will be change. I will choose the latter or the former so I guess I should be grateful when change continues to come my way.

It's just the type of change that causes anxiety. Once again, I'm going to be on the hunt for another job.

I found out this week that my bank is being acquired by another regional bank.

Since they already have operations and Treasury teams, they are eliminating our de-

partments. Which means I'll be needing other employment within a few months. Unfortunately, this is very common within the community bank environment and could happen at any moment.

I've only been there since April so I'm still reeling from the news.

I'm not opposed to all change. I've been known on a whim to redecorate or rearrange furniture.

I enjoy trying new things and experiences. However, I am a

planner. I love security and I like routine. Change like this is never easy and tends to bring stress along with it.

As parents, it's our job to shield our children from taking on burdens they shouldn't have to bear. I don't want my children worrying about finances or whether or not Mom is feeling a little low this week. However, I don't want to sugar coat everything and it's good to talk through hard things with them.

Modeling how to work through tough situations and how to process emotions in a healthy way helps them to learn these valuable life skills.

On Monday when I heard we were being acquired, I told the kids (after I had already broken the news to my husband). We talked at dinner that the future was uncertain on whether or not I'd still have a position once the acquisition went through but not to worry.

On Tuesday, I received the news that my department would not be needed post-acquisition. I calmly explained that I had several months left and I would have plenty of time to find other employment, even if I didn't feel as confident about it my-

self. I waited until my children weren't around to fall apart a little bit and rely on my husband to help me grieve the loss of a job I really love.

I love the people I work with, my manager, and the work that I do. My kids know all of that, so they know I'm sad about this transition.

Since I'm in banking and my husband works in technology, layoffs are common. The kids have seen us both go through a lot of job changes throughout their lives and since we've shielded them from some of the struggles, I don't think they have any fear of this next phase. I try to balance communicating with them with what's going on so they understand, but



Tales of a Tired Momma
Elgin Columnist
Katherine Cobb

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Looking Back
The Elgin Review

Sixty Years Ago December 9, 1965

After joining the Nebraska Safety Patrol August 1, 1962, Trooper Larry A. Hutchinson 24 was stationed at Norfolk and is presently assigned to Albion where he and his wife, Luanne, reside. The Hutchinson's have three children, Kathy, David, and Larry Chris.

Mrs. Anna Sehi passed away Saturday, Dec. 4, 1965 in the Antelope Memorial Hospital. She was born in Germany and after coming to this country was united in marriage to John Sehi. They were the parents of 13 children, 12 of whom survive. She was preceded in death by her husband and one son.

St. Boniface lost their first basketball contest to a Cedar Valley Conference foe since 1963 Friday night at Greeley Sacred Heart. An improved Greeley team caught the Knights down and the result was a 49-48 Sacred Heart Victory.

Children will be entertained here Saturday, Dec. 11, by the Elgin Chamber of Commerce. Youngsters up to 11 years of age will be treated to a free movie at the Avon Theatre with show time at 2 p.m. Santa will make his appearance here and this trip is a special one.

During the past week 27 bowmen reported kills to the Game Commission, bringing the take thus far to 339. The 96-day hunt continues through December 31. Those making their kill from this county were Richard Cornett of Oakdale and Randall Robertson of Orchard.

Fifty Years Ago December 4, 1975

Elgin High School's wrestling team, under direction of Coach Jim Smith, opens their season this Saturday in the Howells Invi-

See BACK, Page 5 ►



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The Elgin Review

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Maximizing Nebraska's resources

Spanning our state - Missouri River to panhandle - Nebraska's Third District has been blessed with a breadth of natural resources. Although much of our state is naturally arid, generations of hard work, determination, and feats of engineering have maximized our resources to provide for local needs, feed the world, and minimize flooding risks. In order to help our state maximize the benefits of our many resources, I take my role in natural resource policy seriously, whether through empowering local management, providing oversight of federal involvement, or supporting projects, and I have worked on several major issues facing Nebraska over the past few years.

In June, I joined a celebration at the Good Life Marina in Trenton recognizing our success in enacting legislation to transition management of communities at the Swanson and Hugh Butler Reservoirs from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to Hitchcock and Red Willow Counties. Land adjacent to these lakes had been in limbo since management of the properties was transitioned from Nebraska Game and Parks back to BOR. Without action, BOR was expected to shut down long-standing lake communities which families had been utilizing for generations. Last year, I worked with Senator Fischer to introduce and pass legislation to transfer this land from the federal government to the local counties to ensure recreational access continues and visitors will continue patronizing businesses in those communities.

Another resource issue Nebraskans encountered, on the eastern edge of our state, was a Missouri River levy

which was washed out by flooding in 2019. Because of local issues with maintaining the levy, it had become uncompliant with standards for continued maintenance by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), rendering a sizeable amount of land near Peru underwater and unusable. In order to address this

issue, I worked to include language in a 2020 water management bill which allowed the Peru community to work toward compliance for the levy. The USACE subsequently made an initial round of repairs to the levy, and last month they announced the awarding of a contract to address ongoing issues with gaps in the levy.

Out west, also in 2019, a tunnel on the Gering-Fort Laramie Canal collapsed, halting irrigation for more than 100,000 acres in Wyoming and Nebraska. The collapse of the 102-year-old tunnel, which occurred 110 feet below ground, required costly initial repairs to restore access to water and brought to the forefront the need to modernize the century-old system for future generations. Since the initial collapse, I have worked closely with local leaders, Bureau of Reclamation officials, and my colleagues who work on the House Appropriations Committee to ensure BOR will support this work. These efforts ensured water access would resume after preliminary tunnel repairs, and in October the Gering-Fort Laramie District held a groundbreaking in Wyoming for their full modernization project.

Wins like these are not a one-person job, and I am grateful to be able to help when communities have brought forward major issues over the years. Our senators have also been great partners working together on many of these challenges. While there is always more work to be done, I am encouraged by the outcomes we've achieved and the

See SMITH, Page 7 ▶

FROM THE HILL



Congressman Adrian Smith

'The American Revolution' inspires hope that we can work out our differences

Editor's note: Opinions expressed here are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of The Elgin Review.

If you're like me, you probably have tuned in the latest, excellent documentary by Ken Burns, "The American Revolution."

If there was only one reason to donate to public television, it would be to help Burns produce more historical documentaries like "The American Revolution," and those on the Civil War, baseball and country music.

There is nothing more interesting on TV, if you ask me.

Personally, on PBS, I'm also a big fan of "Frontline" and the excellent reporting it provides. Plus, I'm a junkie when it comes to watching the state tournament games broadcast by Nebraska Public Media. Wow, that Wynot team was something!

But I digress.

What really struck me about the American Revolution series was not how disorganized the patriots were, or how brutal the battles became, but how the Americans were fighting— in many cases — against fellow Americans.

There were the patriots, those who objected to "taxation without representation" and wanted some independence from the King of England and his Red Coats.

But there were also many loyalists who were still loyal to the king, and couldn't fathom how 13 colonies, who disagreed on several issues, could somehow work together.

Some joined the revolution and fought against the Crown; others joined the Red Coats and fought for the King. It was brother against brother in many battles.

In local communities, patriots burned and ransacked homes of loyalists, and vice versa.

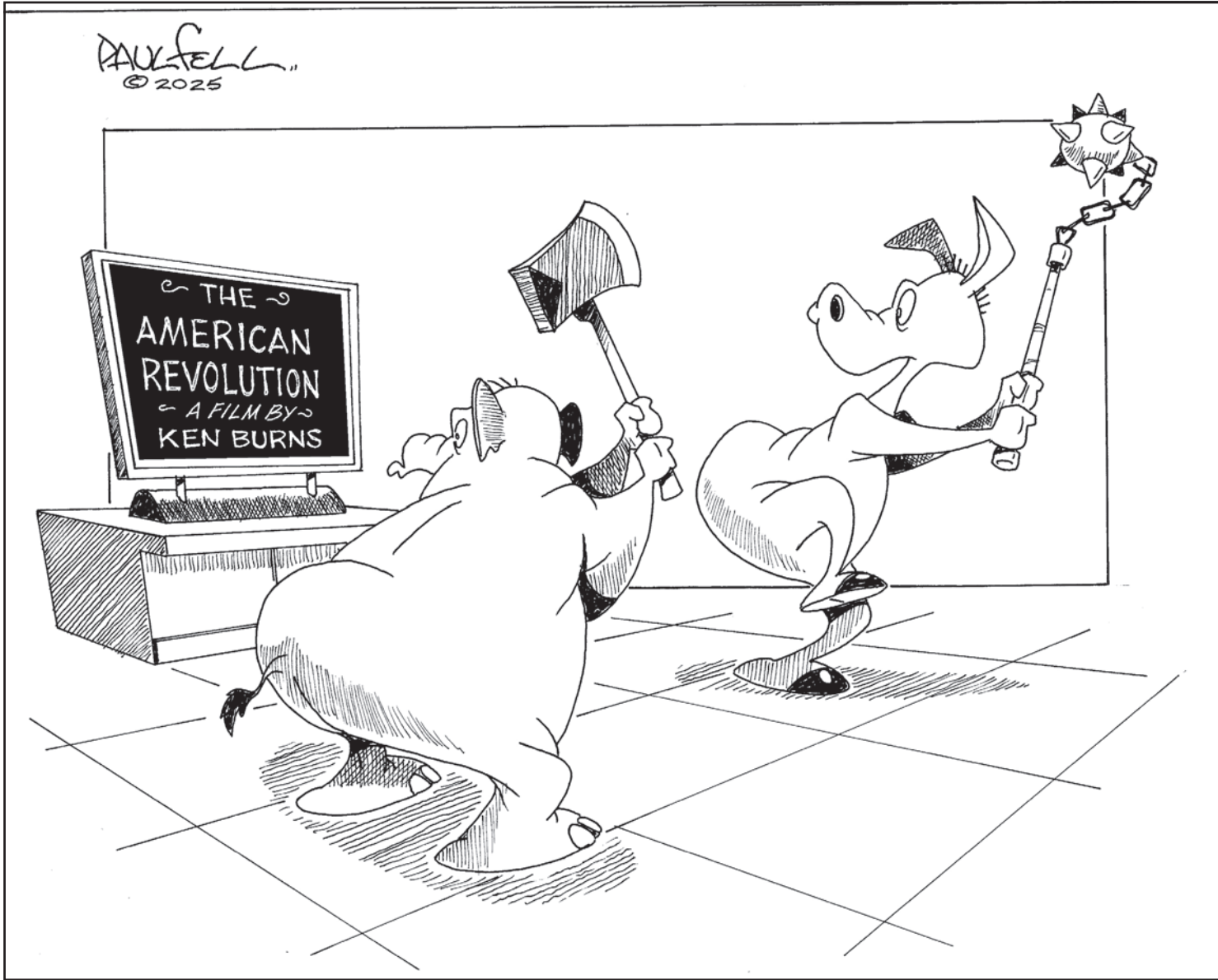
The New England colonies were very different from the southern ones, in their choice of religion, their national origin, and their local economies.

While it took only 17 days to draft

ALL THINGS NEBRASKA



State Correspondent Paul Hammel



the Declaration of Independence (which we celebrate on July 4th), it took years – because of the differences of the colonies – to draft and ratify the young nation's first Constitution because of their disagreements.

Different regions of the country had different views on how they should be governed, who should vote, how much power should be granted to the states (and not the central government), and how taxes should be levied and distributed.

Differences about slavery were just about to emerge.

It was the urban North against the rural South on many issues.

Does any of this sound familiar?

It did to me. The harsh divisions we now see between Americans and their

political views seem like a national tradition after viewing "The American Revolution" series.

I couldn't help thinking about the 1960s, and the demonstrations for Civil Rights and against the Vietnam War. Talk about divisions – neighborhoods burned (like Omaha's north side), university buildings were bombed, the National Guard was called out to truly restore order.

It was interesting that back in the revolutionary days, democracy was viewed with suspicion as "messy." There were fears that a loud-voiced demagogue would steer the populace down the wrong path. Over there years, we've seen that in the U.S., and democracy, indeed, gets messy at times.

But I came away from "The American Revolution" with a sense of hope.

If our fledgling country could work out its disagreements, and band together to defeat the superpower of that era, the British, and form a new nation, I had to think that we can work out our differences in today's world.

Let's hope so.

Paul Hammel has covered the Nebraska state government and the state for decades. Prior to his retirement, he was senior contributor with the Nebraska Examiner.

He was previously with the Omaha World-Herald, Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha Sun. A native of Ralston, Nebraska, he loves traveling and writing about the state.

Signal now is under siege in the heartland

Most of us don't think twice about the networks that connect our phones, schools, or workplaces. But those systems — parts of our daily lives that we often take for granted — are increasingly valuable targets for bad actors and foreign adversaries.

This week, I chaired a Senate hearing to dig into this issue. As chair of the Commerce Committee's Telecommunications and Media Subcommittee, I questioned experts about how government and private companies can work together to protect our communications networks.



U.S. Senator

Deb Fischer

Those experts made this clear: China remains the most active and persistent cyber threat to American institutions.

Just last year, a Chinese government-backed hacking group infiltrated U.S. telecom providers. And with artificial intelligence making these attacks more persistent and sophisticated, the need for a strong national

strategy is becoming urgent.

But you don't need to look far to see why this matters. We've already felt the impact here at home.

In October, Kearney Public Schools were hit with a major cyberattack that shut down phones and computers across the district.

We've also seen several 9-1-1 outages in Nebraska — times when emergency calls simply didn't go through because the network wasn't resilient enough, with proper back up redundancy. When parents can't reach their child's school or someone can't reach 9-1-1, lurking network security vulnerabilities can quickly turn into an emergency.

That's why Congress is stepping up efforts to remove risky foreign technology from our networks. Equipment from companies linked to the Chinese government poses serious security risks.

To address that, we created the "Rip and Replace" program, which helps American carriers remove and replace vulnerable equipment. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is also continuing to identify companies that could put our networks at risk.

We're also working to increase transparency. Earlier this year, I introduced the FACT Act, which re-

quires the FCC to publicly identify any communications license holders tied to foreign adversaries. It passed the Senate in October, and it's an important step toward giving Americans a clearer picture of who is operating our communications systems. I'm pushing to get it to the president's desk and signed into law.

These threats are far reaching. Undersea cables — which carry international internet traffic — have been

damaged multiple times in recent years.

Some incidents were accidental, while others were intentional. But each time, it knocked millions of people and businesses offline, proving how fragile the global communications system can be.

In space, with more than 10,000 satellites now orbiting Earth, we face a

See FISCHER, Page 5 ▶

The men who signed the Declaration of Independence

Editor's note: This week marks the second installment of a new series tied to our nation's 250th birthday in July 2026. As time draws near to 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.

John Witherspoon (1723—1794)

An ordained minister in Scotland, he accepted the presidency of Princeton through the efforts of Founding Father Benjamin Rush (and Richard Stockton whom both had spent time in Scotland). Witherspoon was a member of the New Jersey Provincial Congress, where he signed the Declaration of

See INDEPENDENCE, Page 5 ▶

Numbers to Know

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Cobb

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without instilling any worry or fear of the unknown. Right now, I'm still processing the news and reciting Bible verses to keep my anxiety at bay. I'm hopeful that another opportunity will come along and I will love that job just as much. I know that God has great things in store for me and that this is just another bump in the road. And God willing, I can stay a little longer next time before yet another inevitable change. *Comments are welcome and can be sent to talesofatiredmomma@gmail.com.*

Fischer

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new and rapidly expanding frontier. These satellites power everything from rural internet access to national security systems. They offer incredible benefits, but they also create new targets for foreign adversaries. Whether on land, under the ocean, or the sky above us, cyber threats are growing more aggressive. Nebraska's own experiences show just how quickly these problems can reach our classrooms, our emergency responders, and our communities. The way forward includes stronger cooperation between government and private industry, more transparency about who owns and operates our networks, and continued investment in building systems that can withstand attacks. Cybersecurity policy doesn't solely concern staffers and officials in Washington. It's also a Nebraska issue. It affects every American across the country — at home, at school, at work, and in emergencies. That's why we must stay vigilant and prepare our networks now, because the threats aren't slowing down.

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OBITUARIES

Lois Jane Hoefer Williams, 89

December 21, 1935 - September 25, 2025

After graduating from St. Boniface High School, she served as president of her local Rotary club for many years.



Lois Jane Hoefer Williams 89, of Mesa AZ, passed away

Thursday September 25, 2025 at Brookdale Springs Assisted Living Community. In loving memory, a funeral Mass will be at St. Bridget Catholic church on December 10, 2025 at 10 a.m. The interment will follow at Queen of Heaven Cemetery. ***** Lois, daughter of Russell and Catherine (Kerkman) Hoefer was born on December 21, 1935. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Elgin NE. She graduated from St. Boniface High School class of 1953. On January 11th, 1974 Lois was united in marriage to Cleatus (Bill) Williams in Etiwanda CA. At that time Lois had 6 children and Bill was raising 5 young children under age 10 on his own. So Lois became a mother to 5 more children. After a year the family moved to Tempe AZ. Lois was happily married to Bill for 51 years. Lois was an active member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church and then St. Timothy's Catholic Church when it was built. After 15 years in Tempe AZ, Lois and Bill moved to Sun Lakes

AZ to retire where they were active members at St. Steven's Catholic Church. Through the years Lois worked part time for Hallmark greeting cards, American greeting cards, then full time at a local bank processing credit cards for major businesses, and later became vice-president. In retirement, she also worked part time for Palo Verde Golf shop. Lois was involved in many charitable projects as a member of The Rotary Club, where she became the president of the club for many years. Lois had many hobbies including Sewing, Crocheting, Reading, Golfing, Traveling, Bingo and Scrapbooking. Lois is survived by eight children: Diana Losito (Mark), Larry DeMuth (Susan), Danny DeMuth (Terrie), LaRee Castorena (Tony), Janice Ippolito (Tony), Lisa Farley (Chris), Adrian Williams, Andrea Williams Quiroz (Ruben), 19 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren, one great, great granddaughter, and many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Lois is preceded in death by her parents and six siblings, her sons James DeMuth, Brian and Darrin Williams and grandson Nicolas DeMuth.

The Elgin Review • December 10, 2025

Independence

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Independence. With the outbreak of war, he closed Princeton for the safety of students and then remained in Congress, serving not only on the Board of War to direct military operations but also on one hundred congressional committees, including the one that produced America's very first English-language Bible—the famous “Bible of the Revolution,” printed under the authority and by the authorization of Congress. He lost a son in battle during the Revolution, and his home and possessions were pillaged by the British. After the Revolution he worked to rebuild Princeton, served in the New Jersey legislature, and was a member of the state convention to ratify the U.S. Constitution. (Founders' Bible, p. 1713) To enter Princeton in 1768, under the leadership of John Witherspoon, which was then the College of New Jersey, he required, ‘the ability to write Latin prose, translate Virgil, Cicero, and the Greek gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) and a commensurate knowledge of Latin and Greek grammar.’ That was just to get in!! Witherspoon, along with being president, ‘taught courses in theology, moral philosophy, rhetoric, history, French and Hebrew.’ (Lives, Fortunes and Sacred Honor by Mark J. Cole, p. 124) One of his early prominent graduates in the class of 1771, James Madison, later becoming known as the father of the Constitution and the fourth President of the United States, was personally tutored by Witherspoon for one year after graduation from Princeton in theology and Hebrew. Of the 500 some graduates during Witherspoon's tenure at Princeton, including future President James Madison, 21 of them became United States Senators, 29 became members of the U.S. House, 33 became judges, of which 3 sat on the Supreme Court. During the founding era, a third of all Presbyterian pulpits were filled by his students, preaching sound doctrine, practical moral instruction and advocacy of the independence cause. John Witherspoon's spiritual influence through Bible instruction about government, brought colonies together with more agreement proving vital to the independence movement. “Cursed be all that learning that is contrary to the cross of Christ,” was Witherspoon's educational philosophy. (The American Story, The Beginnings by David Barton, Tim Barton, p.122) John Witherspoon's influence continued. His students had command positions in every area of combat during the Revolutionary War along with making up one sixth of the members of the Constitutional Convention in 1787. Fifty of his five hundred students went on to be college Presidents in eight states. Quotes by Witherspoon: “Every law establishes a moral standard.” “The sum of the whole is that the blessing of God is only to be looked for by those who are not wanting (lacking) in the discharge of their own duty.” “Shall we establish nothing good because we know it cannot be eternal? Shall we live without government because every constitution has its old age and its period? Because we know that we shall die, shall we take no pains to preserve or lengthen our life? Far from it, Sir: it only requires the more watchful attention to settle government upon the best principles and in the wisest manner that it may last as long as the nature of things will permit.” “Pure Democracy cannot subsist long nor be carried far into the departments of state – it is very subject to caprice and the madness of popular rage.”



Caroline Epp

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1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14

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Glad Tidings We Bring

The prophet foretold good things to come. This season brings good things in our time. This week in church, find the reasons for joy and gladness.

...they shall obtain joy and gladness....

Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11 Psalm 146:5-10

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

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Third Sunday Of Advent

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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St. Bonaventure Catholic Church
Raeville, NE
Fr. John Norman, Pastor
Fr. Frank Baumert, Associate Pastor
Weekend Mass: 1st, 3rd & 5th 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. John Norman, Pastor
Fr. Frank Baumert, 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. John Norman, Pastor
Fr. Frank Baumert, 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
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Rural Albion, NE
Pastor Elizabeth Goehring
Worship Service: 9:30 am.
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Faith

is confidence is what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Hebrews 11:1

Supporting our seniors through the seasons

Having worked my entire adult life with our senior population, I've learned that there are a few things many of us find difficult, like asking for help and talking about how we feel. My love for our seniors and passion for providing support are what brought me to Boone County Health Centers's (BCHC) Senior Life Solutions. Our program focuses on



Lacey Vanis, RN

group therapy and personalized care for older adults, typically 65 and older, in a safe, welcoming space. We help participants connect with others who understand, learn coping strategies, and rediscover joy, even in the heart of winter. Plus, no referral is needed to participate. As we approach the holiday season, it's important to remember that while this time of year can be joyful for some, it can also bring feelings of loneliness, grief, and anxiety for others. For many, the season may highlight the absence of a loved one, changes in family dynamics, financial hardships, physical

challenges, or other life transitions that require grieving. Grief is not only about loss of a loved one. It can accompany any major change. Each person's process is unique, with no right or wrong way to grieve. Our goal at BCHC's Senior Life Solutions is to offer compassionate, local support for individuals wherever they are in that process. To enhance that support, BCHC has partnered with Aseracare Hospice to bring a specialized Grief Support Group closer to home. This group will be offered quarterly in the KVAM Room, located near the

North Administrative entrance of the Health Center. This group provides an opportunity to connect with others who share similar experiences, to learn new tools for coping, and to find comfort in community. It is open to anyone who would like to participate no matter where you are in your life or grieving journey. As we move through this holiday season, remember: the best gifts we can offer are kindness, presence, and a listening ear. If you or someone you know is struggling, please call 402-395-3134.

Back

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tational. Prospects for the upcoming year include state qualifiers Cary Sutton, Craig Meis, Clyde Meis 4th at state last year, and Marty Legate. Mrs. Bessie Hawks had the tips of two fingers on her left hand severely cut Monday evening while grinding meat at her home. She and the Louis Heithoffs were cutting up a order at the time of the accident. She was taken to Antelope Memorial Hospital for treatment and was released on Tuesday. The Pope John Crusaders open their 1975-76 Basketball season against Verdigre here on December 5 at 6:30 p.m. The Pope John team opens with a new coach. Coach Chuck Collins is a graduate of Wayne State and a three year veteran basketball starter. Elgin Public School will present the play "Deadly Earnest" at Elgin Public School auditorium. St. Boniface Catholic Church of Elgin was the scene of the wedding of Susan Ridder and Thomas Mlnarik on Sunday, Nov. 23, 1975. Officiating at the five o'clock afternoon double ring ceremony was the Rev. Dennis Hanneman. Parents of the couple are Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Ridder of Oakdale and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mlnarik of Ewing.

Thirty Years Ago

December 6, 1995

Warm and sunny weather greeted the area residents who attended Elgin's sixth annual Christmas Fair last Sunday, Dec. 3. Temperatures in the 50s on Sunday afternoon allowed people to walk through the downtown area and attended open houses at various businesses, as well as functions in the KC Hall and Veteran's Club. Pete and Mary McGee are new owners of Sunset Lanes in Elgin, and they hope to reopen the business by January, 1996. Final papers were signed by the McGees and previous owner Frank Wietzki on the purchase last Thursday, Nov. 30. Elgin's annual Children's Christmas Shopping Day will be held this Saturday, Dec. 9, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon, at the Elgin Public School lunchroom. This annual event provides children with an opportunity to do their Christmas shopping for their families. It is sponsored by the Elgin Chamber of Commerce.

Twenty Years Ago

November 30, 2005

A severe winter storm and a 38-hour power outage created some hardships and a lot of inconvenience for Elgin area residents this week. The storm began with rain on Sunday, Nov. 27, and continued with freezing rain, strong winds, and snow on Monday. Elgin-Clearwater wrestling team will have a small squad in terms of numbers, but the team is very focused and hard working. Doug Jones and Paul Kester of Clearwater are beginning their third year as the program's co-coaches. The team has only six wrestlers on the roster, but three are returning letter winners. St. Boniface Parish in Elgin completed another successful Thanksgiving Festival last Thursday, Nov. 24, with larger attendance than last year. A total of 1,499 dinners were served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

DeKay

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It is also expected that a bill will be introduced to require public schools and state agencies to designate bathroom and locker room spaces as "male" or "female" only. I also anticipate that legislation will be brought to try to close or modify the McCook Work Ethic Camp, which currently operates as a state-owned federal immigration detention facility. Legislation relating to the policy changes made by the passage of H.R.1 by Congress, ballot measures, education funding, and judicial matters like tort reform are likely upcoming as well.



HOMETOWN CHRISTMAS



Just a few scenes from last week's Elgin celebration featuring Santa, horses, crafts and a parade.

E-R photos by Dennis & Lynell Morgan



Courthouse News

All fines in addition to \$49 court costs. *Denotes an amendment of original charge(s). Eric W Stuthman, Neligh, NE 10/29/2025 Discharge untreated sewage, Fined \$25 - Lawson* Crystal D McConnell, Oakdale, NE 10/29/25 Dog Running at Large, Fined \$25.00 - Lawson Gene R Heithoff, Oakdale, NE 10/16/25 DUI-alcohol-1st offense, Fined \$500.00 + Proba-

tion, Term of 12 Months + Drug Testing Fee of \$60.00 + Probation Administrative Enrollment Fee of \$30.00 + Probation Fee - Regular of \$300.00 + Revoked License, Term of 060 Days - Miller* Edenys Olivera Diaz, Norfolk, NE 11/23/25 Violate deer regulations, Fined \$100.00 - Andreassen Tyler C Bain, Oakland, NE

11/3/25 Drive under susp/before reinstated-state; Speeding 74/65 MPH, Fined \$175.00 - Ahrendt Miqueas G Macedo, Address Unknown, 11/17/25 Speeding 77/65 MPH; No operator's license/non-waiverable, Fined \$201.00 - A Hartley Micah J Chvatal, Wahoo, NE 8/29/25 DUI-alcohol-1st offense, Fined \$500.00 + Proba-

tion, Term of 08 Months + Drug Testing Fee of \$40.00 + Probation Administrative Enrollment Fee of \$30.00 + Probation Fee - Regular of \$200.00 + Revoked License, Term of 060 Days + Interlock Device - Barker Lindey C Coble, Plainville, KS 11/1/25 Speeding 65/50 MPH, Fined \$125.00 - Barker

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Spinning Tales

College football playoff winners, losers and whiners

The smoke has settled, the best? have been sorted out from the rest.

We now have 12 football teams who will vie for the college national championship.

Indiana, Ohio State, Georgia, Texas Tech, Oregon, Ole Miss, Alabama, Oklahoma, Oregon, James Madison, Tulane and Texas A&M are in the tournament with the Hoosiers and Buckeyes being the top two seeds.

It's hard to make an argument against the majority of these teams, they earned their spot on the field. Two of the teams, Tulane and James Madison qualified. But don't tell me either of these two teams could beat a Notre Dame or Vanderbilt, Michigan or USC. But, they qualified based on the estab-

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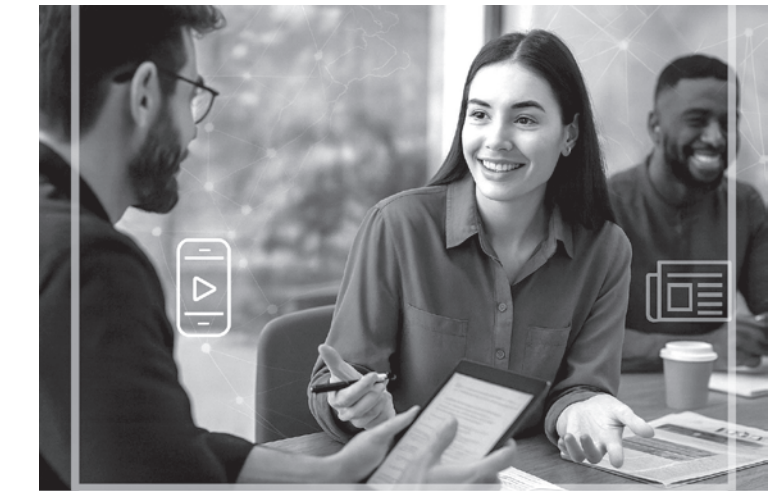
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lished criteria set forth by the committee who decides these kinds of things.

Ole Miss gets in despite vagabond coach Lane Kiffin bolting to LSU. I hope the Rebels get to the second round where Georgia, playing at home, will surely end their season.

Of all the first round games, the two that intrigue me the most are Alabama v. Oklahoma and Texas A&M v. Miami. For Bama, it will be the third time they've faced the Sooners over the past two seasons. This year they lost to OU at Tuscaloosa. The playoff game is set for Norman and, if I had some golden nuggets to play with, I'd bet on the Sooners to make it three in a row. Bama lost three games this season and none of the losses were that close.

Then there's the Aggies and Hurricanes to be played at Col-

lege Station, Texas. Miami has a legend of being a beast at home, good but not great on the road. Since the game is in Texas and the Aggies are coming off a loss to Texas, I'm guessing A&M will feast on the Florida boys.

It's a pity party for the teams left on the outside.

Marcus Freeman's 'Fighting Irish' were the first team out of the playoff. They took it so bad that the team voted to forego going to the Pop Tarts Bowl. They're done and staying home.

I don't know ... South Bend, Indiana, in late December is much colder than Florida and Arizona.

College football has changed thanks to NIL dollars. Players believing they have a future in the NFL aren't going to play in a bowl game where an injury could ruin their football future.

Can you imagine, long ago when the Huskers ruled the football world, players like Tommie Frazier, Eric Crouch or Ahman Green sitting out a

bowl game? Not then, but maybe today it could happen.

One more thought about skipping bowl season. Baylor, Iowa State and Kansas State and others decided they weren't going 'bowling.' The Cyclones (8-4) and the Wildcats (6-6) are in the midst of head coaching changes. The Cyclones' coach was hired to coach Penn State following a search which lasted more than two months and included multiple turn-downs.

Remember when Nebraska was mocked after going 40 days to find a coach to replace Frank Solich? Penn State went approximately 60 days to hire Matt Campbell who built a good program but never won a conference championship during his time at ISU.

As for the Wildkitties, no one seems to have the skills Bill Snyder had during this time at the helm.

Their coach retired and they decided on former KSU quarterback great Collin Klein to lead

Smith

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partnerships which continue to move Nebraska forward. If you or your community are facing challenges with federal land and water resources, my office is here to help. Please don't hesitate to reach out—I am ready to assist and honored to serve you every step of the way.

ACC

◀ FROM Page 1

lages of the county. This agreement would involve policies and directives for any use of equipment and personnel shared by the two entities for road work of any kind, snow removal or any other maintenance issues. More discussion will take place in January.

County employee wage and benefit increases will be front and center at the January 6 commissioner's meeting. One public comment from an Antelope County citizen asked if it was appropriate to have any wage increases for county employees considering the current farm economy.

More information by county officials will be obtained before any decision is made. Wage/benefit increases must be submitted to the State by January 15,2026. Any wage increases will be set for the next four years, starting in 2027.

Road closure of 512th Avenue between 846th and 847th Roads is being held up by a couple of technicalities that need to be included according to law. The ACC will wait for the proper paperwork before deciding any such road closure.

Road Superintendent Leigh Kluthe asked for approval on nine oversize permits for wind tower maintenance south and east of Elgin. Kluthe also reported that the road department is finishing up "ditch work" and culvert placement to prevent flooding across a number of roads in the northern part of the county.

Finally, County Clerk Lisa Payne presented the ACC with a final draft of Antelope County Employee Handbook. The commissioners will read the draft and suggestions and approval should follow in January of 2026.



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the way.

I can kinda understand ISU and KSU, but isn't a bowl game supposed to be a reward for a winning season?

As for Big Red, they're going to the Las Vegas Bowl to face Utah. A depleted Husker squad facing a 10-win Utes team. I hope the Huskers show up and play their best game of the season, but it's going to be tough without their top quarterback (Dylan Raiola) and All-American running back Emmett Johnson (declared for the NFL).

The game will be played

on New Year's Eve afternoon, that's good so Big Red can enjoy the lights and glitter that only Vegas can do.

Closer to home, the winter sports season got off to a good start over the weekend. Both the Wolfpack boys and girls basketball teams won both of their games.

The boys wrestling team brought home two medals from the Howells-Dodge meet, EPPJ's girl wrestlers did the same from O'Neill.

It was a great way to start December!

Rossow takes top spot in Review football contest

Tim Rossow again claimed the top spot in the Elgin Review Football Contest.

He, Al Hagemeister and Kurt Blair tied for the top spot, each missing seven games.

In the tiebreaker, Blair guessed 677 for total yards between Indiana and Ohio State. Hagemeister guessed 666 and Rossow guessed 648. Indiana and Ohio State combined for 662 total yards.

Rossow's guess was closest without going over and will receive \$20 in Elgin Bucks. Hagemeister takes second and will receive \$10 in Elgin Bucks.

Results of the games were: Georgia over Alabama Tulane over North Texas Duke over Virginia Texas Tech over BYU Boise State over UNLV Indiana over Ohio State James Madison over Troy

Kennesaw over Jacksonville St.

Western Michigan over Miami (Ohio)

Villanova over Lehigh South Dakota over Mercer Illinois St. over North Dakota St

Tarleton over North Dakota Prairie View A&M over Jackson St

Montana St over Yale Montana over South Dakota St

Stephen Austin over Abilene Christian

UC Davis over Rhode Island

Entries for the first of two bowl game contests this month will be due on Friday, Dec. 12 by 5 p.m. at the newspaper office.

Save a stamp by taking a picture of your entry with a camera phone and send it to elginreview@yahoo.com Good luck!

Rural Nebraskans concerned about biosecurity, hopeful for bioeconomy

Rural Nebraskans are familiar with the need to protect the health of their land, food and communities. According to the 2025 Nebraska Rural Poll, most are familiar with the idea of biosecurity, and many are concerned about threats from contaminated water and invasive species, cyberattacks and natural disasters. The new report highlights Nebraskans' opinions on these risks, whom they trust for information and how they see the state's bioeconomy shaping the future.

Biosecurity

Biosecurity refers to actions taken to protect animal health, farm productivity, export markets and rural livelihoods. Forty-nine percent of rural Nebraskans surveyed say they are somewhat familiar with the topic of biosecurity and 10% are very familiar. Twenty-one percent say they are not at all familiar with the topic.

When asked about specific biosecurity threats, most respondents are concerned or very concerned with the following:

- > Contamination of food or water supplies (67%)
- > Cybersecurity attacks by foreign entities (65%)
- > Natural disasters, including severe droughts and fires (63%)
- > Intentional release of biological agents or materials (59%)
- > Cybersecurity attacks by U.S. entities (56%)
- > Introduction of invasive species (53%)

Less than half of respondents are concerned or very concerned about the spread of infectious human and animal diseases or plant insects and pathogens.

"It's no surprise that biosecurity concerns are highest around issues people see and experience firsthand, such as drought, wildfires and the safety of their food and water," said Becky Vogt, Rural Poll survey manager. "These perceptions reflect how closely biosecurity is tied to everyday rural life — from the stability of local agriculture to the health of our communities."

Though rural Nebraskans are concerned about the possibility of biosecurity threats, only 15% of respondents have heard of incidents or concerns in their community. Seventy-six percent have not heard of any incidents or concerns, and 9% are unsure.

In a similar vein, many respondents are not sure if threats are getting worse:

- > 37% are unsure if threats are increasing or decreasing
- > 32% say threats are staying the same
- > 27% say threats are increasing

Many rural Nebraskans surveyed are confident in the ability of local and regional authorities to respond to biosecurity threats, but slightly fewer have confidence in national authorities. Forty-one percent of respondents are somewhat or extremely confident in local and regional authorities, and 35% are confident in national authorities.

In addition, most respondents agree that both individuals and government regulations are needed to contribute to biosecurity. Most agree or strongly agree that individuals have a responsibility to contribute to biosecurity (71%) and that government regulations are necessary to ensure biosecurity (67%).

However, opinions are mixed on whether information about biosecurity is readily available to the public. Twenty-three percent agree that such information is available, while 31% disagree. About 45% are uncertain.

More than half of rural Nebraskans surveyed trust the following some or a lot:

- > University Extension (86%)
- > Health care professionals (80%)
- > Scientists (79%)
- > State government agencies (69%)
- > Local government agencies (67%)
- > State news media (54%)
- > Local news media (53%)
- > Federal government agencies (51%)

"Even though most rural Nebraskans haven't seen biosecurity incidents in their own communities, they still recognize the importance of being prepared," said Heather Akin, associate professor in the Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication.

"But what stands out is how much people trust their local sources — extension educators, health care professionals and local agencies."

Bioeconomy

The Rural Poll also asked about the bioeconomy — using renewable biological resources to sustainably produce food, energy and bio-based materials.

Most respondents think it would be good for Nebraska to develop its bioeconomy. Seventy-six percent believe it would be somewhat

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PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE NO. 679
THE ELGIN CITY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. 679
OF THE
CITY OF ELGIN, NEBRASKA

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ELGIN, ANTELOPE COUNTY, NEBRASKA TO REVISE AND PROVIDE IMPOSING RATES FOR THE USE OF WATER SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE CITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELGIN, NEBRASKA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Water Rates. Each water consumer shall be liable for water provided to said customer's premise at the following rates:

A. A flat service fee of \$32 per month per meter.

B. An additional charge at the rate of \$2.75 per 1,000 gallons of water used per month as shown on the meter, in addition to the flat service fee set forth on paragraph A.

C. In addition to the amounts set forth in paragraphs A and B, each meter shall be charged a surcharge of \$0.94 per month. The revenue generated by the surcharge shall be used for water testing costs. The surcharge shall apply to all meters regardless of the amount of water used.

D. All residential dwellings and trailer houses not having a working meter shall be charged at the rates as set forth in Paragraphs A and B above based on a usage of 8,000 gallons of water per month of water use and, in addition, the \$0.94 per month surcharge set forth in paragraph C.

E. All outside hydrants shall have a meter which shall be installed at the initial expense of the customer. Maintenance and repairs of the meters shall be borne by the City pursuant to Chapter &, Article 2 of the Official Municipal Code.

Section 2. Any other ordinances in conflict with the terms hereof are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect on and after its passage, approval, and publication as provided by State Law.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 1st day of December, 2025.

By Mike Schmitt
Mayor

Attest:
Kristin L. Childers
City Clerk
PUBLISH: December 10, 2025
ZNEZ

PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE NO. 680
THE ELGIN CITY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE NO. 680
OF THE
CITY OF ELGIN, NEBRASKA

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ELGIN, ANTELOPE COUNTY, NEBRASKA TO REVISE AND PROVIDE IMPOSING RATES FOR THE USE OF SEWER SERVICE PROVIDED BY THE CITY; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ELGIN, NEBRASKA AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Sewer Rates. Each water consumer shall be liable for water provided to said customer's premise at the following rates:

A. A base rate of \$15.33 per month per meter.

B. An additional charge at the rate of \$1.40 per 1,000 gallons of water used per month as shown on the meter, in addition to the base rate set forth in paragraph A.

C. The average sewer use fee determined pursuant to paragraphs A and B for the first three (3) months of the calendar year shall be used to charge the consumers of the municipal sewer department for the remaining nine (9) months of the calendar year.

D. All unmetered residential dwellings and trailer houses not having a working meter shall be charged sewer use rates as set forth in Paragraphs A and B above based upon 8,000 gallons of water per month.

Section 2. Any other ordinances in conflict with the terms hereof are hereby repealed.

Section 3. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect on and after its passage, approval, and publication as provided by State Law.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 1st day of December 2025.

By Mike Schmitt
Mayor

Attest
Kristin L. Childers
City Clerk
PUBLISH: December 10, 2025
ZNEZ

PROCEEDINGS OF DECEMBER 2, 2025 MEETING
THE ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Neligh, Nebraska
December 2nd, 2025

Chairman opened the meeting. Notice of meeting published as required by statute.

Approved agenda. Approved minutes of November 10th, 2025 Board of Commissioner Meeting.

Public comments.

Correspondence was reviewed. Appointed 2026 official newspapers. Appointed county representative for NACO meeting.

Zoning Administrator Report. Approved administrative plat.

Directed Highway Superintendent regarding road closing of 512th Avenue. No action taken.

Approved Contractor's Application for Pay Dixon Construction. Road Superintendent Report:

approved one access permit; approved bid for concrete crushing.

Approved 2026 Holidays. Began discussion on Official wages 2027-2030.

Meeting Adjourned.

Antelope County Board of Commissioners

CHARLIE HENERY
Chairman of County Board

Attest: LISA PAYNE /s/
Antelope County Clerk
PUBLISH: December 10, 2025
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PROCEEDINGS FROM DECEMBER 1, 2025 MEETING THE ELGIN CITY COUNCIL

PowerManager, dues, 6,833.60; Sapp Bros, Inc – Elgin, sup, 578.89; The Elgin Review, print, 440.64; Verizon Wireless, srv, 125.50; WW Concrete, srv, 3,456.00; Nebraska Department of Revenue, tax, 527.01; United States Treasury, tax, 3,445.63; Nebraska Department of Revenue, tax, 1,845.90; Payroll, 17,640.26

Rescue Checking: 319 Graphics & T's LLC, sup, 2,501.50; Craig Niewohner, captain fee, 100.00; Echo Group, Inc., sup, 293.83; Jessica Niewohner, training officer fee, 100.00; Kenny Jochum, misc, 25.00; Kim Young, secretary/billing fee, 250.00; Lisa Mack, misc, 25.00; Mike Brockhaus, misc, 25.00; Stephanie Hanzel, misc, 25.00; Stryker Sales, LLC, srv, 3,291.20; TC Vet Clinic, sup, 285.31; Teresa Moore, misc, 25.00; Vince Spieker, misc, 25.00; One Billing Solutions, srv, 466.19

Adjourned the regular meeting at 7:36 p.m. and opened the Reorganizational Meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Councilmember Craig Niewohner to serve as President of the Council

Resolution 2025-9, setting appointments and committees for 2026

Resolution 2025-10, signing the year-end certification of City Street Superintendent

Statutory rule requiring reading Ordinance No. 679 on three different days be suspended

Ordinance No. 679 passed and adopted

Statutory rule requiring reading Ordinance No. 680 on three different days be suspended

Ordinance No. 680 passed and adopted

Adding Roth option to the city's Simple IRA plan

Donate \$300.00 to Nebraska Rural Water Association for the water rate study

Building permits: Antelope County

Reorganizational Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

The following agenda items were discussed:

- Public comment: none
- Ice melt at the Fire Hall
- Reviewed estimates for concrete leveling or replacement of sidewalks for three different locations downtown
- Reviewed estimates for replacing 16' x 85' of street on Cedar St. west of 2nd St. and for 25' of curb and cutter at 105 Cedar St.
- Letters to be mailed out notifying residents of change in billing cycle
- Annual letters to be mailed to those with lead, galvanized, or unknowns water lines
- Next regular meeting will be held on Monday, January 5, 2026

Mayor Mike Schmitt
City Clerk Kristin L. Childers

PUBLISH: December 10, 2025
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A meeting of the chairman and trustees of the Village of Bartlett, Nebraska on
**Next Monday
Dec. 15th
6:00 pm**

The meeting is open to the public and an agenda is available for public inspection at the office of the village clerk.

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PJCC One Act members receive actor awards

Congratulations to the Pope John One Act cast, crew and directors on their 3rd place finish at districts. Pictured are cast who received Outstanding Actor awards. Front row, l-r: Reese Stuhr, Jovie Borer, Brooke Kinney, Tessa Barlow, Camry Kittelson and Quinn Hoefer. Back row: Christian Preister, Raaf Klein, Aiden Klein and Matthew Kerkman. The team performed "Virgil's Wedding".

Courtesy photo



JUST 15 DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS DAY!

Storing your hay for the winter season

As we hit the winter season, may producers turn to feeding hay while grazing options are limited. With feed often one of the top costs in livestock operations, being as efficient with hay as possible is important. Even before the hay gets to the cow, loss during storage can be a significant part of overall hay loss.

Storing hay inside is the best option for both round and square bales to minimize storage loss. This is not always possible and is much more cost effective for square bales. Weathering is more detrimental to square bales and more tonnage can be stored in a given area inside.

Most of the dry matter loss in a bale will occur in the first several months of storage. Even under the best conditions, hay stored inside can lose 2-8% dry matter if stored for extended periods of time. For storage under 9 months, losses should be less than 2%. The dry matter loss for large round bales stored outside can range from 5-25% depending on the climate.

When storing outside, large round bales are the best option. Here are a few steps to take that

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Beef Systems
Asst. Ext. Educator
Ben Beckman

can help minimize hay loss.

Keep the base dry. Moisture can enter the bale from the ground as well as the sky. Placing bales on old tires, pallets, railroad ties, or other method to elevate the bales can help, though can be a nuisance when feeding out. Putting bales onto a crushed rock bed or other porous substrate that will quickly move moisture away can be a more costly, yet effective option.

Bales under a tarp can see similar storage conditions to those in a shed if done correctly. Keep bales off the ground to prevent moisture wicking up. Stacking or pyramiding bales will allow more bales to go under a smaller amount of tarp, making the process more economical.

Storing bales end to end very tightly minimizes the exposure of the open bale face to the elements. Leave at least 3 feet of space between rows for airflow. If it is not feasible to store end to end in a row, allow at least 18 inches between individual bales to allow airflow. A study

performed with prairie hay in South Dakota showed hay stored for one year end to end had 1% dry matter loss, individually stored had 4% loss, and pyramid storage had 10% loss in dry matter.

Rows of round bales should be placed with the slope in yards where grade is a factor. This prevents moisture from pooling around the bale base. If storing round bales on flat ground, orient bales north to south. This will allow the majority of the bale at least some sunlight during the day, especially in winter when the sun is low in the sky. Additionally, this aligns bales closely with prevailing winter winds to reduce added moisture from drifted snow.

Don't store under trees. Bales need to dry out if they become wet and trees will not assist in this process because they block sunlight and airflow. (Shelterbelts are designed to reduce wind!).

No matter the type of forage, a tight, well-made bale is the best way to reduce the risk of storage loss. Dry matter loss occurs mostly early in storage. Besides storing inside, a single row of bales end to end, provides one of the best storage methods. Selling hay as early as possible can reduce the need for better storage. Keeping the hay tight and storing it right will allow the hay to stay in good condition, making it more valuable.

-Ben Beckman is a beef systems Extension Educator 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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Mara Thiessen, DVM | Ely Morris, DVM

Christmas Parade held



There were lights, sirens and candy last Wednesday night as part of Elgin's Hometown Christmas. Those who braved the cold temperatures were bundled up while others stayed in their warm vehicles parked along Highway 14. Pictured top and right, The Grinch made another Christmas visit to Elgin. Antelope County deputy Lyle Juracek attempted to arrest him here but he made a getaway with Max behind the wheel of a golf cart. Below, the Neligh Young Men's Club brought their train to the parade.

E-R photos/DMorgan



Advent calendars remain a popular Christmas tradition

Advent calendars are a common sight in many households each December, and some historians believe this unique tradition can be traced to a creative nineteenth century German housewife. Though Britannica notes the precise origins of Advent calendars are still debated, one theory behind the popular tradition suggests a woman in Munich created the

Advent calendar as a way for her young and impatient yet excited son to count down the days to December 25. Details are fuzzy and difficult if not impossible to

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Diamond C Land & Cattle - 90 BLK BWF & RED RWF Heifers, Weaned & Vacc, 425-625#
J Krebs - 85 BLK & BWF Steers & Heifers, Weaned & Vacc, 550-650#
M Kurpgeweit - 80 BLK & BWF Steers & Heifers, Weaned & Vacc, 650-700#
J Bolling - 75 BLK Angus few RED Steers & Heifers, Weaned & Vacc, 500-675#
K&T Rittscher - 55 BLK & BWF few RED Heifers, Weaned & Vacc, 600-700#
K Wagner - 40 RED & RWF Steers & RQ Heifers, Weaned & Vacc, 625-700#
K&S Ryan - 40 BLK Angus Steers & Heifers, Vacc, 500-600#
K&A Borer - 25 BLK Angus Steers, Weaned & Vacc, 600-750#
M&K Pelster - 15 BLK Angus Steers & Heifers, Vacc, 350-400#
T&E Smith - 15 BLK Angus Steers & Heifers, Green, Vacc, 450-600#
K&A Borer - 15 BLK Angus Heifers, Weaned & Vacc, 575-600#

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Wolfpack Sports



EPPJ boys rout Cougars

NIOBRARA — There was little doubt who was going to win the boys basketball game between Elgin Public-Pope John and Niobrara-Verdigre Friday night. The Wolfpack took a 16-point lead after one quarter and cruised to a 62 to 36 victory on the opening weekend of the basketball season.

Altogether, nine Wolfpack players got their names in the scoring column. Leading the way was senior Jarek Erickson. Scoring inside and outside, he finished with 19 points, leading

all Wolfpack scorers. Other Wolfpack players in double figures on this night were Jayvin Erickson with 16 and Max Henn added 12 points and 10 rebounds to finish with a double-double.

The Wolfpack will be at home Friday to face Plainview, and Saturday take on Wausa.

EPPJ 62, N-V 36
Wolfpack.....21 13 19 9 — 62
Cougars.....5 12 8 11 — 36
Wolfpack — Ticen Sparr 1-4 0-0 3,
Michael Selting 2-8 0-0 4, Joseph

See EPPJ, Page 12 ►



E-R photo/DMorgan

Jarek Erickson (21) had a team-high 19 points Thursday night against Riverside as EPPJ won 49 to 36.

Wolfpack take down 'scrappy' Chargers

ELGIN — Scrappy. That's how Wolfpack boys coach Matt Euse described Riverside after EPPJ defeated the Chargers 49 to 36 in the season opener Thursday night.

The teams have waged battle after battle for basketball supremacy in recent years.

On this night, the Wolfpack pulled away from the Chargers by holding them to single-digit scoring over the first three quarters.

That defensive intensity allowed EPPJ to take a 35 to 17 lead after three quarters.

On offense, the Wolfpack capitalized on the ability to work close to the basket. Senior Jarek Erickson scored 19 points to lead all scorers, sophomore Max Henn added 11. Erickson added 14 rebounds for a double-double.

The team also got point production from freshman Jayvin Erickson who came off

the bench to drill two treys and finish with six points. Teammates Karson Kallhoff and Evin Pelster each had five points and Michael Selting hit a trey for his only points.

Riverside was led in scoring by A.J. Glesinger with 12 points.

EPPJ 49, Riverside 36
Wolfpack.....11 9 15 14 — 49
Chargers.....7 6 4 19 — 36
Wolfpack — Michael Selting 1-2 0-0 3, Karson Kallhoff 2-7 0-0 5, Evin Pelster 2-6 1-1 5, Jarek Erickson 8-16 3-6 19, Max Henn 4-11 3-4 11, Jayvin Erickson 2-2 0-0 6.
Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 39 (Ja. Erickson 14, Henn 9. Assists — Wolfpack 13 (Ja. Erickson 5, Kallhoff 4). Steals — Wolfpack 3. Turnovers — Wolfpack 15.

Defense leads EPPJ girls past Riverside

ELGIN — Juniors Braelyn Martinsen and Mady Kurpgeweit combined for 37 points Thursday night as the Elgin Public-Pope John girls defeated Riverside 68 to 39 to start the season.

The Wolfpack's 1-3-1 full court press, a staple of Coach Randy Eisenhower teams, did what it was supposed to do - disrupt the Chargers' attack.

EPPJ had 33 steals in the game, many as a result of the press, which were then converted into points.

In the first half, EPPJ outscored the Chargers 36 to 14.

Kurpgeweit was a force inside, making seven of 13 shots to finish with 17 points to go along with a team-high 10 rebounds to finish with a double-double.

Martinsen finished with 20 points and nine steals in the game, just missing a double-double.

EPPJ 68, Riverside 31

Wolfpack.....17 19 14 18 — 68
Chargers.....6 8 7 18 — 39
Wolfpack — Kayton Zwingman 0-2 1-2 1, Gentry Zwingman 1-3 1-4 3, Elizabeth Moser 2-4 0-0 5, Kinley Druke 3-7 0-1 8, Braelyn Martinsen 8-17 2-4 20, Lillian Moser 3-4 0-0 6, Kinley Miller 0-2 0-2 0, Sydney Nlewohner 0-1 0-0 0, Jael Lammers 3-7 2-3 8, Mady Kurpgeweit 7-13 3-5 17. Team totals: 27-60 9-21 68. Three-point shots — Wolfpack 5-16 (Druke 2, Martinsen 2, E. Moser 1).
Chargers — Ella Molt 5, Michelle Esch 7, Emmee Reilly 12, Grace Mahony 3, Ryann Mahony 4. Team totals: 19 1-2 39. Three-point shots — none.

Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 39 (Kurpgeweit 10, Lammers 8), Chargers 25. Assists — Wolfpack 12 (Martinsen 3), Chargers 11. Steals — Wolfpack 33 (Martinsen 9), Chargers 6. Turnovers — Wolfpack 22, Chargers 40.



E-R photo/DMorgan

It's hard to score when you're being hammered on top of the head as Kinley Miller found out against Riverside.

Druke, Veik medal at Howells-Dodge Wrestling Invite

HOWELLS — Opening day for the Wolfpack boys wrestling team came Saturday.

EPPJ's four-man team all earned victories at the tournament featuring many of the best wrestlers in northeast Nebraska.

The core of the Wolfpack team is seniors Landyn Veik and Grady Druke and they didn't disappoint.

Veik, competing at 175 pounds, brought home a third place medal. Veik won three of his five matches, recording two pins and a major decision.

Druke, competing at 157 pounds, finished fifth in his weight class. Druke had two pins, and a major decision in his four wins on the mat.

John Zwingman picked up

his first varsity victory, pinning Bergan's Kelton Faulkner in 1:17.

Ethan Hansen, wrestling at 138 pounds gained valuable experience in his four matches. That experience should help him when the team heads to Sargent Friday for their second tournament of the season.

Individual results were: 138 — Maverick Heine, HCC, 3 to 0 (pin 1:01) over Ethan Hansen; Luke

Belilna over Hansen (pin 3:59); Caleb Popken, CB, 4 to 3 (pin 1:49) over Hansen; Luis Popoca, O-C, 3 to 0 (pin 1:28) over Hansen 157 — Grady Druke, EPPJ, 20 to 4 (TF) over Keegan Fischer, WPB; Druke 3 to 0 (DEC) over Joseph Findlay, L-D; Cade Pribnow (BRGN) 18 to 0 (TF) over Druke; Druke won 12-4 (pin 3:47) over G. Flores, WPB; Druke 7 to 0 (pin 2:17) over Braden Swan, T-H 165 — Landon Burt, T-H, 3 to 0 (pin

1:05) over John Zwingman, EPPJ; Jayden Meier, ELCR, 3 to 0 (pin 0:50) over Zwingman; Zwingman 3 to 0 (pin 1:17) over Kelton Faulkner, BRGN;

175 — Landyn Veik, EPPJ, 3 to 0 (pin 1:38) over Michael Lytle, TH; Veik 11 to 0 (MD) over Evan Hegemann, HD; Veik 3 to 0 (pin 1:47) over Charlie Watkins, PON; Ruben Vega, WAK, 8 to 3 over Veik; Broderick Kleinschmitt, HCC, 7 to 0 (pin 4:46) over Veik



John Zwingman picked up his first career victory Saturday at the Howells-Dodge Invite.



E-R photos/DMorgan

Winning four matches Saturday, Grady Druke recorded two pints and had a major decision.



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Photos submitted

Libby Evans registers a pin at Saturday's O'Neill Invite. She finished second in the 170-pound weight class.

EPPJ duo bring home O'Neill medals

O'NEILL — Saturday marked the beginning of the season for the Wolfpack girls wrestling team.

State Medalist Libby Evans and newcomer Anna Dworak were the Wolfpack wrestlers who competed at the O'Neill Invite.

Dropping down from 190 to 170, Evans finished second Saturday. After posting three pins, Evans didn't have an answer for Isabelle Kuehler who pinned her in 59 seconds.

Dworak, seeing her first varsity action, more than held her own.

Competing in the 105-pound weight class, she dropped her first match, then came back to win three matches. She had two pins and a major decision in her



Wolfpack wrestler Anna Dworak, competing in her first varsity meet, placed fifth in her weight class.

three victories.

Next up for the Wolfpack will be a Saturday tournament at Wood River.

Individual results were:

105 pounds — Anna Dworak, EPPJ, lost 3 to 0 (pin 1:54) to Aceley Hoff, BC; Dworak defeated Kasidy Fernau, NP, 3 to 0 (pin 0:50); Dworak defeated Ghisele Consue-

lo, NP, 22 to 4 (TF 4:22); Dworak defeated Yutissa Figueroa-Lopez, RA, 3 to 2 (pin 2:24)

170 pounds — Libby Evans, EPPJ, defeated Eden Settje, NP 3 to 0 (pin 1:41); Evans defeated Ashlee Cavender, RA, 3 to 0 (pin 1:41); Evans defeated Briley Koehler, BC, 13 to 0 (pin 3:33); Evans lost 3 to 0 (pin 0:59) to Isabelle Kuehler, PI.

Martinsen steal preserves N-V victory

NIOBRARA — A dominating first half turned into a struggle in the second half before Elgin Public-Pope John walked off the floor with a 43 to 42 victory.

EPPJ nearly doubled the score on the Lady Cougars in the first half, building a 25 to 13 lead at intermission.

Then, the Lady Cougars flipped the script, cutting into EPPJ's lead.

After the third quarter, the Lady Cougars trailed by eight points, 36 to 28.

Then, in the latter stages of the fourth quarter, they cut the lead to one point, 43 to 42 with less than a minute to play.

Niobrara-Verdigre had one last shot at victory, but junior Braelyn Martinsen made a steal inside the key to preserve the Wolfpack's lead and the victory.

The Wolfpack got a combined 36 points from Martinsen, Mady Kurgoweit and Kayton Zwing-

man, the rest of the team had just seven points.

In the victory, EPPJ overcame 31 turnovers.

This weekend the Wolfpack will play home games against Plainview (Friday) and, on Saturday afternoon, Wausa.

EPPJ 43, N-V 42

Wolfpack.....10 15 11 7 — 43
Lady Cougars.....7 6 15 14 — 42
Wolfpack — Kayton Zwingman 4-8 2-4 10, Gentry Zwingman 0-1 0-0 0, Elizabeth Moser 1-8 0-0 2, Kinley Druke 0-4 3-6 3, Braelyn Martinsen 5-18 3-4 14, Kinley Miller 1-1 0-2 2, Jael Lammers 0-1 0-0 0, Mady Kurgoweit 4-12 4-11 12. Team totals: 15-53 12-27 43 Three-point shots — Wolfpack 1-15 (Martinsen). Lady Cougars team totals: 15-46 8-13 42. Three-point shots — Lady Cougars 4-16. Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 49 (Kurgoweit 17, Martinsen 9), Lady Cougars 25. Assists — Wolfpack 8 (Martinsen 4), Lady

Cougars 5. Steals — Wolfpack 15 (Martinsen 11), Lady Cougars 12. Turnovers — Wolfpack 31, Lady Cougars 23.

EPPJ

◀ FROM Page 11

McNally 0-3 0-0 0, Karson Kallhoff 1-7 0-0 3, Evlin Pelster 0-0 2-2 2, Brayden Burenheide 1-5 0-0 2, Jarek Erickson 6-10 6-12 19, Max Henn 5-6 2-2 12, Braedon Hinkle 0-0 1-2 1, Christian Preister 0-0 0-0 0, Justice Blecher 0-0 0-0 0, Jayvin Erickson 5-9 2-3 16. Team totals: 21-52 13-21 62. Three-point shots — 7-24 (Jay. Erickson 4, Sparr 1, Kallhoff 1, Ja. Erickson 1). Cougars team totals: 15-47 3-5 36. Three-point shots — 3-15. Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 38 (Max Henn 10), Cougars 22. Assists — Wolfpack 13 (Ja. Erickson 6). Steals — Wolfpack 15 (Ja. Erickson 3, Henn 3). Turnovers — Wolfpack 20, Cougars 15.

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A senior, Jarek and his teammates owned the courts in their opening week. He averaged 19 pnts in the wins over Riverside and Niobrara-Verdigre.

BRAELYN MARTINSEN

GIRLS BASKETBALL

A junior, Braelyn had the game-saving play against NV (a steal at the end of the game, preserving a 1-pnt win). She averaged 17 points in last week's 2 games.

LIBBY EVANS

WRESTLING (GIRLS)

A junior, Libby is continuing her winning ways from last year, despite a weight class change. She won (by pin) all but one match at O'Neill on Saturday, finishing 2nd at 170#.

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