

# The Elgin Review

Wednesday  
December 11, 2024

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## In Brief

### District #18 School Board to meet tonight

Meeting starts at 6:30 p.m.

The District #18 Board of Education is scheduled to meet in regular session on Wednesday, December 11 (tonight).

The meeting, to be held in the board meeting room at Elgin Public Schools, is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m.

Among the 'action items' on the tentative agenda provided to *The Elgin Review* newspaper prior to the meeting are:

- Approve the first reading of updated Policy 717.00 Disposal of Property Under Federal Grants
- Approve the number of early retirement applications
- Approve prices for the salad bar at lunch.
- Approve the purchase of two vehicles.
- Approve the trade-in of the two big vans.

The purchase of vehicles/trade-ins was on the agenda for the November regular meeting. At that meeting, the board decided to table the items till December.

There's just one item listed for discussion only, that is an update on uniform rotation for Wolfpack sports teams. Each year new uniforms are purchased for one Wolfpack sports team.

Shortly after the opening of the meeting, there will be reports from Greg Wemhoff (Principal/AD) and from Superintendent Mike Brockhaus.

This will mark the first meeting of the school board since last month's general election where Eric Beckman, Luke Hinkle and Steve Busted were re-elected to four year terms.

Wednesday night's meeting is open to the public.



E-R photos/DMorgan

### Christmas spirit on display

Santa Claus made his first official visit to Elgin on Wednesday, December 4 as part of the annual observance of Elgin's Hometown Christmas. Ambulance Captain Dean Schrage brought him to the front door of the Elgin Community Center where he was greeted by children and their parents. Nearly 200 children got the chance to spend a moment with Santa, sharing their wishes for presents on Christmas. *The Elgin Review* took snapshots of each child with Santa and those were posted on social media for parents to have and share. That evening, a Christmas Parade of Lights commenced down Second Avenue from Cedar Street up to North Street. Entries from Neligh, Elgin and Petersburg participated in the parade along with Elgin Volunteer Fire Department/Rescue. On a side note, Antelope County Sheriff Bob Moore briefly took into custody Mr. Grinch who attempted to stop the parade. He was later set free after Santa and Mrs. Claus presented him with a large gift. Hometown Christmas activities were sponsored by the Elgin Community Club/Chamber of Commerce.



## Public Notices

Public notices in this week's newspaper include:

- Proceedings — Antelope County Board of Equalization
- Proceedings — The Antelope County Board of Commissioners
- Proceedings — The Elgin City Council
- Notice of Organization — Borer Grain & Livestock LLC

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 62 degrees recorded on December 7.

The low temperature during the same period was 9 degrees recorded on December 4.

No precipitation was recorded last week in the form of rain.

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

Date	High	Low	Prec
Dec. 1	32	13	.00
Dec. 2	43	13	.00
Dec. 3	42	37	.00
Dec. 4	45	09	.00
Dec. 5	26	10	.00
Dec. 6	53	26	.00
Dec. 7	62	30	.00
Total for last week			0.00
Total for November			2.17
Total precipitation 2024			20.94

## DeKay to seek Ag Committee chair in 2025

By Barry DeKay

District #41 State Senator

This past week, the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee held an interim hearing to discuss the status of highways and broadband in Nebraska. The Committee first heard from Director Vicki Kramer of the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) who testified that the impact of inflation is presenting challenges to fulfill future highway construction and maintenance projects. Nebraska's current highway needs for the next 20 years currently sit at \$16.9 billion, but when inflation is accounted for, the estimated cost to build and maintain our state's roads increases to \$24.3 billion by 2045. If revenue to the NDOT remains flat or decreases, then the Department will likely shift focus to highway maintenance and slow down the number of new highway construction projects. Nonetheless, Director Kramer did testify that the expansion of U.S. Hwy 275 to a four-lane expressway from Norfolk to Omaha is being expediated with the target deadline for completion now set for 2029 instead of 2033.

The Committee then heard from Director Patrick Haggerty of the Nebraska Broadband Office who testified that his office was currently on track to deliver broadband to the last 70,000 locations cur-

rently identified as unserved or underserved by 2029. This progress is being accelerated by more than \$400 million in federal support through the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program. As with the NDOT, however, cost will play a vital role in determining whether timelines will be met, especially since many of the current unserved and underserved locations are in rural parts of the state where the cost to provide broadband service is much higher.

Meanwhile, this week the Legislature will be meeting as the Legislative Council in Kearney to prepare for the upcoming 109th Legislature in January. Here, senators and senator-elects will review procedures relevant to the upcoming session as well as receive updates on a number of internal changes made by division offices and legislative leadership. For many senators, including myself, this will also be the first opportunity to meet all of the 17 new senator-elects who will be sworn into office next year. Of the new senator-elects, only one person comes with prior experience in the Legislature: Dan Quick of Grand Island who previously served from 2017-2021.

Additionally, I recently submitted my intention to run for chair of the Agriculture Committee in the upcoming session. This position, to be vacated by Senator Steve Halloran of Hastings due to term-limits, is tasked with leading the committee responsible for tackling issues relating to farming and ranching, Nebraska State Fair, food inspection, Department of Agriculture, pet shops, and most recently foreign ownership of ag land. As someone who has farmed and ranched in Knox County for over 40 years, it is

my intention to make sure that agriculture issues are brought forward front and center during the next two years.

Looking ahead, I anticipate a number of important issues will emerge next year, including:

1. A return of legislation similar to LB575 Sports and Spaces Act which proposed guidelines for opposite-sex participation in sports activities and the use of restroom and locker room facilities;
2. Reworking the state's school funding formula to schools to provide a more stable and consistent method of budgeting to help reduce school's reliance on property taxes;
3. Banning the sale of lab-grown meat;
4. Returning the state's allocation of electoral votes to winner-take-all. This proposal would eliminate the so-called "Blue Dot" around Douglas County, which has deviated from the rest of the state three times (2008, 2020, & 2024) in presidential elections;
5. Stabilizing the upcoming two-year state budget which is projected to have an ending balance shortfall of \$432 million below the minimum reserve required by statute; and
6. Implementing medical marijuana and paid sick leave now that both issues were recently passed by voters this past November.

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

### Elgin blood drive is today at KC Hall

Elgin Public School will sponsor next week's Red Cross Bloodmobile in Elgin.

It will be at the KC Hall on Dec. 11 (today) from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be snacks available for donors after giving blood.

All types of blood are needed this time of year.

**Zucchini Squash** \$1.79 lb

Fresh **Asparagus** \$3.49 lb

Best Choice® Russet 10 lb bag **Potatoes** \$3.49

Hormel® Cure 81 Boneless **1/2 Hams** \$4.99 lb

3-4# Avg Wt

Dean's Market **Breakfast Bundle Special**

7# "Our Own" Smokehouse Bacon or Side Pork

5# Sausage Patties

5# Bulk Sausage

3# Breakfast Ham

5# Ring Sausage

Approximately 25# **\$149.00**

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**PJCC District acting awards**

PJCC One Act members earning acting awards at districts were (front row, l-r): Olivia Klein, Camry Kittelson, Brooke Kinney, Tessa Barlow and Juliana McNally. Back row: Gavin Kallhoff, Natalie Burenheide, Quinn Hoefer, Aidan Klein, Matthew Kerkman and Christian Preister.

**AMH provider to depart in January**

On January 17, 2025, Amanda Wolff, APRN, will conclude her employment at Antelope Memorial Hospital. Due to a growing family, she has decided to take a job closer to home.

Amanda has enjoyed her time at Antelope Memorial Hospital and AMH Family Practice Clinics and it has been her pleasure to serve the residents of area communities. After January 17th, her patients may continue to receive excellent care from another member of the AMH Medical Staff. It includes Dr. Roger Rudloff, Dr. Troy Dawson, Dr. Kelli Osborn, Dr. Josh Thoendel, Angela Sucha, PA-C, Anita Murphy, PA-C, and Ashley Niewohner, APRN. Together, they provide coverage at the AMH Family Practice Clinics, located in Tilden, Elgin, Clearwater, Orchard and Neligh.

For medication refills, Amanda's patients may call their pharmacy or AMH Family

See **AMH**, Page 3 ▶

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**ELGIN RESIDENTS**

Following a snowfall of **2 inches or more...**

- 1) ALL VEHICLES** must be removed from City streets during snow removal.
- 2) RESIDENTIAL SIDEWALKS** need to be cleaned within 24 hours after the end of the storm.
- 3) SIDEWALKS** in the business district need to be cleaned within 5 hours after the end of the storm unless the snow falls during the night, in which case they need to be cleaned by noon the following day.

**VIOLATORS WILL BE TICKETED.**

City of Elgin



From JoAnn Baum's Kitchen

**Holiday Fruitcake**

Good morning, I am sure everyone's busy get-

ting ready for Christmas! This week's recipe comes from a lady who follows my column faithfully. She asked

me if I would share the funny fruitcake recipe, so here it is. Thanks Darlene Schindler. I hope you enjoy reading this

and maybe there's a few of you who might enjoy making the recipe. Enjoy!

JoAnn

**HOLIDAY FRUITCAKE**

- 1 cup water
- 1 cup sugar
- 4 large eggs
- 2 cups dried fruit
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 2 cups flour
- 1 Tbls. lemon juice
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- 1 gallon whiskey

Sample the whiskey to check for quality. Take a large bowl out. Check the whiskey again to be sure that it is of the highest quality. Pour 1 level cup and drink it.

Repeat! Turn on the electric mixer. Beat 1 cup butter until fluffy in a bowl. Add one tsp sugar and beat again. Make sure the whiskey is still okay. Cry another tsp. Turn of the mixer. Break too legs and add to the bowl and chuck in a cup of fried fruit. Mix on the turner. If the fried fruit gets stuck in the beaters, pry it loose with a drowscriver.

Sample the whiskey to check for tonsisticity. Next sift 1 cups of salt or something, who cares. Check the whiskey! Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one table. Spoon. Of sugar or something. Whatever you can find. Grease the oven. Turn the cake tin to 350°. Don't forget to beat off the turner. Throw the bowl out of the window. Check the whiskey again. Go to bed! Who the heck eats fruitcake anyway? Cheers! Merry Christmas you all!

**Oakley retiring after nearly five decades at BCHC**

After 49 years of remarkable service, Gayla Oakley, RN, CCRP, MAACVPR, is retiring from Boone County Health Center.

A trailblazer in her field, Gayla's retirement marks the conclusion of a career filled with groundbreaking achievements and unwavering dedication to patient care. Joining BCHC in 1975, Gayla has worn many

**'BYOB' to every appointment**

Knowing your medications—names, strengths, and how often you take them—is essential for your healthcare. With various specialists, like surgeons and cardiologists, prescribing different medications, your list can change quickly. Sharing these updates with your primary care provider ensures you receive coordinated, consistent care.

Don't assume that specialists will update your primary provider. The best way to keep everyone informed is to bring all your medication bottles to every appointment. This practice allows your providers to update your records accurately and helps you get rid of any outdated or unused medications in the disposal bin at Boone County Health Center.

When your medication list is accurate, it's invaluable for your healthcare team, especially during a hospital admission or transfer. As a pharmacist, I review your list for potential interactions, duplicates, and proper dosages, helping ensure safe and effective treatment.

So, at every visit, remember to BYOB—Bring Your Own Bottles!

By Jill Nore, Pharmacist

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hats, and for the past 40 years served as Director of Cardiology Services and Prevention. Under her leadership, BCHC became home to one of the first certified Cardiac Rehabilitation programs in the state, helping set a standard of excellence for cardiac care in rural America.

Gayla's numerous accolades reflect her deep expertise and contributions to her field. She was named a Fellow of the American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation (AACVPR) in 1995, earned Master Fellow status in 2015, and received the AACVPR Distinguished Service Award in 2008. Her certifications span a variety of specialties, including exercise physiology, anticoagulation management, and lipid and tobacco treatment, making her a trusted leader in compre-

hensive patient care. In addition to her clinical work, Gayla has served as a guest lecturer at state and national conferences and as a member of the AACVPR Board of Directors, including two terms on its Executive Board. Her work in program certification and restructuring has influenced cardiac rehab programs across the country.

"Gayla's contributions to Boone County Health Center and the lives of our patients are immeasurable," said Caleb Poore, President and CEO of BCHC. "Her dedication, expertise, and leadership have shaped our Cardiac Rehabilitation program into what it is today—a model of excellence. We are profoundly grateful for her years of service and wish her all the best in retirement."

Angie Swantek, a longtime BCHC employee and Cardiac Rehab RN, will succeed Gayla as the new Cardiac Rehab Director. Angie, who also manages the Coumadin and Lipid Clinics, brings years of experience and a commitment to continuing Gayla's legacy of exceptional care.

A retirement celebration honoring Gayla will be held on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, from 4:30 to 6:00 PM at the South Entrance of Boone County Health Center. The event is open to the public, offering an opportunity for colleagues, patients, and community members to express their gratitude.

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- Bridgette Pudwill, MD
- Danielle Krohn, APRN
- Sean Kohl, MD
- Jason Olnes, PA-C

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- PHARMACIST REVIEWS YOUR MEDICATION LIST FOR POTENTIAL INTERACTIONS, DUPLICATES, AND PROPER DOSAGE.
- PROPERLY DISPOSE OUTDATED AND UNUSED MEDICATIONS IN OUR DISPOSAL UNIT

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**Christmas Open House**

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**December 18 & 19**

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**Taking Precautions Prevents Risk for Frostbite**

"It is important to plan ahead when traveling or being exposed to extremely cold winter conditions," said Dr. Troy Dawson of Antelope Memorial Hospital. "By taking a few precautions, the risk for frostbite injury may be prevented."

Frostbite occurs when blood vessels and skin tissue are damaged after exposure to temperatures below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, added Dr. Dawson. It can occur quickly or slowly. The speed of a frostbite injury depends upon how cold or windy the temperature conditions are and the length of exposure to those conditions. It most commonly affects the fingers, toes, earlobes, chin, cheeks and nose, which are often left uncovered in cold temperatures.

Frostbite has three stages. Frostnip causes an individual to feel pins and needle sensations with the skin turning very white and soft. This stage produces no permanent damage and may be reversed by soaking in warm water or breathing warm breath on the frostnipped area.

Superficial frostbite causes the skin to feel numb, waxy and frozen. Blistering may occur with ice crystals forming in skin cells. The rest of the skin remains flexible.

Deep frostbite is the most serious stage. Blood vessels, muscles, tendons, nerves and bone may be frozen. This stage can lead to permanent damage, blood clots and gangrene, in severe cases. No feeling is experienced in the frostbit area and there is usually no blistering. Serious infection and loss of limbs frequently occurs after frostbite reaches this stage. However, even with deep frostbite, some frozen limbs may be saved with prompt medical attention.

Suggestions to prevent frostbite are:

- Wear several layers of clothing when in extremely cold weather. Air pockets between the layers will help retain warmth.
  - Avoid going outdoors during extremely cold weather.
  - Limit the use of alcohol and smoking tobacco. Alcohol causes blood to cool rapidly while tobacco inhibits circulation to extremities.
  - When outside, shield the face and other body parts by wearing protective clothing, scarves, earmuffs, gloves, etc.
  - Do not spend extended periods in extreme temperatures when exhausted, intoxicated, wet or under the influence of certain drugs.
- "Emergency care should be sought after exposure to extremely cold conditions if skin swelling, blisters, drastic skin color changes or memory loss is experienced," said Dr. Dawson. "Other concerns requiring medical care include slurred speech, loss of limb function and absence of pain."
- If unable to obtain emergency care promptly, bring patient indoors as soon as possible, added Dr. Dawson. Apply warm towels or immerse the area in circulating lukewarm water for twenty minutes. Do not use hot water or rub the affected area. If blisters are present, leave them intact. Do not hold the affected area near fire as the frostbit area may be burned due to reduced feeling. Later, seek medical care as soon as possible.

**Christmas magic shouldn't be stressful**

It's the most wonderful time of the year. Or so they say. It can also be the most stressful time of year. Although I think a lot of that we do to ourselves, and it doesn't have to be that way.

Christmastime is magical. There's something about this time of year that can bring a lot of joy. The cold air, the decorations, time with family and friends, and of course celebrating the birth of Jesus. All of it just fills my cup. However, there's a flip side of things too.

There's buying all the presents and stocking stuffers, watching the money drain for your bank account, and wrapping everything. Plus, all the activities at school, church, and neighborhoods. There's the stress of hosting, cooking, and wanting to make it magical for the kids - baking cookies, matching PJs,

watching Christmas movies. All of it sounds so fun but when you're the one making sure it's magical, it often becomes stressful.

Then, if you're on social media, there's the pressure to "live up to" other moms. There are tons of videos of women making homemade decorations all with things from the dollar store and a hot glue gun.

Who has that kind of time??

(If you're one of those moms, I salute you, but I'd love to know your secret.)

We put all this pressure on ourselves and then we don't fully enjoy the holiday season. All the magic is useless if mom is burnt out and overwhelmed. We need to give ourselves the freedom to actually slow down and enjoy these fleeting moments with our children before they become a distant memory. Looking back, the real magic came from just being together and enjoying time with one another. It doesn't have to be picture perfect. And it doesn't have to be Pinterest-worthy either.

The things I remember most were decorating the house, driving around looking at lights while singing Christmas carols, and all the yummy food. There was nothing necessarily special about any of it, but those are my fondest memories growing up. I can easily replicate that with my children if I stop trying to make it special.

I end up stressing myself out and yelling at them when they are trying to help because in my mind, they're doing it wrong (although I still attest there's a right way and a wrong way to decorate a tree).

This year, I don't want to be a Grinch. I want to enjoy decorating and allowing them to participate...and fix it later when they're not looking. I want to bake cookies together. I want to watch Christmas movies and not stress about too much electronics. I want to spend the day in our PJs and play games and just be together. I challenge all of us to really be present with our

**Tales of a Tired Momma**



Elgin Columnist Katherine Cobb

**Looking Back**  
The Elgin Review

Sixty Years Ago

December 10, 1964

A hole in the dining room of the John Stuhr residence was the result of a fire started Tuesday night by a space heater in their basement. There was also some smoke damage.

A 90-voice choir consisting of singers from Neligh, Elgin, Tilden, Orchard, Royal, Oakdale, and Madison will present "The Messiah" at 8:00 p.m. Monday, December 14 at the Neligh High School auditorium, under the direction of Merle Larsen of Neligh.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jetyensky are the parents of a 6 lb. 14 1/2 oz. son, Joseph, born Dec. 3, 1964 in Our Lady of Lourdes hospital in Norfolk.

Christen Nielsen, son of Lars and Elizabeth Bach Nielsen, was born Oct. 3, 1878 at Sonderholm, Denmark and departed this life at Tilden Dec. 5, 1964 at the age of 86 years, two months and two days.

Mrs. Darrell Connick fell Tuesday of last week and broke the small bone above the ankle of her left leg. She slipped on ice at the back entrance to her home.

Fifty Years Ago

December 12, 1974

The local level of the 28th annual Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy broadcast scriptwriting contest generated great interest in the area this year, the local contest chairman, Mrs. Wilbur Scholl, stated this week. A panel of three judges chose Mary DeCamp, a senior at Elgin Pope John High School, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Merrit DeCamp of Neligh, as the first place winner.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Hoefer were county delegates to the Nebraska Farmers Union convention held in Grand Island December 3, 4 and 5. Russell was presented a 50 year membership pin award by National President Tony Dechant.

A daughter, Angela Jo, weighing 7 pounds 13 ounces was born Dec. 4, 1974 to Mr. and Mrs. Steve Ahlers of Clearwater at the Tilden Community Hospital.

The first degree exemplification was held recently for new members of Knights of Columbus Council 2411. The second and third degrees will be held at Norfolk December 29 in their new club house.

Two automobiles collided nearly head-on Thursday, Dec. 5 around 9:15 a.m. at the corner west of Farmers Store. Mrs. Irene Moser was driving west and turning north as the vehicle driven by Phyllis Pelster, coming from the north, attempted to turn east. There was considerable damage to both cars.

Thirty Years Ago

December 7, 1994

Freezing rain and sleet cut attendance at Elgin's fifth annual Christmas Fair last Sunday, but the event was still considered successful. About 520 people were served at the Pope John Senior Class Breakfast held in St. Boniface Auditorium. This number was only about 30 less than last year's 550 customers.

During the week of Nov. 7-13, Pope John students wore red ribbons to symbolize alcohol and drug awareness. In conjunction with the week, students who wore ribbons each day could place their name in a drawing box for \$50 savings bond prize. Dick Draper, president of the Bank of Elgin, donated the savings bond which was won by Staci Wangler.

Elgin High School's one-act play team placed fourth in the District One-Act Play Contest held last Saturday, Dec. 3, at Wheeler Central High School. Elgin presented the play "Juvie" Jerome McDonough.

Frank Dinslage of Elgin will be honored on his 90th birthday on Saturday, Dec. 17, from 2 to 4 p.m. at St. Boniface Church basement.

Secretary of State Allen Beermann, 54, has been chosen to replace Sandra George as executive director of the Nebraska Press Advertising Service and Nebraska Press Association.

**AMH**

◀ FROM Page 2

Practice Clinics at 402.887.5440. The staff of Antelope Memorial Hospital and its clinics wish Amanda the best in the future and look forward to continuing to meet the medical needs of area residents and their families. The public is invited to attend a farewell party for Amanda scheduled on Friday, January 17th from 4 pm - 5:30 pm in the Neligh AMH Family Practice Clinic. Refreshments and cookies will be served.

**Death Notice**

Joan M. Kallhoff, 89 of Norfolk, NE died Sunday, December 8, 2024 at Heritage of Bel Air in Norfolk, NE.

Services will be Saturday, December 14, 2024 at St. Boniface Church in Elgin.

Visitation will be held 9-10 a.m., with the Rosary being prayed at 10 a.m.

A Mass of Christian Burial will begin at 11:00 a.m. with Rev. Frank Baumert officiating, followed by interment in the parish cemetery.

Levander Funeral Home of Elgin, NE is in charge of the arrangements.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.levanderfuneralhome.com](http://www.levanderfuneralhome.com).

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Concessions begin at 7:00 pm  
Fri., Sat. & Sun.  
**Dec. 13, 14 & 15**  
**BONHOEFFER**  
Rated PG 13  
Next Weekend: Moana 2

**Community Calendar**

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

**Wednesday, December 11**  
District #18 Board of Education regular meeting ■ Red Cross Bloodmobile @ KC Hall.

**Thursday, December 12**  
Great Plains State Bank Holiday Open House @ Petersburg.

**Wednesday, December 18**  
Pope John Christmas concert @ St. Boniface Auditorium (7 p.m.).

**Wednesday and Thursday, December 18-19**  
Bank of Elgin/Draper Insurance Christmas Open House\*.

**Friday, December 20**  
Elgin schools 1 p.m. dismissal (Christmas break).

**Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24-25**  
Elgin Community Center closed for Christmas holiday.

**Friday and Saturday, December 27-28**  
Madison Holiday Boys and Girls Basketball Tournament (Wolfpack).

Events listing courtesy of  
**ELGIN VETERANS' MEDICAL CLINIC**  
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402-887-4151  
This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**Retirement PARTY**  
Gayla Oakley  
After 49 years, Gayla is retiring! Since she helped pioneer the cardiac rehab program at BCHC, she has transformed countless lives with dedication and care. Thank you for an incredible legacy!  
WED. DEC. 18 | 4-30-6PM  
BCHC SOUTH ENTRANCE  
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*"To be persuasive, we must be believable; to be believable, we must be credible; credible, we must be truthful."*

Edward R. Murrow

**Support for Israel key to peace in the Middle East**

On the eve of October 7th, 2023, the Middle East was more peaceful than it had been in years. Just a few years earlier, President Trump had brokered the Abraham Accords, historic agreements between Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain. And in the months before October 7th, Israel and Saudi Arabia were nearing an agreement to normalize their relations, with the Saudi Crown Prince saying: "we're getting closer to peace every day." The entire region seemed primed for a new era of lasting change. But thawing relations between Israel and Arab nations meant that Iran, and its terrorist proxies like Hamas, would be increasingly isolated. And so, on October 7th, Hamas blindsided Israel with a savage attack it knew would upend Middle East stability—and in the process, expose old wounds that would keep the region fractured, with the goal of keeping Israel isolated instead.

By instigating a conflict with Israel and purposefully housing terrorist infrastructure and weapons in civilian areas, Hamas ensured that any Israeli response would result in civilian deaths and incite international opinion against our ally. Israel, forced to pursue first Hamas and then Hezbollah for its own safety, is now subject to the tired—but effective—propaganda that claims Israel is actually the "aggressor," the "colonizer," the "war criminal." These claims reached a fever pitch last week, when the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defense chief, Yoav Gallant. The court accused them of committing war crimes, including intentionally starving civilians in Gaza.

Neither Israel nor the United States is party to the Rome Statute that established the ICC, and the organization's anti-Israel bias has been well known for years. But actions like these arrest warrants fuel the fire of anti-Israel sentiment and risk destabilizing further a region so recently close to generational peace. That's why it's so important for the United States to stand with Israel, and why it's important that our leaders not fall victim to the narrative of our enemies. If we don't stand up to the ICC and other opponents of Israel now, we risk losing progress for peace. Israel is our strongest ally in the Middle East, and the region's only democracy. Our nations share common interests and values. If we do not speak out in defense of Israel, the world will come to believe the lies of Israel's enemies, and the prospect of normalizing relations between Israel and Arabs will be hindered. Unfortunately, the Biden administration has tried to play both sides, criticizing Israel and even withholding lethal aid from the embattled nation, all in an attempt to pacify progressive members of his party and the international community. This strategy was intended to prove that America was more impartial, that we could see "both sides." But that strategy has backfired every time, adding legitimacy to Israel's critics and strengthening her enemies, like Iran. Thankfully, reinforcements are on the way. In 2025, the new presidential administration and both houses of Congress will be led by strong pro-Israel voices. The Senate, the House, and the Trump administration will stand with Israel in support of democracy, against

**WASHINGTON REPORT**



U.S. Senator **Deb Fischer**

See FISCHER, Page 5 ▶

**Pheasant 'envy' confounds Huskers as hunters stream north**

We've all had our fill of political news. So I thought that this week, we'd delve into a topic that's equally as timely – pheasant hunting. I've spent a fair amount of time in pursuit of the ring-necked bird, and recently traveled to South Dakota – the self-proclaimed "Pheasant Capital of the World" – to try my luck with my trusty Vizsla, "Gunnar," and a couple of buddies. If you've ever traveled to our northern neighbor this time of year, you'll see dozens upon dozens of guys (and a few gals) in hunter-orange garb tromping through the grasslands and marshes of the Mount Rushmore State. There are hunting lodges aplenty along the highways of central and eastern South Dakota catering to out-of-state visitors. And the local motels and restaurants are filled with dozens of hunters. And they spend money, creating an estimated economic impact of \$281 million, according to South Dakota game officials. More than 120,000 orange-clad pheasant hunters descend on that state each year. It's created a healthy amount of "pheasant envy" from us Cornhuskers who remember the days when dozens of local towns hosted "hunters breakfasts" on opening day and when out-of-state visitors steered our way to hunt pheasants. But times have changed. Bird numbers peaked in Nebraska in the 1960s due to a federal "soil bank" program that paid farmers to idle croplands. But the program ended, and bird numbers have been steadily dropping since.



State Correspondent **Paul Hammel**

There was a slight comeback in the mid-80s after the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) was launched to pay landowners to set-aside land and plant native-grass habitat in which pheasants thrive. But the decline has slowly continued. The main problem, biologists tell us, is that Nebraska has lost a lot of its prime habitat for the birds. Fence rows have been torn out, marshes drained and ravines and grass waterways plowed under, so fewer places to nest, raise young and hide from predators. (You can't blame farmers, who fight a few headwinds (low prices, high input costs and those gosh-darn

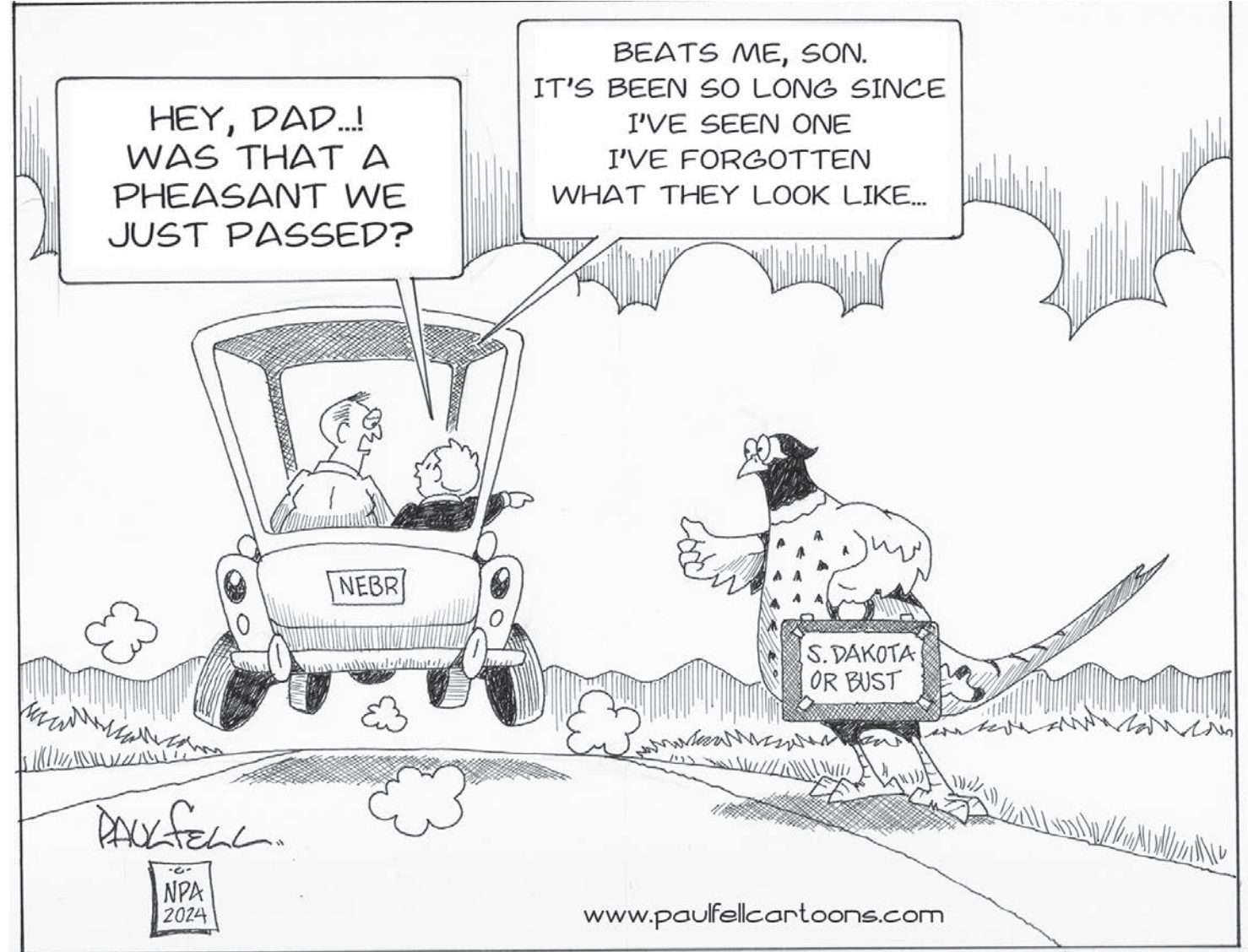
**WASHINGTON REPORT**



U.S. Senator **Pete Ricketts**

Committee delivers recommendations to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

See RICKETTS, Page 5 ▶



property taxes) in trying to make a buck. If there's proper grasslands for the birds to nest, and weather conditions cooperate (not too wet in the spring, not too harsh in the winter) you'll have pheasants, biologists tell us. I have seen this happen first hand. What I've also seen are some things I think South Dakota does to make it a nicer destination for hunters. For one, South Dakota doesn't allow hunting to start until 10 a.m., where in Nebraska, shooting begins 30 minutes before sunrise. That later start allows visitors up north to socialize later at night, and sleep in a bit in the morning. That translates into more time to spend money at the local steakhouse or tavern and time for breakfast at the local cafe. Most hunters, at least those in my age group, are visiting for the social aspect of hunting – hanging out with buddies. In South Dakota, they allow hunting in the roadside ditches, which opens up a lot of extra land to hunt. The inability

to find a place to hunt makes a lot of hunters hang up their shotguns. I've often wondered why we can't legalize bird hunting in ditches on minimum maintenance roads in Nebraska? Those roads get little traffic, and are typically far from any residence or livestock facility. Allowing hunting there, and maybe planting some good habitat, would open up more land to chase birds. To be fair, South Dakota has some advantages we don't. Land is cheaper up there, so it's easier to allow a marsh filled with cattails (excellent pheasant habitat) to remain. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission isn't giving up, and every so often, state legislators take a stab at increasing pheasant numbers. In 2017, Game and Parks launched the Berggren Plan to improve pheasant habitat and open up more land to public access in targeted sections of the state. The plan has shown some success. But the CRP program, which has helped maintain pheasant populations

in Nebraska and across the country, is under threat. Project 2025, a playbook for changes in federal program from the conservative Heritage Foundation, calls for eliminating the CRP program and other farm programs. If that happened, it would certainly set back the pheasant dreams in our state. But that might give us more time to ponder the really big questions confronting the universe, such as whether Nebraska football captains need to shake the hands of their opponent during the coin toss preceding a game? \*\*\*\*\* Paul Hammel has covered the Nebraska state government and the state for decades. He retired in April as 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.

**Continuing to fight for the 'Beef State'**

Nebraska is known around the world for our hard-working farmers and ranchers. Agriculture is the heart and soul of our state. Beef production delivers billions of dollars to our economy every year. It's also essential to our national security. But today, the "Beef State" way of life is under threat. Once again, anti-agriculture activists have taken over a federal entity to impose a radical, anti-beef agenda on the country. We must reject this unscientific approach. Every five years, the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee delivers recommendations to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Department of

USDA and HHS use those recommendations to develop official, five-year dietary guidelines. New official guidelines are expected to be released next year. The Dietary Guidelines might sound harmless, but institutions across the country rely on them to make decisions. Shamefully, the committee chose to put politics over sound science with theirs. Last month, the Committee proposed new recommendations that would devastate Nebraska's beef industry. These "recommendations" attack beef and potatoes. The committee is pushing a switch to plant-based substitutes like peas, beans, and lentils. These recommendations are delusional. They're radical. They're anti-science. They come from people who don't respect our culture and way of life. They pretend to know better than the people who actually grow our food. This anti-meat agenda must be stopped. It's laughable that beef is somehow unhealthy. In addition to being tasty, red meat is the best way to deliver

protein. One 6-ounce cooked serving of beef provides a whopping 25 grams of protein. Beef is nutrient-dense, containing ten essential nutrients including iron, zinc, and B vitamins. And research has linked beef protein to a host of positive health outcomes such as weight loss, muscle retention, and diet satisfaction. We should be encouraging more beef consumption, not less. Americans already struggle to get the nutrients we need each day. A shift from beef to beans, peas, and lentils will only make this problem worse. Much of the land used for livestock production couldn't be used for anything else. Agricultural land is divided into two categories: arable land and marginal land. Arable land, which represents one-third of agricultural land, can be plowed. That means it's suitable for growing food. Marginal land, representing two-thirds of agricultural land, is not suitable for growing food. Marginal land receives little or no water, has lower quality soils, or is rocky. Cattle production keeps marginal lands

thriving. Beef production is also essential to our state and national economy. Last year, Nebraska led the nation with \$1.78 billion in beef and veal exports. We led the nation in commercial cattle slaughter, with 6.8 million head. Our 20,000 beef cow operations add over \$12.1 billion to our economy. Cherry, Custer, and Holt counties are the top three cow producing counties in the nation. Protecting and growing this industry is critical for our state's continued survival and growth. That's exactly what I've done. As Governor, I criticized Colorado Governor Jared Polis for encouraging people to move away from red meat. I declared "Meat on the Menu Day" to support our beef industry and highlight its importance in a good diet. As Senator, I'm fighting to ensure ranchers have what they need to be successful. I'm pushing for a comprehensive Farm Bill and pushing back on burdensome man-

See RICKETTS, Page 5 ▶

**Numbers to Know**

**President Joe Biden**, 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., Wash-

ington, D.C. 20515-2703. Phone (202) 225-6435. Fax: (202) 225-0207. E-mail: http://www.house.gov/writerep/.  
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**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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# Santa visits Elgin!

E-R photos by Dennis & Lynell Morgan

Youth from Elgin and the surrounding area had their first opportunity to visit with Santa in Elgin last Wednesday, December 4 during Elgin's Hometown Christmas celebration.

All photos from the evening can be viewed at <https://theelginreview.zenfolio.com/p150335802>



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The Elgin Review



**PJCC one act team finishes second at district meet**

Pope John's One-Act Play team finished second last week in the district one-act play competition held at St. Boniface Auditorium on December 4. The Pope John One Act team, coached by Amy Klein and Alan Reicks, performed "Showdown at Palm Tree Pines," by Tess Barker. The comedy was set in a retirement community. (Left) Members of the cast and crew are shown with their runner-up plaque. Congratulations!

E-R photo/DMorgan

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## Southern "Belle" now managing Bartlett's 'Windmill'

By Pauline Marker

Special to The Elgin Review

Belle and her son Jeremy have been managing the Windmill in Bartlett since August 2024. They have been introducing the community to Southern Cooking.

So far they have prepared jumbalaya, gumbo and blackened chicken. Recently they served a special meal consisting of alligator, frog legs, shrimp and gumbo, along with regular fixings.

The community and surrounding areas have enjoyed meeting Belle and Jeremy. Born and raised in New Orleans, Belle lived there till the age of 43 when she decided to "leave everything behind and set out on the greatest adventure of my life."

In August 2020, she said she escaped a bad marriage with her son, four-pound furbaby and hit the road in her Mustang with no destination in mind.

"We landed in Nebraska in June 2021 and shortly thereafter I landed a job on one of Nebraska's popular food trucks," she said. It was there that she found her passion for cooking.

"I decided that I wanted to build my own thing, my own little place to cook and share my food with the people in Nebraska whom I've grown to love like family."

The response, she said to her home cooking, was "amazing and gave me hope that I could really do this."

Opportunities to purchase small bars fell through til August 2024 when an opportunity led her to manage 'The Windmill' with the understanding that if I did well I could purchase the bar.

"Here we are, just over four months of starting this venture and things are going great! I couldn't ask for a better response from the people in such a small town. They've shown up, they've tried my food and they love it."

Belle posts the evening specials and information on any change of times on "The Windmill" Facebook page.

Regular business hours are Monday through Saturday, opening at 5 p.m.



Photo submitted

Belle (r) and her son Jeremy recently hosted a Halloween party at The Windmill in Bartlett.

## Elgin Community Center Menus

**Monday, December 16:** Balsamic chicken, marinade, cous-cous, asparagus, fruit cocktail, bread/butter, milk.

**Tuesday, December 17:** Beef & noodle soup, cheese sandwich, carrots/celery, cottage cheese, peaches, bread/butter, milk.

**Wednesday, December 18:** Spaghetti, bolognese, lettuce salad, green beans, strawberries/peaches, bread/butter, milk.

**Thursday, December 19:** Liver & onions OR ham, baked potato, peas & carrots, peaches, bread/butter, milk.

**Friday, December 20:** French bread pizza, lettuce salad, corn, strawberry/banana mix, bread/butter, milk.

(All meals served with bread & butter.)

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

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

**Under 60 is \$10.00.** Serving starts at 11:45 a.m. and ends around 12:15 p.m.

Meals are served Monday thru Friday.

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#### GIRLS VARSITY

Dec. 7 @ O'Neill ..... 9:30  
Dec. 14 @ Wood River ..... 10:00  
Dec. 20 @ EPPJ (Senior Day, PJ) ..... 3:00

### BOYS & GIRLS BASKETBALL

#### VARSITY/JV

Dec. 5 @ Riverside ..... 4:00  
Dec. 6 vs. Niobrara-Verdigre (PJ) ..... 4:00  
Dec. 10 vs. Neligh-Oakdale (EPS) ..... 4:00  
Dec. 13 @ Plainview ..... 4:00  
Dec. 14 @ Wausa ..... 2:00  
Dec. 17 vs. Elkhorn Valley (PJ) ..... 4:00  
Dec. 21 vs. Boyd County (EPS) ..... 2:00

#### JUNIOR HIGH

Dec. 12 @ Neligh-Oakdale (G) ..... 4:00

### SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Dec. 4 EPS Art, downtown painting • PJCC NO SCHOOL • One Act Districts @ PJCC • Elgin Hometown Christmas Santa at 4 pm (Community Center)  
Dec. 6 EPS Muffins With Mom • PJCC grandparents Day, noon dismissal  
Dec. 9 EPS Prek-12 Christmas Concert  
Dec. 11 Bloodmobile at the KC Hall, EHS sponsoring  
Dec. 12 Elgin FFA meeting/Christmas supper  
Dec. 13 9th grade career day @ NECC • CyberPatriot State Round  
Dec. 18 PJCC Christmas Concert  
Dec. 20 Schools have early dismissal (1 pm) for Christmas break  
Dec. 21 Wolfpack Dance Camp  
Jan. 6 PJCC Classes resume  
Jan. 7 EPS Classes resume

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# Wolfpack Sports

## EPPJ drains 10 treys in win over Riverside

CEDAR RAPIDS — Elgin Public-Pope John scorched the nets Thursday night, defeating Riverside 69 to 62 in the season opener for both teams.

The Wolfpack had an edge in practice time since the Chargers had only a limited number of practices due to reaching the finals of the Class D2 State Football Playoffs.

And it showed as Riverside fell behind early, and were unable to make up the difference in the game's final moments.

EPPJ started out strong as Karson Kallhoff had 14 of the team's first 15 points en route to a 17 to 16 lead after one quarter.

Wolfpack Coach Matt Euse said a decision by Riverside to switch to a 'box & 1' defense to try and shut down Kallhoff allowed other EPPJ players to find their shots. Both Jarek Erickson and Kellan Hofer stood out in the second quarter as EPPJ took a 37 to 35 lead at intermission.

The lead grew to six points entering the fourth quarter where the Wolfpack made some big plays to hold off the Chargers. Freshman Max Henn had a big putback for his only two points of the game.

Late in the game, forced to foul, Riverside sent Kallhoff to the line three times. Kallhoff made all his free throws (six) and then Erickson added two more to close out the game.

The victory was sweet for the Wolfpack as they were eliminated by the Chargers in sub-district play one year ago.

Kallhoff led all scorers with 29 points as he connected on seven treys, most coming in the first half. Hofer and Erickson each had 16 points. Erickson led the team in assists (8) and rebounds (14) to complete a 'double-double.'

Riverside (0-1) was led in scoring by Jack Molt. A senior, Molt had 21 points in the game, Carter Keen added 15 and Larry Diessner scored 11.

### EPPJ 69, Riverside 62

Wolfpack.....17 20 14 18 — 69  
Chargers.....16 19 10 17 — 62  
Wolfpack — Ticen Sparr 0-0 0-0 0, Kellan Hofer 6-13 1-1 16, Michael Selting 0-0 0-0 0, Joseph McNally 0-0 0-0 0, Karson Kallhoff 8-14 6-6 29, Evin Pelster 0-0 0-0 0, Brayden Burenheide 0-0 0-0 0, Jarek Erickson 7-10 2-2 16, Taylor Beckman 1-2 2-3 4, Max Henn 1-3 0-0 2, Dylan Kolm 1-4 0-0 2, Trey Rittscher 0-0 0-0 0. Team totals: 24-46 11-12 69. Three-point shots — Wolfpack 10-23 (Karson Kallhoff 3, Kellan Hofer 3). Riverside team totals: 23-53 2-2 62. Three-point shots — 14-35.

Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 29 (Jarek Erickson 14), Riverside 15. Assists — Wolfpack 13 (Jarek Erickson 8). Steals — Wolfpack 1 (Max Henn 1). Turnovers — Wolfpack 10, Riverside 6.



E-R photo/DMorgan

Only the tough survive as Braelyn Martinsen won this battle for a loose ball under the basket Friday night against the Lady Cougars.

## Wolfpack's second half comeback edges N-V Lady Cougars 33 to 32

ELGIN — Thank goodness high school basketball consists of two halves.

After a sluggish first half which saw the Wolfpack trailing Niobrara-Verdigre by five points, EPPJ eaked out a 33 to 32 victory over the Cougars.

An adjustment made at halftime provided the spark the Wolfpack needed to make a comeback and stay undefeated.

Coach Randy Eisenhauer said the team needed a spark and they found it by going to a 2-2-1 full court press. The tactic proved to be successful as in the second half, EPPJ outscored the Cougars 19 to 13.

Still, the outcome of the game was not decided until the final buzzer sounded.

Entering the fourth quarter, EPPJ trailed 23 to 22. Braelyn Martinsen gave the Wolfpack their first lead of the second half with a two-pointer. Then, after the Cougars tied the score at 24-all, senior Kate Furstenau stepped up and drained a trey for a three-point lead with 3:32 left on the clock. The lead grew to six points on a basket by Callie Heithoff.

The Cougars made a late run as six-foot Eve Kucera had back-to-back inside baskets to pull to within three, 33 to 30 with

1:11 left on the clock. Then, free throws by Delani Runnels and Kucera cut the margin to one point before time ran out.

Furstenau led the Wolfpack with 12 points as she connected on four of nine treys. She was the only EPPJ player to score in double figures.

Martinsen had a big game on the boards, pulling down 10 rebounds.

Mady Kurpgeweit led the team in steals with four.

**EPPJ 33, Niobrara-Verdigre 32**  
Cougars.....11 8 4 9 — 32  
Wolfpack.....10 4 8 11 — 33  
Wolfpack— Kayton Zwingman 0-3 0-0 0, Elizabeth Moser 1-4 0-0 2,

Trissa Russell 1-4 0-0 2, Braelyn Martinsen 1-9 1-2 3, Callie Heithoff 4-15 0-0 9, Kate Furstenau 4-10 0-2 12, Mady Kurpgeweit 1-7 3-6 5. Team totals: 12-52 4-10 33. Three-point shots — Wolfpack 5-23 (Kate Furstenau 4, Callie Heithoff 1). Niobrara-Verdigre team totals: 12-48 7-11 32. Three-point shots — Cougars 1-12.

Team Statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 35 (Braelyn Martinsen 10, Mady Kurpgeweit 9), Cougars 42. Assists — Wolfpack 9 (Kayton Zwingman 2, Mady Kurpgeweit 2), Kate Furstenau 2, Cougars 5. Steals — Wolfpack 13 (Mady Kurpgeweit 4), Cougars 14. Turnovers — Wolfpack 30, Cougars 33.



E-R photo/DMorgan

Jarek Erickson (21) and Taylor Beckman fight for a rebound.

## EPPJ routs Chargers; Martinsen scores 16

### Defense holds Riverside to just 11 points in second half

CEDAR RAPIDS — Opening night in a sports season means high expectations for all teams.

For Elgin Public-Pope John girls, the lights shined bright on the Wolfpack as they defeated Riverside 63 to 29.

Sophomore Braelyn Martinsen led four Wolfpack players scoring 10 or more points. The sophomore finished with 16 points in a game which was essentially over by halftime.

Martinsen spearheaded a fast first quarter as EPPJ (1-0) built up a 19 to 10 lead. Kate Furstenau had a run of five points late in the quarter.

Coach Randy Eisenhauer's team kept the pace up in the second quarter and, by the time the halftime buzzer sounded, EPPJ had doubled the score on the Chargers to lead 38 to 18, the last points of the half came from Callie Heithoff.

A trey in the second half by Trissa Russell boosted the score to 61 to 29 late in the game.

Elizabeth Moser scored the Wolfpack's last points on a steep and a layup with less than a minute to play.

EPPJ's three seniors (Russell, Heithoff and Furstenau) combined for 32 points in the game. Coming off the bench, Russell had 12 while starters Heithoff and Furstenau each had 10. Sophomore post player Mady Kurpgeweit added eight points.

Riverside (0-1) was led in scoring by Grace Mahony. A sophomore, she finished with eight points.

**EPPJ 63, Riverside 29**  
Wolfpack.....19 19 10 15 — 63  
Chargers.....10 8 6 5 — 29  
Wolfpack — Kayton Zwingman 0-0 1-2 1, Kinley Drueke 0-0 0-0 0, Elizabeth Moser 1-4 4-4 6, Trissa Russell 5-10 0-0 12, Braelyn Martinsen

6-16 4-8 16, Callie Heithoff 4-12 0-0 8, Kate Furstenau 4-14 0-0 10, Kierstyn Eisenhauer 0-3 0-0 0, Mady Kurpgeweit 4-12 0-0 8, Dannyka Smidt 0-0 0-0 0. Team totals: 24-71 9-16 63. Riverside team totals 11/42 7/13 29. Three-point shots — Wolfpack 6-24 (Trissa Russell 2, Callie Heithoff 2, Kate Furstenau 2), Riverside 0/4.

Team Statistics — Rebounds — Wolfpack 39 (Braelyn Martinsen 8, Mady Kurpgeweit 8), Chargers 38. Steals — Wolfpack 29 (Braelyn Martinsen 9, Mady Kurpgeweit 6), Chargers 11. Assists — Wolfpack 18 (Elizabeth Moser 6, Kate Furstenau 4), Chargers 5. Turnovers — Wolfpack 21, Chargers 47.

## Wolfpack win over NV; Cougars held to 20 points

ELGIN — You can't win if you can't score. Seven simple words which define high school basketball.

Elgin Public-Pope John kept Niobrara-Verdigre players from scoring Friday night and cruised to a 54 to 20 victory in a battle between conference foes.

Junior Jarek Erickson scored 13 of the team's 19 points in the first quarter and, at the other end of the court, limited the Cougars' scoring chances.

Niobrara-Verdigre fell behind 19 to four after one quarter and never stood a chance against a Wolfpack team that nailed one trey after another against their foe. The lead grew to 31 to 3 before play was stopped for approximately 11 minutes when Julius Brandt suffered a serious leg injury which required him to be taken by ambulance to an area hospital.

The Wolfpack closed out the first half on a 19 to four run as Karson Kallhoff and Michael Selting each had two treys.

For the majority of the second half, the game was played with a 'running clock' once

the Wolfpack's lead reached 40 points.

Selting added two more treys in the game. EPPJ's last points came on an inside basket by reserve Brayden Burenheide.

The victory boosted the Wolfpack's season record to 2-0.

### EPPJ 54, Niobrara-Verdigre 20

Cougars.....4 2 2 12 — 20  
Wolfpack.....19 21 9 5 — 54  
Ticen Sparr 0-0 0-0 0, Kellan Hofer 3-7 2-2 9, Michael Selting 4-8 0-0 12, Joseph McNally 0-1 0-0 0, Karson Kallhoff 4-12 1-1 11, Evin Pelster 0-1 0-0 0, Brayden Burenheide 1-2 0-1 2, Jarek Erickson 7-10 0-0 18, Taylor Beckman 0-1 0-0 0, Max Henn 0-2 0-0 0, Dylan Kolm 1-2 0-0 2, Trey Rittscher 0-0 0-0 0. Team totals: 20-46 3-4 54. Three-point shots — 11-25 (Kellan Hofer 1, Michael Selting 4, Karson Kallhoff 2, Jarek Erickson 4). Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 23 (Karson Kallhoff 4, Jarek Erickson 4, Taylor Beckman 4), Cougars 19. Assists — Wolfpack 12 (Dylan Kolm 3, Karson Kallhoff 3) Steals — Wolfpack 6 (Jarek Erickson 4). Turnovers — Wolfpack 10, Cougars 10.



E-R photo/DMorgan

Karson Kallhoff scored 11 points Friday night against the Cougars.



E-R photo/DMorgan

Kayton Zwingman (1) reaches high to snare a rebound.

**Winter and Christmas Concert**

program photos from the schools will be in next week's **Christmas Edition** of the Elgin Review!

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**Blecher, Veik place seventh Saturday at Howells-Dodge Invite**

HOWELLS — Four of the five Wolfpack boys wrestlers came away with victories Saturday, competing at the Howells-Dodge Invite.

Some of the best teams from across Northeast Nebraska were in Howells for the start of the season and Wolfpack wrestlers more than held their own.

Sophomore Justice Blecher and junior Landyn Veik placed seventh in their respective weight classes.

Blecher recorded pins over Summerland's Jacob Schlect and Cedar Bluffs' Leonardo Hernandez Ladezma in early round action. Then in the seventh place match, Blecher

recorded his third pin of the day, this time over Andrew Hernandez.

Veik split his first four matches. Then, in the seventh place match, he got his first pin of the season, in 4:13, over Wakefield's Ruben Vega.

Grady Druke and Gavin Kallhoff picked up victories

on the mat to start the season. Landon Kallhoff dropped both of his matches Saturday.

Here are the official results from TrackWrestling.

144 pounds — Oliver Belina (Howells-Dodge) 3-2 won by decision over Grady Druke (Elgin Public/Pope John) 1-2 (Dec 13-12); Druke won by fall over Heydon Velez (Ponca) 0-3 (Fall 2:55); Austin Mendoza (Summerland) 6-1 won by major decision over Druke (MD 10-0)

150 — Alex Meier (Elm Creek) 6-2 won by fall over Gavin Kallhoff (Elgin Public/Pope John) 1-2 (Fall 0:59); Walker Ott (Wisner-Pilger) 4-3 won by fall over Kallhoff (Fall 1:42); Kallhoff won by decision over Matteo Fanelli (West Point-Beemer) 0-3 (Dec 12-6)

157 — Ty Opfer (Hartington Cedar Catholic) 3-1 won by fall over Landon Kallhoff (Elgin Public/Pope John) 0-2 (Fall 0:55); Konner Boutrek (Howells-Dodge) 2-2 won by fall over Kallhoff (Fall 0:43); Kallhoff (Elgin Public/Pope John) 0-2 received a bye

165 — Landyn Veik (Elgin Public/Pope John) 2-2 won by major decision over Ayden Dolezal (Bancroft-Rosalie) 0-2 (MD 15-5); Veik received a bye; Josh Mace (Archbishop Bergan) 4-0 won by fall over Veik (Fall 3:54); Matt Umphress (Summerland) 4-3 won by decision over Veik (Dec 7-1); 7th Place Match - Veik won by fall over Ruben Vega (Wakefield) 2-4 (Fall 4:13)

215 — Justice Blecher (Elgin Public/Pope John) 3-2 won by fall over Jacob Schlecht (Summerland) 2-3 (Fall 2:34); Omar Garcia (West Point-Beemer) 5-1 won by fall over Justice Blecher (Fall 1:25); Blecher won by fall over Leonardo Hernandez-Ladezma (Cedar Bluffs) 0-3 (Fall 0:35); Kyptin Collier (Hartington Cedar Catholic) 4-1 won by fall over Blecher (Fall 2:05); 7th Place Match - Blecher won by fall over Andrew Hernandez (Elm Creek) 5-3 (Fall 2:31)



Justice Blecher (l) and Landyn Veik (r) combined to win five matches Saturday, three by pin.

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**Spinning Tales**

EMTs response was 'fantastic' Friday night at N-V game

In a matter of seconds the sounds emitting from St. Boniface Auditorium Friday night went from cheers to a horrific scream to almost dead silence. Then, approximately 11 minutes later the sound of applause and the resumption of play.

It was opening weekend of the basketball season and for the Wolfpack boys basketball team everything was going their way. Points were pouring into the basket at the Wolfpack end of the floor. On the other end of the gym, shots were off the mark.

By midway through the second quarter, EPPJ had a growing double-digit lead. There was a loose ball near midcourt which Karson Kallhoff grabbed and dribbled to the basket. In close pursuit was 5'11" junior Julius Brandt. He went up to try and stop Kallhoff's drive to the basket. He and Kallhoff crashed on the floor under the north basket.

Kallhoff, who made the basket, got up. Brandt did not.

The next thing fans on both sides of the gym heard was a horrific scream, a scream full of pain.

The gym went silent, except for the young man who just seconds ago was an athlete making an athletic play.

Now, he was on the floor wreathing in pain, his leg bent in an unnatural shape.

As I looked at him, I knew this wasn't good, this was bad, real bad and I started waving for the EMTs I knew in the stands to come to his assistance.

In seconds, they were there. All their training now being put to the test. It didn't matter what

they had been doing, who they had been talking to, none of that mattered now. Nor did it matter that these Elgin EMTs would be providing care with a gym full of spectators watching their every move.

Teams were gathered by their benches looking on.

In a matter of a few moments, someone called for the ambulance and it quickly arrived by the east door. Having done everything to prevent him from making any unnecessary movement, the EMTs were working as a team in a calm, professional manner, to first stabilize the leg with an air cast. Once that was done, they placed him on a back board, still keeping the injured leg from moving. Once on the electric cot, it was risen to the required height before moving towards the ambulance.

By that time, his teammates were now nearby. Beside them, the Wolfpack players and coaches were there too. They, as well as fans from both teams, applauded as he was wheeled off. A moment or two later, he was loaded into the ambulance and off it went to an area hospital. Some of the EMTs left in the ambulance with him, their job wasn't done until his care was transferred to nurses and doctors.

Injuries are part of sports. They happen on the football field, in the gymnasium, and on the oval track. Fortunately, I'd say gruesome injuries like this are extremely rare. We play sports because it's part of who we are - we need to compete. Injuries happen, more often than that not, through no one's fault. Games don't stop, substitutions

are made and the game continues.

Kallhoff shot a free throw to complete the three-point play and the game resumed.

The game then played out to its expected conclusion. The Wolfpack had a big victory, the Cougars lost a game which now didn't matter much because their thoughts were with their teammate.

One-sided games, early in the season, don't mean much.

These are the kind of games my father didn't care to watch and I'm not crazy about them either. He liked the games where the teams were evenly matched and the outcome could have gone either way.

Many of you who watched the game in the gym or maybe Hudl until it was shut off should remember this ... on a night where the only thing that for was a 'W', another kind of scene took place. Our Elgin EMTs were called into action, as we all saw, suddenly summoned into service to care for this young athlete. Perhaps these EMTs, and firemen too, should adopt a new motto - "We're there when you need us."

They were and they continue to be - there when we need them. Job well done, EMTs!

**SPINNING TALES**



Publisher Dennis Morgan

**Evans takes second at 190# Saturday at O'Neill Invite**

O'NEILL — EPPJ had two girls compete today at the O'Neill Invite, their first meet of the season.

Sophomore Libby Evans placed second in her weight class. She received a first round bye, then pinned her next two opponents to reach the finals. In her final match of the day, Evans faced Wilber-Clatonia's Faith Klabenes. Undeclared in three matches earlier in the day, Klabenes earned a three-to-one decision over Evans.

Jayda Chessmore recorded two pins in her four matches. She dropped her first match, then recorded pins over Sabree Poppe of Centennial; and Neligh-Oakdale's Taryn Wingate. She did not place as she was pinned in her next match.

The duo will next be on the mats this Saturday at Wood River.

Here are the official results from TrackWrestling.

125 — Bailey Salers (O'Neill Girls) 2-2 won by fall over Jayda Chessmore (EPPJ Girls) 2-2 (Fall 1:40); Chessmore won by fall over Sabree Poppe (Centennial Girls) 1-2 (Fall 0:59); Chessmore won by fall over Taryn Wingate (Neligh-Oakdale Girls) 0-3 (Fall 1:50); Lorelie Duffy (Crofton/Bloomfield Girls) 3-1 won by fall over Chessmore (Fall 1:22)

190 — Libby Evans (EPPJ Girls) 3-1 received a bye; Evans won by fall over Addyson Jacob (Neligh-Oakdale Girls) 0-3 (Fall 3:43); Evans won by fall over Shaylee Gardner (Pierce Girls) 2-2 (Fall 1:35); 1st Place Match - Faith Klabenes (Wilber-Clatonia Girls) 4-0 won by decision over Evans (Dec 3-1)



Libby Evans

**Pride of the WOLFPACK PACK**

A junior, Karson was on fire against Riverside, scoring 29 pnts in a close game. He accounted for 11 pnts against N-V.

A senior, Kate helped lead the Wolfpack to 2 wins in the season's opening week. She had a total of 22 pnts in the 2.

A sophomore, Libby competed at the O'Neill Invite on Saturday. She had 3 matches, winning 2 by pin, and finished 2nd @190

**KARSON KALLHOFF** BOYS BASKETBALL  
**KATE FURSTENAU** GIRLS BASKETBALL  
**LIBBY EVANS** WRESTLING

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