



**Elgin dribblers, shooters
recognized last week**
See page 6



**EPPJ's Landyn Veik wins
'gold' at Twin Loup**
See page 16

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The Elgin Review

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In Brief

Boys, girls wrestlers here Friday & Saturday

At St. Boniface Auditorium.

ELGIN — The finest wrestlers in northeast Nebraska as well as outlying areas will be coming to Elgin this weekend. On Friday, December 19, beginning at 2 p.m. will be the EPPJ Girls Wrestling Tournament to be held at St. Boniface Auditorium.

Wolfpack wrestlers Libby Evans, Anna Dworak and Jayda Chessmore will be competing against wrestlers from Arcadia-Loup City, St. Paul, Summerland, Niobrara-Verdigre, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge, Sandhills-Thedford, Plainview/Osmond, TriCounty Northeast, Elkhorn Valley, Homer, Schuyler JV, Norfolk Catholic, Fullerton, Neligh-Oakdale, Twin River, Central Valley, Burwell, St. Mary's, Rivrside, Creighton and Crofton/Bloomfield.

One day later, December 20, the Elgin Public-Pope John Boys Wrestling Tournament will be held at 9:30 a.m.

Schools scheduled to compete, in addition to the Wolfpack, are Archangels Catholic, Plainview, Pender, Summerland, Riverside, Arcadia/Loup City, Norfolk Catholic, St. Mary's, Palmer, Twin River, Sumner-Eddyville-Miller, Sandhills/Thedford, Fullerton and Nebraska Christian.

Scheduled to compete for the Wolfpack are Landyn Veik, Grady Druke, John Zwingman and Ethan Hansen.

Public Notices

Public notices in this week's newspaper include:

- Proceedings — The Antelope County Board of Commissioners
- Proceedings — The District #18 Board of Education
- Proceedings — The Bartlett Village Board
- Ordinance #679 — Welding Transport, 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 46 degrees recorded on Tuesday, December 9.

The low temperature during the same period was -6 degrees recorded on Saturday, December 13.

Altogether, .07 of an inch of precipitation was recorded.

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

Date	High	Low	Prec
Dec 07	25	18	.02
Dec 08	46	20	.00
Dec 09	59	27	.00
Dec 10	37	24	.00
Dec 11	35	19	.00
Dec 12	27	07	.05
Dec 13	10	-6	.00
Total for last week			0.07
Total for December			0.07
Total precipitation 2025			25.90

Funeral to be Thursday for Livy Ostransky

ELGIN — She touched the hearts of everyone who came to know her.

Six-month old Livy Ostransky went to Heaven Friday, following a long and courageous fight.

The daughter of Trent and Baylee Ostransky, her funeral will be held Thursday morning, December 18, at Grace Lutheran Church in Neligh. There will be no school at Elgin Public that day to allow staff to attend the funeral.

One day earlier, on Wednesday evening, December 17, family will greet friends and family at Trinity Lutheran Church in Elgin.

Her short life won't soon be forgotten.

Wolfpack girls basketball coach Randy Eisenauer was emotional Friday as he spoke of the child's impact on the team. Her father has been by Eisenauer's side as assistant basketball coach for years now. The basketball team, Eisenauer said, had grown close to Livy and have shown their affection by wearing Livy t-shirts over their jerseys during warmups.

"The girls have dedicated their season to Livy," Eisenauer said. And what a season it has become. After five games the team was undefeated heading into Tuesday night's game at Elkhorn Valley (too late for press time).

Earlier this year, in October, a benefit was held at the Elgin KC Hall which featured both silent and live auctions with proceeds going to the Ostransky family. Turnout for the event was one of the largest in recent memory.

Livy's complete obituary can be found on Page Seven.

A group of Elgin residents, serious about improving our community for the future, met last week to share ideas and look at what could lay ahead for Elgin.

Organized by Traci Beckman, she quickly introduced guest facilitator Susan Norris.

Executive Director of Pierce County Economic Development, Norris proved to be a wealth of information for those in attendance for the question-and-answer session.

Key takeaways from the evening include:

- ECAP - Entrepreneurial Community Activation Process. Over the past several years, Norris has presented this program to EVERY community in Madison and Pierce counties. The program utilizes a broad community survey to learn "the good, the bad and the ugly" in terms of community needs. From there, town hall meetings (approx. 4), moderated by University of Nebraska representatives will do a deep dive on those results, form different groups and give clarity to plans of action.

In Plainview alone, this program ignited a tremendous amount of growth.

"The community of Plainview went through it first, six years ago", Norris told the group. "What happened in Plainview when I started working with them? They had 17 downtown vacant buildings, no new businesses in 10 years, no new housing in over 10 years, and the median age of the community was 48. We went through the ECAP process, and within five years, every single building downtown had been sold. We have now - five years out - 46 new businesses." According to Norris, Plainview received over \$7 million for the grants to make this happen. "We built new housing. We build rental homes, we've built town homes, we've built single family (homes). We've



E-R photo/DMorgan

Sounds of the season at EPS

Brass instruments made the sounds of the Christmas holiday Monday night as Elgin Public Schools held their PreK-12 Christmas concert. Band students played, others sang songs fitting for the season as the gym was filled to near capacity by family and friends. See more photos on Page 10.

Area Churches Celebrate Christmas

CATHOLIC MASSES
Christmas Eve Masses
4 pm St. Bonaventure, Ravellie
4 pm St. Francis, Neligh
6 pm Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Tilden
6 pm St. Peter de Alcantara, Ewing

Christmas Day Masses
8 am - St. Theresa, Clearwater
8 am - St. John, Petersburg
10 am - St. John, Deloit
10 am - St. Boniface, Elgin

"The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel." Matthew 1:23

ELGIN COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH, Elgin
5:30 pm - Christmas Eve

IZ LUTHERAN, rural Albion
7 pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

PARK CENTER UCC, rural Elgin
6 pm - Christmas Eve
Coffee, cookies & fellowship to follow

TRINITY LUTHERAN, Elgin
Christmas Eve Service 5 pm

See CARNEY, Page 2 ►

Elgin's future growth rests in our hands

accessed grant funding through the state. We've created revolving loan funds that the City manages. We've improved all of the parks. The school population has increased. They've hired new teachers, so everything's on track for Plainview. "

After Plainview, the communities of Osmond, Pierce and Battle Creek began the ECAP process as well as Tilden and Clearwater more recently.

- Status of LB840 - Nebraska's Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act authorizes incorpo-

See FUTURE, Page 13 ►

Giving insights on how to better address Elgin's future was Susan Norris (right), executive director of Pierce County Economic Development. (Below) Just some of the attendees at Wednesday night's meeting.

E-R photos/LMorgan



Cara Cara Navel
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We will **CLOSE EARLY** (at 4 pm)
Wedns., Dec. 24 - **CHRISTMAS EVE**



Good day, Supper time!
Do you have that pound of hamburger you need to turn into something different for your family supper? You may need to double the recipe

if you're serving more than 4 hungry mouths. This recipe has a gravy you can make or I have this brown gravy recipe you can use instead if your family doesn't like the mushroom gravy. Just follow the recipe up to the gravy part. Make the brown gravy pour over the brown patties and simmer until they are done. This is delicious when served with mashed potatoes.

BROWN GRAVY WITHOUT STOCK

4 cups heavy beef broth
1/4 cup butter
1/4 cup cornstarch
2 Tbs Worcestershire sauce
1 tsp onion powder

1 tsp garlic powder
1/4 tsp black pepper
Salt to taste

Melt butter and saute with the cornstarch until brown. Stir in the remaining ingredients.
Mix well, whisk until the mixture thickens for about 5-7 minutes. Can add flavor (beef) if it needs it.

From JoAnn Baum's Kitchen

Salisbury Steak, Brown Gravy

Hope you can use the idea!
JoAnn

SALISBURY STEAK

1 lb hamburger
2 slices bread, torn into pieces
1/4 cup chopped onion
2 cans cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
1 cup water
3/4 cup mushrooms (optional)

Combine the egg, bread, and onion. Crumble the uncooked hamburger over the egg mixture, mix it all together. Shape into 4 patties. Brown the patties on both sides. Combine the remaining ingredients and pour over the patties. Bring to a boil, reduce heat and let simmer until the meat is no longer pink. Makes 4 servings.

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To learn more and schedule an appointment:
Alison Kuester, O.D.
402.395.2082 | PalmerEyeCarePC.com
313 W. Church St., Albion, NE 68620



E-R photo/DMorgan

District #18 school board members Todd Heithoff (l) and Ron Bode look at flooring options for under the bleachers during Wednesday night's meeting.

‘Bleacher block’ to be used for floor repairs in gym

The problem with the flooring under the bleachers in the gymnasium at Elgin Public School (EPS) may soon be resolved.

Meeting last week, the District #18 Board of Education approved a bid of just under \$40,000 for the removal and replacement of the flooring with ‘Bleacher Block’ under the bleachers.

Doing existing floor removal and installation of new flooring will be Complete Floors. Work will be done in the coming months and ready for the Fall 2026 volleyball season.

Earlier in the meeting, the school board took action to approve a new two-year contract for Superintendent Mike Brockhaus.

On a five to one vote (board member Ron Bode voting ‘no’), the board approved a 2.5 percent increase, making Brockhaus’ salary for the 2026/27 school year to be \$128,484.83. Then, for the 2027/28 school year, his salary will rise to \$131,696.95.

In other action:

Approved — The board approved a negotiated agreement with the Elgin Education Association (EAA) for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years.

According to Brockhaus, the new agreement calls for a base salary of \$42,550 in Year One; and an increase to \$43,600 in Year Two.

In other action:

‘That’s Grrrrreat’ — During the superintendent’s report, Brockhaus told the board the school’s AQuESTT rating is ‘great.’ AQuESTT stands for Accountability for a Quality Education System, Today and Tomorrow. Testing evaluates schools based on multiple indicators, including state assessment scores, student growth, and graduation rates. According to the Nebraska Department of Education, the AQuESTT system classifies schools as Excellent, Great, Good, or Needs Support to Improve.

Rotation — The board discussed, at length, the Wolfpack uniform rotation and updating of uniforms every five years. The plan now is for track uniforms to be ordered soon which will be wore this spring. Girls and boys high school basketball uniforms will be ordered in the spring to be worn in the 2026-27 school year.

Next meeting — The next regular meeting will be Wednesday, January 14, beginning at 7 p.m.

Early retirement — Since no current teachers met the qualifications to be considered for an early retirement package, there will be no such offerings this year.

Carney

◀ FROM Page 1

president.

Carney also previously served on the board of Behavioral Health Specialties, Inc., a non-profit that provides mental health care, counseling and addiction services in Northeast Nebraska.

Carney, a native Nebraskan, received his bachelor’s degree from Kearney State College. He earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Nebraska College of Law.

The judicial vacancy is due to the appointment of Michael L Long to the district court.

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Merry Christmas!

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CLOSING CHRISTMAS EVE AT 12:00 PM
CLOSED ON CHRISTMAS DAY AND NEW YEARS DAY

Merry Christmas!

From everyone at
AMH FAMILY PRACTICE CLINICS
serving Antelope County's health needs.




Pictured (l-r) - front row: Kimberly Wiese, APRN, Angela Sucha, PA-C, Dr. Troy Dawson, Dr. Roger Rudloff, Dr. Josh Thoendel and Anita Murphy, PA-C; back row: Kaylee (receptionist), Erin (RN), Carrie (receptionist/medical records), Amy (RN), Peggy (RN), Kelly (RN), Christine (RN), Heather (RN), Deanna (receptionist), Shelley (RN) and Tanya (Chief Clinical Operations Officer). Not pictured: Dr. Kelli Osborn, Ashley Niewohner, APRN, Gini (LPN), Diann (LPN), Wendy (LPN), Prairie (RN), Michelle (receptionist), Natalie (receptionist), Jeanie (RN), Nancy (receptionist) and Sara (PRN RN).

HOLIDAY CLINIC HOURS:

CHRISTMAS EVE & NEW YEAR'S EVE
(Open at Neligh Location Only):
9 am – 12 pm
(Acute Care Patients Only)
• NO Early Morning Clinic

CHRISTMAS DAY & NEW YEAR'S DAY
All Clinics Closed

Antelope Family Practice Clinics



Neligh Clinic: 402.887.5440
Early Morning Clinics (7:30 - 9 am) & Sat. Morning

Dr. Troy Dawson
Dr. Roger Rudloff
Dr. Kelli Osborn
Dr. Josh Thoendel

Ashley Niewohner, APRN
Angela Sucha, PA-C
Anita Murphy, PA-C
Kimberly Wiese, APRN

Clearwater Clinic: 402.485.2277

Dr. Troy Dawson
Dr. Roger Rudloff

Dr. Josh Thoendel
Angela Sucha, PA-C

Elgin Clinic: 402.843.5444

Dr. Troy Dawson
Dr. Roger Rudloff

Ashley Niewohner, APRN

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Childlike innocence and wonder

Christmas is almost here! For some that thought evokes joy and excitement. For others, though, the nearness of Christmas stirs up anxiety, fear, sadness and even dread. I suspect there are many like me who have at least some mixed feelings about Christmas: those who are grieving the death of a loved one, who are lonely, who have strained family relationships or who feel overwhelmed this time of year. Sometimes our circumstances cloud our vision and we can't see through it. On the other hand, most children – both the young and the young at heart – see Christmas differently. They find joy, excitement and downright glee in Christmas.

It's an attitude to strive for, to pray for. Admittedly, I'm among those who feel overwhelmed in the days leading up to Christmas. So much to do and not enough time. Sadly, prayer goes by the wayside. Advice on avoiding Christmas busyness abounds: prioritize, make lists, set boundaries, simplify, schedule quiet time, delegate, take vitamins, exercise. That's all good and has its place. But honestly, it's important to have the right vision, too. We need to see Christmas again through the eyes of a child. It helps to be around kids to remember what that's like. I've been blessed in that way. Some of my favorite Christmas memories are examples of this child-

like innocence and wonder. One occurred after I stayed up most of the night wrapping gifts and getting everything ready for Christmas. That year we spent Christmas Eve and Christmas Day with the same group of relatives, who decided that we should let the children open some gifts at night, some the next day. We discovered a problem, though. One child – my youngest one and the youngest person at the gathering – had no gifts to unwrap on Christmas Day. Apparently he unwrapped all his gifts the night before. Having a preschooler watch everyone else unwrap gifts seemed wrong, so I talked with my sister and told her that I would sneak off to a Walgreens to buy some little gift for him. Wait, she said. She thought she could find something. She went upstairs and came down with two gifts: a Charlie Brown Christmas tree (a packaged version of the pathetic tree from the cartoon) and a dog toy she had planned to give to her dogs. Not the best gifts, we knew. But we thought he might not know the difference. And he didn't! He loved them! He told us they were the best Christmas presents ever. Since that incident about 15 years ago, we've teased him about the gifts. He said he knew something was up when our dogs took an unusual interest in his stuffed animal. He ended up just letting them have it. But in that moment, on Christmas, it was beautiful – and funny – to see a little child take such joy in gifts – any gifts. It's a lesson for me to appreciate whatever I get, in any situation, and especially love it as a gift from God. Another fun Christmas memory, which occurred a day or so after Christmas, happened when we bought a used van and took the kids on their first ride in it on the snowy streets of our neighborhood. They laughed and shouted for glee when we drove over speed bumps, which provided an extra bounce in the back of the 12-passenger van. As we were driving on the residential streets, we noticed a stuffed animal along the curb and picked it up. As we drove on, we spotted another. And another. We probably accumulated six to eight of the toys, which appeared to have been made for a claw machine. We tried finding who the stuffed animals belonged to, but to no avail. Our kids figured they must have dropped out of Santa's sleigh. A police dispatcher laughed at that notion when I reported our findings. That incident provided another Christmas lesson you might find helpful: Go along for the ride, find joy even with the bumps along the way, and keep your eye out for a few unexpected gifts. Merry Christmas! Rediscover your inner child!



Looking Back

The Elgin Review

Sixty Years Ago

December 16, 1965

Warm fall temperatures cooled Friday and Saturday and resulted in soupy fog Friday which turned to rain around five o'clock in the evening and night amounted to .35 according to records at the Bank of Elgin. A few flakes of snow fell here Monday and Tuesday. Harold Rice, 57 prominent Neligh attorney for more than 30 years died in his sleep at his home Monday evening. His death was the result of a heart attack. Among survivors are his wife and two sons, Robert Harold II and Stanley Raymond. Charles McKay was hospitalized for four days last week after becoming caught in a power takeoff on Tuesday of last week. He is ambulatory at this time with the aid of crutches after having suffered a severely bruised right leg and foot. Five young Antelope county young men left by chartered bus Wednesday morning for Omaha and induction into the U.S. Army. Included from this county were: Marvin B. Meis of Elgin, Robert C. Holcomb of Neligh, Lawrence F. Poulsen of Plainview, Lewis E. Brown of Oakdale, and Raymond L. Schoenauer of Brunswick. Santa Claus has scheduled his second appearance here for the benefit of children of this area on Saturday, Dec. 18. Santa will be brought into town on the fire truck which he will have loaded with candy-filled stockings.

Fifty Years Ago

December 11, 1975

Elgin opened its season with the tough Cardinals of Clearwater. The first quarter ended at 8-6 in favor of Elgin. The second quarter found Clearwater leading 17-15. The third quarter saw Clearwater outscore Elgin by seven points and the Eagles could not make up the nine point difference. John Joseph Beck, son of John J. and Josephine Rotter Beck, was born March 2, 1908, at Pierce, and died unexpectedly while hunting in a pasture west of Elgin, Dec. 4, 1975, at the age of 67 years, nine months, and two days. Death was attributed to an apparent heart attack. Thieves entered the Elgin Liquor Store sometime early Friday morning and stole several bottles of liquor, cigarettes, and food. Entry was made through a transom above the rear door. Taken during the break-in were around 15 bottles of liquor, seven cartons of cigarettes, and two jars of beef jerky. Jerold D. Nolan, 20, Elkhorn Trailer Court, and Patricia Robinson, Route 3, were both reported in satisfactory condition in Norfolk hospitals following a two car collision at Norfolk Avenue and 18th Street about 1:45 a.m. Saturday in Norfolk, according to the Norfolk Daily News.

Thirty Years Ago

December 13, 1995

Elgin received a total of five inches of snow on Dec. 6 and 7, along with strong winds that blew drifts across roads on Friday, Dec. 8. Following are the high and low temperatures, and precipitation amounts, recorded during the week by local weather observer Clarence Johns. A new convenience store in Elgin, the Pronto Travel Plaza, could be open in January, 1996, according to the owners. The store has been under construction since last summer near the intersection of Highways 14 and 70 in Elgin. The target date for opening is Jan. 15, 1996.

Wishing you a season of joy, laughter, and buffer-free streaming.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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Christmas Eve Day
8 am-2 pm

Christmas Day
CLOSED


New Year's Eve
Regular Hours
8 am-9 pm

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We greatly appreciate your company and support.



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Wishing you all the trimmings of a wonderful holiday.

Merry Christmas

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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

Progress being made on trade

In contrast to the previous four years, trade has been at the forefront since January, and the pace has not slowed as we reach year-end. In recent weeks the administration has begun the mandatory six-year review of the U.S-Canada-Mexico Agreement, announced trade deals and frameworks with several Latin American and Asian partners, updated the Agreement on Trade and Agricultural Products with Israel, and inked a major agreement with People’s Republic of China which eases tensions and resumes Chinese purchases of U.S. soybeans.

This week President Trump announced a \$12 billion temporary support package for U.S. agriculture, known as Farmer Bridge Assistance Payments. These one-time payments will serve as a temporary bridge for American producers in light of volatile market conditions due to weather, input prices, disease, and unfair practices from some trade partners. While supporting producers during this critical time is important, it is not a permanent solution. Nebraska farmers and ranchers want to sell their goods at home and abroad for a fair price. To this end, it is critical the administration continue opening new markets and ensuring fair treatment of American agriculture.

As chairman of the Ways and Means Committee’s Subcommittee on Trade I have been just as busy, meeting with stakeholders, conducting oversight of trade negotiations, and working to move legislation which opens markets, supports producers, and ensures our global partners look to the United

States as a model for free and fair economic competition. As part of this effort, this week the full Ways and Means Committee approved several bills I co-lead, including reauthorizing the African Growth and Opportunity (AGOA) and the Haiti Trade Preference Programs.



Congressman Adrian Smith

First authorized in 2000, AGOA provides favorable trade consideration for products from sub-Saharan Africa entering the United States, so long as participating nations meet high standards for political freedom, democracy, and fair treatment of American goods and services. This engagement increases economic stability in Africa, encourages supply chain cooperation, and while encourages our partners to look to the United States as a model for economic security and political freedom. When AGOA lapsed in September, thirteen participating nations were already suspended or partially suspended based on coups d’etat, human rights abuses, or prohibiting certain U.S. exports, and I am hopeful the threat of suspension from a reauthorized AGOA can be a useful tool in addressing economic and human rights abuses in South Africa, in particular.

Like AGOA, the Haiti HOPE and HELP programs, which provide for tariff-free Haitian-made apparel, encourage for economic development while improving American security. By ensuring Haitian textile and apparel products easier access to U.S. markets, the programs support long-term economic growth and investment in Haiti, providing more reliable income for families there. When people have work, security, and opportunities at home, they are less likely to feel forced to migrate or seek refuge elsewhere. Strengthening Haiti’s economy also helps communities recover from crises more quickly, undermines organized

See SMITH, Page 7 ▶

Trade war again pinches farmers, leading to \$12 billion bailout

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

So much for cutting federal spending. Just recently, President Trump announced a new \$12 billion payout to American farmers. It’s not a reward for great work – farmers produced another record crop this year.

No, it’s a bailout for a failed tariff war with China, that largest customer for our agricultural crops.

President Trump loves tariffs, no doubt about that, despite the fact that when you place an additional tax on foreign goods, it gets passed on eventually to us at the cash register.

But his attempts to get China to buy more American goods, especially soybeans and corn, have backfired, now twice. Back in 2019, during Trump’s first term, he picked a trade fight with China. China responded by buying their soybeans elsewhere, like Brazil. It’s a pattern that’s continued.

Trump’s response back then was to cover his mistake by a bail out to farmers. The payout totaled \$22 billion in 2019.

His latest trade deal with China requires that country to buy 12 million metric tons in the last couple months of this year. That brought some relief to our farmers, but it results in a 33 percent drop in soybean purchases this year by China compared to last year, before Trump’s latest tariff war.

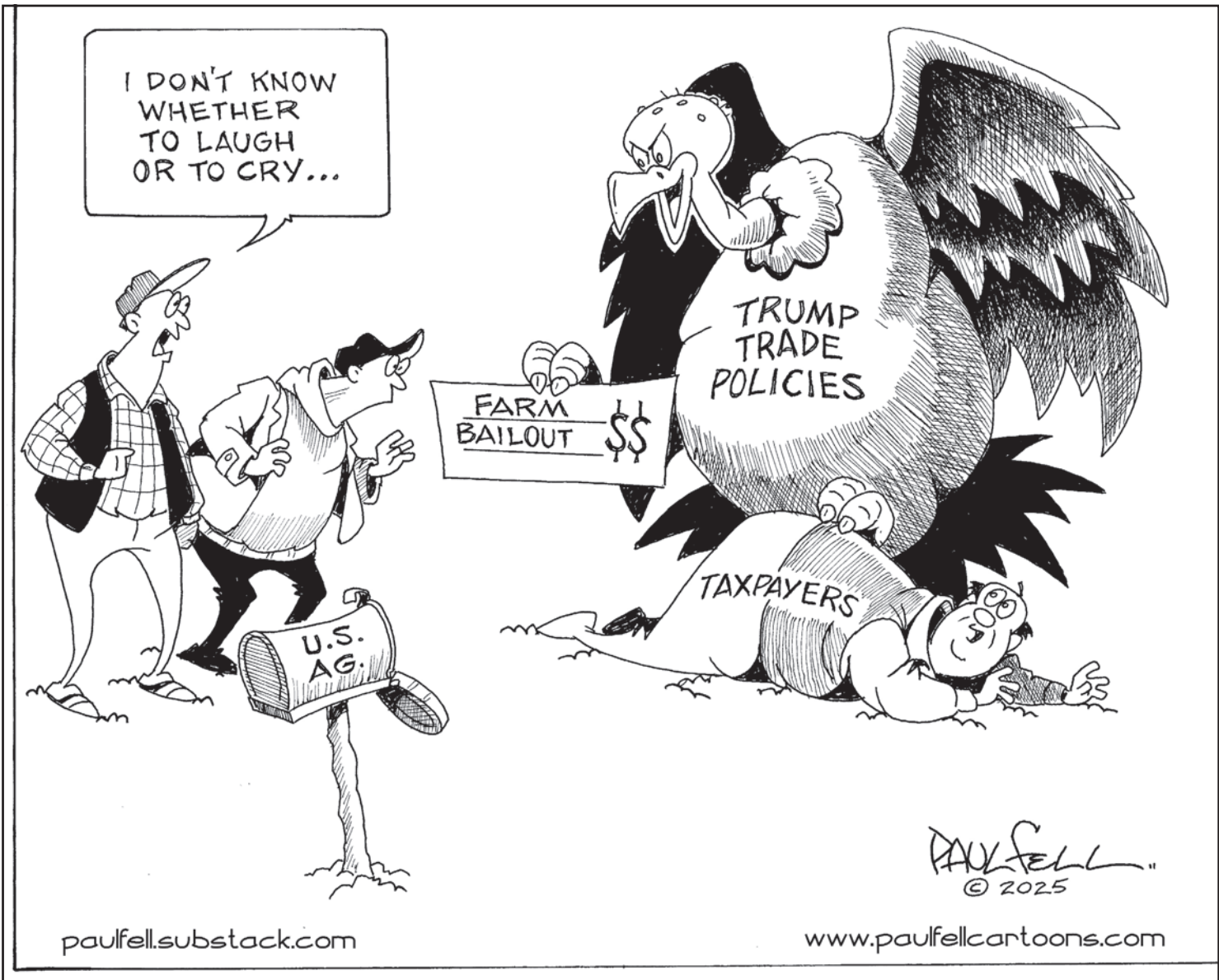
Some deal. Going forward, the deal requires China to buy 25 million metric tons of soybeans a year, but that’s still less (1.4 to 14.2 million metric tons a year less) than the Far East giant had purchased in each of the last five years, according to figures compiled by the University of Illinois.

That China is again buying our agricultural goods – they quit entirely earlier during the tariff war – is good news for Nebraska farmers. So is the \$12 billion bailout.

ALL THINGS NEBRASKA



State Correspondent Paul Hammel



Corn and soybean farmers, especially young farmers, are struggling with high input costs and low prices for their crops. So hopefully more money in their pockets will help them hang on until trade policies get rational again, and prices rebound. It should also help rural towns, because more money usually translates into more spending.

To be sure, Trump had to do something – rural Nebraska voters are the reason he won, overall, in the state. Losing their support, well, wouldn’t be so great.

But writing extra checks to make farmers whole, as well as sending \$20 billion to Argentina (a competitor for soybean as well as beef exports), doesn’t exactly square with the President’s goal of cutting government

spending. Remember DOGE, the Department of Government Efficiency? There’s a lot of disagreement over how much money DOGE actually saved taxpayers. That now-defunct agency claimed it saved over \$200 billion – far short of the \$2 trillion in savings pledged by its chainsaw-wielding chief, Elon Musk – but other analyses have concluded that number is wildly inflated, by tens of billions of dollars.

So spending an extra \$32 billion doesn’t exactly work to reduce spending by the feds. Even I can do that math.

If you ask farmers and farm groups, they’d rather see “trade” and not “aid.” That means stabilizing trade with countries like China, and resuming

healthy purchases of American agricultural goods.

Picking a trade fight with them didn’t work back in 2019, and didn’t work again now.

Trump pledged to make American “great again,” but let’s face it, his tariff policies haven’t exactly done that, particularly for our farmers..

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.

Restoring meaningful peace through strength

This past week, I traveled to the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library for the annual Reagan National Defense Forum — one of the most important gatherings of national security leaders each year. The event brings together Members of Congress, military commanders, defense experts, and technology innovators to take a hard look at the threats facing our country and how we can keep Americans safe.

While these conversations may

take place more than 1,000 miles from Nebraska, the issues we discuss directly affect families here at home. Our state has a proud tradition of military service, and Offutt Air Force Base remains home to U.S. Strategic Command and the 55th Wing. When we talk about defending the homeland, Nebraskans are on the front lines of that mission.

At the forum, I spoke on a panel focused on one of the most urgent

challenges we face: strengthening America’s space and missile defense systems. China and Russia are developing weapons capable of reaching the United States, and their arsenals grow more advanced each year. The days when the homeland was safely out of reach are long behind us.

The Reagan Institute recently released new polling that shows the majority of Americans understand this reality. Sixty-eight percent of people surveyed said they support major new investments in the Golden Dome project, a next-generation missile defense system designed to protect the entire U.S. homeland from long-range threats. Only 26 percent opposed.

Golden Dome is a major step forward. The goal is simple: if something is headed toward the United States, we should be able to detect it, track it, and stop it. But building that capability requires more than interceptors. We also need better radar, better sensors, and systems that communicate seamlessly. You can’t defend against what you can’t see.

Last year, Congress began laying the foundation for this effort by passing provisions from my bipartisan Restoring American Deterrence Act. That law requires the U.S. Department of Defense to identify what a true nation-

al missile defense system would look like, specifically what it would cost, how long it would take, and what kind of workforce it would require. What we’ve needed most, frankly, is a sense of urgency. The Golden Dome project finally puts that urgency front and center.

Missile defense will never replace our nuclear deterrent. Our nuclear triad remains the cornerstone of our national defense. But missile defense strengthens deterrence by giving America more options. We saw this earlier this year when Iran launched hundreds of drones and missiles at Israel. Because Israel and the United States intercepted nearly all of them, their leaders had the time and space to consider how to respond. Defense doesn’t just save lives; it prevents a crisis from spiraling out of control.

With Golden Dome, our goal is to

WASHINGTON REPORT



U.S. Senator Deb Fischer

See FISCHER, Page 6 ▶

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 Hart

1711-1779

“John Hart of New Jersey was already 65 years old when the Declaration of Independence was signed.

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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FREE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14, 2026
10 a.m.: Wind and Solar Development:
Navigating the Landscape for Rural
Landowners - John Hay UNL Extension
Educator.
Noon: Natural Prevention/Treatment
of Early Calf Diseases - Paul Mitchell -
Imogene Products.
2 p.m.: "Protecting the Family Farm from
a Change in Your Health" - Jay Knobbe.

THURSDAY, JAN. 15, 2026
10 a.m.: Farmland Cash Rents & Lease
Agreements - Jim Jansen UNL Extension
Educator.
Noon: Farm Bill Update & Outlook -
Jim Jansen UNL Extension Educator.
1:30 p.m.: Weather Outlook 2026 -
Eric Hunt UNL Extension Educator.

Wed., Jan. 14th
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Thurs., Jan. 15th
9 a.m.-4 p.m.

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Dermatology -- Dr. Clarey	JAN. 23 rd
Endocrinology -- Dr. Brau/Leah Haak-Beck.....	JAN. 13 th
General Surgery -- Dr. Schneider/Dr. Luebbe.....	JAN. 5 th , 12 th , 19 th , 26 th
Heartland Radiology.....	JAN. 2 nd , 5 th , 9 th , 12 th , 16 th , 19 th , 23 rd , 26 th , 30 th
Neurosurgery -- Dr. Bixenmann.....	JAN. 7 th
Norfolk Cardiology -- Dr. Hartzell/Dr. Rome.....	JAN. 6 th , 20 th
OB-GYN -- Dr. Albin.....	JAN. 14 th
Orthopedics -- Dr. Ochs/Kendra Thiem	JAN. 6 th , 7 th , 13 th , 14 th , 20 th , 21 st , 27 th , 28 th
Orthopedics -- Dr. Rickert/Sean Craig.....	JAN. 8 th , 22 nd
Otolaryngology -- Dr. Jazwick/Amber Citta.....	JAN. 22 nd , 29 th
Podiatry -- Dr. Borer	JAN. 9 th , 28 th
Pulmonology -- Dr. Stritt	JAN. 21 st
Urology -- Dr. Hill/Stegman	JAN. 15 th
Wound -- Dr. Kohl/Candice Schnoor.....	JAN. 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th


**Clip & Save!**

Photos submitted by Sherry Tetschner

Christmas program at Bartlett Church of Faith

The Bartlett Church of Faith held their Sunday School Program Sunday December 14 in place of the regular service. (Below) The Sunday School children sang a number of Christmas pieces. (Above, l-r): Reese Smith, Ben, Paige Schlenger, Hadley Pokorny, Casey Freouf, Jerrin KleeB, Coy Thornburg and Braelynn Schlenger. In front Parker Freouf carrying Hayes Pokorny and (hidden from view) Haley Borwege. The Bartlett Church of Faith High School Youth Group gave their rendition of the 12 days of Christmas at the Christmas Sunday School Program Sunday, December 14. Hayes is the partridge in a pear tree.

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1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14


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*Emmanuel,
His Name
Is
Emmanuel*


PHIL HEARING

Jesus was named Emmanuel, which means 'God Is With Us'.
What a foretelling of who Jesus was and what He meant to the world.
This week in church, we can call on the name of Jesus as we pray!

...they shall name Him Emmanuel.... Matthew 1:18-25
Isaiah 7:10-16 Romans 1:1-7 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts for
 P.O. Box 301
Siren, WI 54872
Sunday, December 21, 2025
Fourth 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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Fr. John Norman, Pastor
Fr. Frank Baumert, Associate Pastor
Weekend Mass: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday, 8 am.
cppnebraska.org

**Park Congregational
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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
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Petersburg, NE

Fr. John Norman, Pastor
Fr. Frank Baumert, Associate Pastor
Weekend Mass: 2nd & 4th Sunday, 8 am.
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**Bartlett
Church of Faith**
Bartlett, NE

Pastor Mark Hoffman
Sunday Worship Service: 9 am.
Sunday School: 10-10:45 am.

Calvary Bible Church
Neligh, NE

Pastor Peter Sample
Sunday School: 9:30 am.
Worship Service: 10:45 am.

**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 Hasskari
Sunday Worship: 8:30 am.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:30 am.

**Immanuel-Zion
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Worship Service: 9:30 am.
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Hebrews 11:1

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Shooters, dribblers earn awards

The annual Wolfpack Dribble and Shot clubs award winners were handed out Friday night. The goal of the program is to encourage youth to get outside and be active during the summer while improving their basketball and life skills. At the end of last school year, students now in kindergarten through eighth grade were sent home with logs to participate in the Wolfpack Dribble Club. The summer goal was to dribble for 10 minutes, three times per week.

Recognized for participating in the club were: Tess Spieker, Leo Spieker, Boyd Spieker, Reid Kielty, Chloe Kielty, Judd Schindler, Mark Schindler, Jamie Eischeid, Kinley Selting, Hayley Selting and Lillian Whitney. Students participating in the shot club are now in third through 8th grade. They were encouraged to participate at any level. Once they reached 3,000 shots made, they earned a t-shirt. Between these 16 students, 94,114 made shots were logged, which is 20,000 more than last year. Earning recognition were Mason Vanis, Hayley Selting, Taysom Bortorf and Caysen Bortorf. 3,000 Shot Club — Ellie Vanis, Brooke Borer, Max Borer and Boyd Spieker 5,000 Shot Club — Leo Spieker, Braxtyn Eisenhauer, Kinley Selting and Emery Borer 7,500 Shot Club — Reid Kielty and Harmon Borer 10,000 Shot Club — Mark Schindler, Judd Schindler, Chloe Kielty and Aubrey Starman Sponsors of the clubs this year were Dean's Market, Doggie Digz, Cordell's ATV Repair and the Bank of Elgin.

Fischer

◀ FROM Page 4

give America that same advantage. I want the Pentagon to deliver meaningful progress within the next three years, and Congress is prepared to provide resources and oversight needed.

E-R photo/DMorgan

Local youth who participated in dribbling exercises.

E-R photo/DMorgan

Local youth who were recognized for being in the shot club.

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Best wishes to you and yours for a wonderful holiday season.

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Martha C. Beelart, 86

March 19, 1939 - December 9, 2025



She was a lifelong member of St. Boniface Catholic Church. She lived her faith through simplicity, steadiness and service.

Martha C. Beelart, 86, of Elgin, NE passed away Tuesday,

December 9, 2025, at Antelope Memorial Hospital, Neligh.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11 a.m., Monday, December 15, 2025, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Elgin, with Rev. Frank Baumert officiating.

Interment followed at the parish cemetery. Visitation was one hour prior to the funeral at the church on Monday.

Levander Funeral

Home of Elgin is in charge of the arrangements. Condolences may be sent to www.levanderfuneralhome.com.

Martha Christina Beelart, daughter of Michael Alfred and Helen Marie (Winnepenninkx) Beelart, was born on March 19, 1939, in Elgin, NE. She attended St. Boniface School through the eighth grade and lived her entire life in the home where she was raised.

Martha worked in many

The Elgin Review • December 17, 2025

local businesses over the years, including cleaning homes, medical offices, hardware stores, and other workplaces. She cleaned for Laura Kluthe for more than forty years and forty-five years at the Elevator Office and Hardware Store.

A lifelong member of St. Boniface Catholic Church, Martha lived her faith through simplicity, steadiness, and service. She found joy in the things she could create with her hands: gardening, crocheting, knitting, sewing and she treasured the peaceful hours she spent reading.

She is survived by her two sisters: Frances and Mary Delores Beelart of Elgin, NE; as well as many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends who will remember her gentle presence and unwavering kindness.

Martha was preceded in death by her parents; five brothers: Leo, Joe, Albert, Alfred "Bud", and Leonard "Butch"; and two sisters: Rose Marie Sabin and Joan Van Ostrand.

Independence

◀ FROM Page 4

of the Peace, and militia leader for the Crown. He and his wife of 35 years had thirteen children, twelve of whom survived beyond childhood.

Hart was therefore known throughout western New Jersey for his competence in farming and in civic affairs.

He was known for his generosity in donating land to a group of Baptists to build a meetinghouse.

Hart was a Presbyterian.

By the time, then, of the Second Continental Congress, Hart had enjoyed prosperity, comfort and responsibility.

Unfortunately, the Revolution would take much of this away.

Shortly after signing the Declaration, Hart was elected to the New Jersey Assembly and chosen as its Speaker, so great was that body's respect for him.

But even as he left Philadelphia to assume his new responsibilities in Princeton, the seat of the legislature, his farm and his livestock were being destroyed by Hessian mercenaries who had invaded from the north in advance of British regulars.



Caroline Epp

Delivering Our Merriest & Brightest Holiday Wishes

We hope this Christmas is everything you've been wishing for and more!

Christmas artwork by granddaughter Celilia Beckman

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OBITUARIES

Livy Jo Ostransky, 6 months

June 12, 2025 - December 12, 2025

With her bright, sparkly blue eyes and her little tuft of hair, Livy was so loved by everyone.



Livy Jo Ostransky, six-month-old daughter

of Trent and Baylee (Wemhoff) Ostransky of Elgin, Nebraska, was welcomed into the arms of her Heavenly Father on Friday, December 12, 2025, following her courageous battle here on earth.

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, December 18, 2025 at Grace Lutheran Church in Neligh, NE with Rev. Brian Bucklew officiating. Burial will follow at West Cedar Valley Cemetery in Elgin.

Visitation will be at Trinity Lutheran Church in Elgin, from 4-7 p.m. on Wednesday (today).

In honor of Livy, for those attending the funeral, please consider wearing your Livy Jo's Sunshine Squad shirt, or the colors blue and yellow, or red to represent Congenital Heart Defect (CHD) awareness.

Memorial contributions may be made to the family, with funds to be designated at a future date toward a memorial to honor Livy.

Condolences may be sent to the family at www.levanderfuneralhome.com.

Levander Funeral Home of Elgin has been entrusted with arrangements.

Livy Jo Ostransky was born on Thursday, June 12, 2025 to Trent and Baylee (Wemhoff) Ostransky at Methodist Women's Hospital in Omaha, NE. Livy was born with Down Syndrome, a congenital heart defect, as well as Hirschsprung's Disease. Despite all of this, Livy was a fighter.

With her bright, sparkly blue eyes and her little tuft of hair, she quickly became a favorite during her time in the NICU. She also was known for her little side eye glances.

After spending 30 days in the NICU, we were finally able to bring Livy home. She was welcomed with open arms by her big brother Calvin and her puppy Scarlet. While at home, Livy enjoyed watching her big brother play and cause a ruckus, getting all the snuggles and

snuggles with mom, and late night chats with dad when she decided she wasn't tired. She was also able to take part in family walks, sending dad off to his first day of school, and attending a couple sporting events. Livy took in all the snuggles and attention she got. She was so loved by everyone.

On September 5, 2025, Livy and mom took a quick flight from Albion to Children's Nebraska in Omaha as a result of being diagnosed with Rhinovirus. A month later, on October 15 Livy had her first heart surgery. Due to complications after surgery, Livy was put on ECMO for five days. Livy was never able to recover from the complications. Throughout the next two months, we really saw how strong our little girl was.

Livy lived up to her name; Live. In her short six months, she was and will always be a fighter and her parents are so proud of her. We said good-bye to our sweet girl on Friday, December 12, 2025. She was able to go Home again, where she was welcomed with open arms by Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Livy is survived by her loving parents, Trent and Baylee Ostransky and her big brother Calvin of Elgin; grandparents; Greg and Joyce Wemhoff of Elgin and Shawn and Brenda Ostransky of Fullerton, NE; three uncles, T.J. (McKayla) Ostransky of Grand Island, NE, Chase Ostransky and Jackson Wemhoff both of Wayne, NE; aunt Allyson (Hunter) Reestman of Ashland, NE; great-grandparents Bob and Lois Palik of Lincoln, NE; great-grandma Barb Sjuts of Humphrey, NE, and numerous great aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Livy was preceded in death by her great-grandparents Dan and Carole Ostransky, Tom and Eileen Wemhoff, great-grandpa Calvin Sjuts, and great-aunt Paula Wemhoff.

Psalm 139:14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

The Elgin Review • December 17, 2025

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION WELDING TRANSPORT, L.L.C.

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

The name of the limited liability company: Welding Transport, L.L.C. The address of the designated office is: 504 Wirges Street, Elgin, Nebraska 68636. The name and mailing address of the initial agent for service of process of the company is Martin V. Klein, 101 W. 4th Street, P.O. Box 166, Neligh, NE 68756. It is organized to transact any lawful acts concerning any and all lawful business, other than banking or insurance, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska.

This company commenced

upon filing the Certificate of Organization with the Secretary of State on December 9, 2025, and its existence shall be perpetual. The affairs of the limited liability company are to be conducted by the members under an operation agreement duly approved by its members.

Welding Transport, L.L.C.

Martin V. Klein

Klein Law Office, P.C.

P.O. Box 166

Neligh, NE 68756-0166

(402)887-4190

PUBLISH: December 17, 24 & 31, 2025

ZNEZ

Smith

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crime, and reduces the pressure which pushes individuals to undertake dangerous journeys to the United States.

In the months ahead, it is essential we continue pursuing policies which strengthen markets, support producers, and reinforce America's leadership in global trade. The progress made so far demonstrates what can be achieved with focused, strategic engagement. By advancing fair agreements, holding partners accountable, and promoting economic stability at home and abroad, we can create lasting opportunities for American agriculture and enhance our national security.

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Direct from the North Pole...

Elgin's

Letters to Santa

The following letters were submitted by elementary students at Pope John Central Catholic and Elgin Public schools.

Reprinted as written and spelled.

Elgin Public Elementary

PRE-K

Dear Santa,
I am 4. I have been nice. I want a car.

Casey Vanis

Dear Santa,
My name is Jack. I am 4. I have been nice. I want a remote control grippy car. I had one but it got broken but I want another one because it was so cool. My sister is gonna have a drone and I'm gonna have a car ramp.

Jack Schindler

Dear Santa,
My name is Adalie. I am 4 years old but I'm 5. I have been good. I want make up, Barbie dollhouse, and a dress just like Maisys. I want a flying remote controller

Adalie Vanis

Dear Santa,
My name is Baelor. I am 4. I've been nice. I want makeup. Also I want dollies. Also I want a toy reindeer that you squish with.

Baelor Schindler

Dear Santa,
My name is William Lane Thomas. That's my actual name but my mom calls me William. I am 5. I've been nice. I want a remote control pipe with 3 fins and a remote control tractor and a Hot Wheels set. Mom said only 3 things.

William Thomas

Dear Santa,
My name is Penelope. I am 4. I've been nice. I want toy cookies.

Penelope Whitney

Dear Santa,
My name is Maisy. I am 4. I was nice. I want a baby set, costumes, and a baby high chair.

Maisy Beckman

Dear Santa,
My name is Ridge. I am 4 years old. I've been nice. I want a speedy cart that goes around, around and around.

Ridge Anderson

Dear Santa,
My name is Cohen. I am 4. I've been nice. Please bring me a flying drone, a remote control excavator and a remote control lizard.

Cohen Vanis

Dear Santa,
My name is Wyatt. This year I have been nice. I want a train, monster truck and a shark.

Wyatt Engle

Dear Santa,
My name is Madison. I am 4. I've been nice. I want a car seat for my bike for beary. I want glow sticks that glow in the dark on my night stand.

Madison Mitchell

Dear Santa,
My name is Ember Jean. I am 3. I've been nice. I want a lot of presents, like toy presents.

Ember Jean Erickson

Dear Santa,
My name is Emmie. I am 3. I've been nice. I want a cat toy and dog toy.

Emmie Haddix

Dear Santa,
My name is Xander. I am 4. I've been nice. I want Santa toys. I want a Spidey thing so it can be like a Hulk Smash thing. I want 4 Hulks and 4 Spideys.

Xander Lopez

Dear Santa,
My name is Tate. I am 3. I've been nice. I want crayons. I want a monster machine like Paxton has.

Tate Henn

Dear Santa,
My name is Beau. I am 4 now. I want a John Deere combine that says John Deere and I want an auger on it. I want some art crafts.

Beau Schindler

Dear Santa,
My name is Stella. I am 3. I've been nice. I want slime and a blankie. I want a jacket.

Stella Fischer

Dear Santa,
My name is Sloane. I am 4. I've been nice. I want a Pocahontas dress, Belle dress, Ana dress and shoes, and an Elsa dress and shoes. I want earrings. I want Rapunzel too. Rapunzel is my favorite movie.

Sloane Heithoff

Dear Santa,
My name is Leighton. I am 3. I've been nice. I want Batman, Captain America, Spiderman and an Alligator.

Leighton Ferry

Dear Santa,
My name is Ava. I am 3. I've been nice. I want a sled, a Christmas tree and a bow.

Ava Anderson

KINDERGARTEN

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I would like an electric robot. I need new snow boots. My Grandma would like a new TV.

Davante Ertz

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I would like my own diary. I need a winter coat. My Dad would like a Spiderman game.

Jasmine Lopez

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I would like a Rumi doll. I need new running shoes. My Dad would like a winter coat.

Quynn Luscomb

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I would like a football helmet. I need new snow gear. My Ridge would like a hot wheels track.

Rhyson Anderson

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I would like a big Barbie doll house. I need snow gear. My Mom would like a phone.

Raygen Brady

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I would like a RC car. I need snow gear. My Deen would like a PS 5.

Bowden Zawacky

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I would like a unicorn. I need snow boots. My brother would like Spiderman.

Aspen Dozler

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I would like a Barbie Dream House. I need pants. My brother would like a race track.

Ren Kinney

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I would like a hoverboard. I need a water bottle. My Mom would like a real elf.

Sutton Childers

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I would like an alligator. I need a hat. My Paxton would like triceratops.

Tatum Childers

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. I would like a mosasaurus rescue dino. I need gloves. My Leighton would like a Captain America figure.

Jaxxon Ferry

FIRST GRADE

Dear Santa,
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Tatum Childers

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Jaxxon Ferry

SECOND GRADE

Dear Santa,
I want a elf on the shelf and a eletric bike and a synde rondo verse and a grinch shirt and a gimr gibbs lion gerse and a detroit lions gloves and a eletric scooter and a synde NFL football and a 8 year old scooter and a real phone and a desk for my room and a circle water bottle and a golden bike for a 8 year old with no pedles and a PS5 and the game will be fornite and a new pencils and a nurf gun and a fornite blanket and a santa stuff animal and a santa blanklet and some chapter books and it should all de Aj books.

-Easton

Dear Santa,
I wouled like a rug for my room. A hover bord. A kids kindle. A poloride camra. Some Taylor Swift boots. A volly ball and net. A Grinch stuffy and Max stuffy. A Nabrasca pusle with a volly ball player. A cook book. Some pencils and pens. A bingo stuffy that is small. A marker bord with markers. A drum set.

-Robin

Dear Santa,
I wood like a cun putr.
I wood like a cross.
I wood like a smol tree.
I wood like a desk.
Santa I wood like a Elf.
I wood like markrs.
I wood like a cakalatr.
I wood like a Bluey Irning clt with the ABC in crsiv.

-Cristopher

Dear Santa,
Thank you for our class room elf G. Junior he has been realy realy fun in our class we all love Junior. Thank you for my elfs Elvis and Hank. Santa Claus for Christmas I would like a big toy monkey pleas and thank you. I have one questiun do you ever get cold when you deliver presonts? Santa Claus do you have night visione? I am so excited for you to come to my house and put presents under my tree. I realy love Christmas Santa Claus.

-Hadley

Dear Santa,
What I want for Christmas is two miny brands and can you get me a basetbal hoop and can you make sure you may safe piper because she is freezing and I feel bad for her.

-Emma

Dear Santa,
I how, you Santa will give me a mamntin bike. And 10 doge balls. And

-Oliver

Dear Santa,
I want a elf on a shelf and a minie frij. I want to have my mom and dad have a perresin to. I want a barbey to. I wan a minie uvin to. And I hope you have a good Christma. I want a smoll basketboll. And a claye maker.

-Hadley

Dear Santa,
I wont a lechrit drt dik. I wont a lechrik dik.

-Deen

Dear Santa,
I wunt a Eagls swet shert. Haw meny elfs do you have can you macke sparkls do sumsing crazy.

-Callan

Dear Santa,
I have been mosle good this year. Can I please have a barbe horse and some barbes to please for Christmas. Can I please have a mordol set and can I have a elf please a girl elf I haven't got we never can I have pupol slime please and some barbes.

-Marie

Dear Santa,
Makup robot poly pocket dolls doll cloys doll stuf like a real baby has. Toys nuget couches. Books. every buty to get what thay want for Christmas. Elf at my dads wath big dolls TRIGLE dress up stuff gams. gimngsteckbar chees mat Do you ever diver coul to the notty kids. Gient stuffet animals kichen set duck cook book. Facke food cirkul water botel pool at my moms chalk marers. Grinch trap marke bord facke classroom a wig. Grich stuf tent cats irn beads markers clous plants stuf to coo with facke food teacher stuf. rooler stick stan glass windo big big box of markers confy snow mishin phone charge for mom.

-Lennon

THIRD GRADE

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer and the elves this year? What is your favorite kind of cookie? Do you know my elf Snowy? Has Snowy been good at the North Pole? This year I guess I have been pretty good. So I want squish mallow. I also want squish mallow slippers, fidgets, make-it-minis, and some mini brands.

Love, Ainsley Beckman

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing this year? How many elves do you have? How are your reindeer? I want Mario playsets this year. I want baby Yoda legos. I want Grinch Legos and Grinch puzzles. I want two baby Yoda plushies one for me and one for my sister Jasmine.

Love, Lorenzo Lopez

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus, and your elves doing? Are your elves busy with Christmas? For Christmas I want a hover board with speaker underneath. For Christmas my brother Evvin wants a hover board with a speaker underneath also. Logann would like a new cooking set.

Love, Brycen Pelster

Dear Santa,
What is your favorite food? What are your favorite cookies? I've been pretty good. I would like a long neck dinosaur and a T-Rex.

Love, Micah Suhr

Dear Santa,
Are your elves doing a good job wrapping toys? I have been pretty good this year. How are your reindeer? How was your year? I want an electric bike and a new train set.

Love, Paul Thomas

Dear Santa,
How are you and Mrs. Claus doing this year? How many elves do you have? Do you celebrate Christmas too? I don't know if I have been good this year or not, I have been both. This year I want a crystal necklace, a coloring book, and a little marker board. And I'll take one more thing picked by Mrs. Claus. I hope you deliver children's gifts safely. Have a good Christmas. I love my elves. Thank you!

Love, Riley Tuttle

Dear Santa,
What is your favorite cookie? How is Mrs. Claus doing? When is your birthday? I have been good this year. I would like a Nintendo Switch, a baby with a stroller and a high chair. Thank you!

Love, Lillian Whitney

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? Are the elves working hard? I am looking forward to this Christmas. My sheperd and camel have caused mischief. I am looking forward to getting a Bluey airport or Bluey 3 in 1, please.

Sincerely, Ryleigh Makenna Young

Letters to Santa

Pope John XXIII Central Catholic Elementary

PRE-K

Dear Santa,
My name is Evelyn and I am 4 years old. I have been nice this year. For Christmas I want a bay doll named Sugar. Thank you for all that you do.
-Love, Evelyn

Dear Santa,
How are Mrs. Claus and Rudolf doing? Your reindeer can eat some hay while you're here. I'm a little bit naughty and nice. I would like a Dallas Cowboys jersey please. Merry Christmas!
-Louie Borer

Dear Santa,
My name is Haiden Michelle Childers. I have been a pretty good girl. This year I would like to get some makeup. I would also like a Barbie set with a carseat and stroller. My dolls have been sick lately so a hospital set would be nice also, so I can make them feel better! Thanks Santa!
-Love, Haiden Childers

Dear Santa,
I want a truck with a tanker and a tractor.
-Love, Cooper Dewey

Dear Santa,
Can you please give me necklaces, bracelets, and nail polish? Also, I would like a jewelry box and my ears pierced. Santa can I please have a new unicorn water bottle? Thank you!
-Rya Eischeid

Dear Santa,
Can I please have a Christmas toy that is a remote control Bluey? Can I have a Bluey stuffed animal that's big? Can I please have a soft cuddly stuffed animal kitty? Can I have a snake lego set that's really cool? Was I good? Can I please have a Bluey toy that shoots magic, just pretend magic? Can I please have a Bluey cup and then last a lot of Bluey toys? Can I please have a new i-pad? Carson has braces. I'm so glad he has them. I am lucky because I have two silver teeth. Santa. I am good the whole time but sometimes I get a minute off recess. Santa you are very nice cus you give me really cool presents. Thank you Santa!
-Love, Kasen Funk

Dear Santa,
I want a lego cat because Mom and Dad say no real ones. I want perfume spray. I liked seeing you!
-Love, Alyssa Haselhorst

Dear Santa,
I would like a doll and for my ears to be pierced. I would like a barbie and a barbie jeep. Merry Christmas!
-Jewel Pelster

Dear Santa,
Please can I have a Barbie? Please can I have a purse because Josslyn always takes mine? I want a unicorn from Bomgaars, please. I will leave you cookies and milk.
-Love, Layna Pelster

Dear Santa,
I love to take pictures with you. And I love to play with you. I have been nice to my brother this year. Can I have puzzles and a princess baby? Can my brother have a cow and a blue truck? I hope you love the cookies!
-Love, Bergan Schindler

Dear Santa,
Why did your elves Chippy and Beebee paint dad's nails? I think I'm on the nice list. I was nice to Kian by holding him. For Christmas could I please have a real phone that can actually work? Also the Madden NFL 26 for the Nintendo Switch 2. The very last thing I want is Mario Cart world. Stay warm!
-Cameron Schindler

Dear Santa,
My name is Klayton Schindler. For Christmas I would like a tractor, some toy trucks, a walkie talkie, a writing tablet, and a toy kitty. I will leave you milk and cookies!
-Klayton Schindler

Dear Santa,
I worked with my dad all day at the farm and I never asked to get paid. I also helped Josh feed cows. I hope your reindeer are ready for Christmas! I would like some long-range walkie talkies, a new wallet, and a manure spreader. I will try to be as good as I can! Thanks
-Mick Schindler

Dear Santa,
I have been good this year. Please bring me a kitty pillow and blanket. I would also like a small kitty bed and a par of kitty pajamas.
-Love, Lucy Score

Dear Santa,
I think I have been good this year. Could you please bring me an Alexa and a Barbie camper.
Thank you!
-Kenzley Starman

KINDERGARTEN

Dear Santa,
This year I have been kind of good and kind of bad. I would like a doctor set that comes with fake crutches and a wheelchair. I would also like two more American Girl Dolls to play with. I will leave you some milk and cookies to have.
-Love, Kate

Dear Santa,
I have been kind of good this year. This year I want a new book reader and foam toys. I also want a green toy tractor. Me and my mom will set out cookies for you and carrots for the reindeer.
-Love, Riley

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this year. I would like a wallet and legos that have wheels with them. I also want a sleeping bag. I will leave you some cookies and milk and carrots for the reindeer.
-Love, Theo

Dear Santa,
This year I have been good and bad. I want a stuffy t-rex and more chocolate like last year. I will leave you a picture that I drew, and cookies. I will also set out 9 carrots for the reindeer.
-Love, Tom

Dear Santa,
I have been good. I want to wish you good luck when you fly on your trip. I would like a toy aircraft carrier with an extra jet. I will leave you some of my grandma's famous Christmas cookies.
-Love, Maggie

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl this year. I would like a tea party set and some princess dresses. I will leave you some cookies and milk and carrots for the reindeer.
-Love, Jamie

Dear Santa,
I really like your pants because they are really soft. I love giving you hugs. I have been mostly good this year. This year I want a big barbie house with lots of barbies too. I would also like stamps to play with on paper and new books too. I will leave chocolate chip cookies out for you this year.
-Love, Gracie

Dear Santa,
This year I have been good and bad. This year I would like a mini air hockey table and a watch you can play games on. I would also like a robot that is small. I will leave you a present for you under the tree. I might leave you some cookies too!
-Love, Lane

Dear Santa,
I would like baby toy animals, some real big pencils, and a little toy tractor. I have been a good boy this year. I will leave you some cookies.
-Love, Tucker

Dear Santa,
This year I have been a good boy. I want a wallet and some legos. I will leave you some cookies and milk and I will leave carrots for the reindeer.
-Love, Greyson

Dear Santa,
I have been a good boy this year. I would like a T-rex transporter and a dragon chomped with a blue dragon eater on top. I want the medium grave digger. I will leave you cookies and milk for you.
-Love, Randy

Dear Santa,
I have been kinda good this year. I would like some Legos and Hot Wheels for Christmas. I would also like a stuffed Mosasauros. I will leave you some chicken noodle soup and cookies. For Rudolf, I will leave some carrots.
-Love, Thomas

Dear Santa,
I have been a good girl this year. I would like a jewelry box and an electric scooter. Ellie wants one too. I am going to put out cookies and milk for you.
-Love,Catherine

FIRST GRADE

Dear Santa,
My name is Westen. This year I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice. This Christmas I would love to get farm toys, overalls, and stuffs. I also have a question for you. How long do you fly? Say hi to Rudolf and Jack Frost for me!
-Love, Westen

Dear Santa,
My name is Bryce. I am 7 years old. This year I have been a little bit naughty, but mostly nice. This Christmas I would love to get a foot glow, a lego set, a 3D printer, a real phone, and roblox. I also have a question for you. What is you favorite elf? Say hi to Rudolph and Jack Frost for me!
-Love, Bryce

Dear Santa,
My name is Sawyer. I am 6 years old. This year I have been a little bit naughty, but mostly nice. This Christmas I would love to get a Baby Alive with bubbly tea, an elf I can touch, and legos. I also have a question for you. I want to know how you get around the world so fast? Say hi to Rudolph, Frosty the Snowman, Mrs Clause, and the elves for me!
-Love, Sawyer

Dear Santa,
My name is Zekkious. I am 7 years old. This year I have been nice. This Christmas I would love to get Robux boots and a 3D printer. I also have a question for you. What is your favorite cookie, and how do your reindeer fly? Say hi to Rudolph, Buddy the elf, and Chippy!
-Love, Zekkious

Dear Santa,
My name is June. I am 7 years old. This year I have been a little bit naughty, but mostly nice. This Christmas I would love to get a baby alive, a real phone, a baby panda, some barbies, a Santa stuffy, a reindeer stuffy, and an elf stuffy. I also have a question for you. How do you make toys? Say hi to Chip the elf.
-Love, June

Dear Santa,
I am 7 years old. My name is Britton. I have been a little bit naughty but mostly nice. This Christmas I would love to get a phone. I also have a question for you. How many elves do you have? Say hi to Chippy and BeeBee for me!
-Love, Britton

Dear Santa,
My name is Emma. I am 6 1/2 years old. This year I have been nice. This Christmas I would love to get a Kpop demon hunters, a real phone, a violin, and a baby panda. I also have a question for you. How do your reindeer fly? Say hi to Rudolph and Mrs. Clause for me!
-Love, Emma

Dear Santa,
My name is Mylah. I am 6 years old. This year I have been a little bit naughty, but mostly nice. This year I would like to get a make up set and a Barbie house. I also have a question for you. How do you reindeer fly? How dose Rudolph light his nose? How do you get to everyone's house in one night? Say hi to Mrs. Clause and say hi to Rudolph for me.
-Love, Mylah

Dear Santa,
My name is Tess. I am 7 years old. This year I have been a little bit naughty, but mostly nice. This Christmas I would love to get a real phone. I also have a question for you. How many elves do you have? Say hi to Zip and Mrs. Clause for me.
-Love, Tess

SECOND GRADE

Dear Santa,
I want a drut bike for crimis. Santa can you make it plese and I want a Ntend sich 2 I have Kris in for you, it is a fun our hay long have you been doing this safy for and Santa can you plese make me a ps5 I will make a lot of cookes and I will cef you a cup of milk and a cef for your randere and I want a atv. and I have been good and can you gev me sbis becuse In ad srgrew
-Clarenc

Dear Santa,
I have been nice and naughty this year. I want a nail art pens and a easy bake oven with mixings with it.I have 3 qeshdens for you. 1. why are your elves sometimes notey. 2. how old are you. 3. how can your raindeers fly.
-Emersyn

Dear Santa,
How do you make your rainder fly For CHRISTMAS I want dominoes, pajamas, A chapter book, a 500 pece puzzle, and jungle kit. This year I have been naughty and nice. Santa I have one more question how do you get to every house in the world? Merry Christmas!
-Eleanor

Dear Santa,
I have been very nice over the munths but sometimes not. Can I please have a toy feedwagon and a blue and black bike? How can you visit the hole world in one night? How can you be so quite? I like that you have elvs because I like to find mine.
-Ethan

Dear Santa,
I have bein nice. I wish I had a monster jam set, sum who would win books, and other fun toys. Thank you for all the fun thins you give us and toys. we haveint watched in your dreams yet. how do you make toys and books and clous for us?
-Joseph

Dear Santa,
how do you fly in Sleh. one thing I want for christmas is checkers. Checkers is fun and I like the game. Why is christmas so fun. I also want pugamuz because I only have two pairs. This year I think Ive ben nice.
-Leyton

Dear Santa,
Am I Nice or naughty? Santa I went to have a pet Axaloton and it is a salamand that stas a baby it's holl in tinr life. why didnt my elf come? how are the raindeer. what cind of coocke flather?
-Quinn

Dear Santa,
why do you have notey elves. I want Kevin lovgreen book for Christmas. I hava bin vary nice this year. How do you go to 8000000000 houses in like 12 hours. How do your elves bild so many toys.
-Parker

Dear Santa,
Santa, This yoer I have benn very god. I have a question for you how can you fly. For Christma this year I do not no what I whant. so I went a sprise. I also whent to now how the elvs fly.
-Charlotte

Dear Santa,
how do you delevier 8000000000 prsenetent in 11 hours? I have been Nnc this christmas even becus I have enterained my brothers by dunking my face in snow. I want a Nintendo switch 2 for Christams. Can you tell or elvesnot to toilet paper our tree.
-Kason

Dear Santa,
I have ben good can you get me a pet cat beccause mom and me want one. Why do we get presents. can you get me a lego pterbilt. They do you live in the Nouth pole. can I have a since lit.
-George

Were do you park your rian deer when you com to toen. do you park them in the car chry or do you have a helper that tells you wadt I want. Well I want a humer bord that I can afrodir. I bin a litel noty gust not linsing to my mom.
-Seth

THIRD GRADE

Dear Santa,
Hi Santa and Mrs. Claus. Are your reindeer getting some rest so they are energized enough to get to all the houses? I have helped leighton when she fell on the ground at the Target Jungle. Santa can you get me some clip on braces because I am 8 years old and I really want braces.
-Love, Scarlett Sage Sanne

Dear Santa,
Hello Santa! I hope everything is going well in the North Pole! I've been really good this year. I've done a lot of good stuff. I've been helpful. I've cared for people. This is my Christmas wish list. I'd like a Claire's DIY fashion designer tablet, Nike socks, a gun, art supplies, and all I really want for Christmas is my Family! Thank you for reading this letter.
-Sincerely, Leighton Engle

Dear Santa,
I hope you and Mrs. Claus are doing good. I have been good. I want a new big Apple iPad and a Nintendo Switch. Thank you for reading my letter.
-Love, Adalyn Veik

Dear Santa,
Hello Santa. Is everything okay in the North Pole? I have really been good by helping with jobs around the house. I want a 20 gauge shot gun and an Xbox for Christmas. Thank you for reading my letter.
-Love, Henry Lodge

Dear Santa,
Hello Santa. I hope you and Mrs. Claus, your elves, and the reindeer are doing fine in this busy time. Here are some things I've done this year at home. I have helped put dishes away and helped watch Laney. So I was wondering if I could have a call watch? Don't worry, my parents are fine with me getting a call watch for Christmas! Wishing you the best Christmas!
-Hayley Selting

Dear Santa,
I hope you are staying warm in the North Pole. I have been good by letting Beau play with my new game I got. I wish for a Shai Gileous Alexander jersey, a 20 gauge shot gun and a bow. Thank you for reading my letter.
-Love, Judd Schindler

Dear Santa,
I hope everything is good and warm up there. I have helped my family set up for Christmas. For Christmas I want a pogo stick and a baby set up. Thank you for reading my letter.
-Love, Faith Bartak

Dear Santa,
I hope your elves have their power still. How is little Rudolph doing? Santa I think I should be on the good list because I unloaded the dishwasher for 3 days straight. I want a toy gun and a VR headset. Thank you Santa Claus for reading this.
-Love, Hunter Kuhlman

Dear Santa,
I hope everything is going well. I think I should be on the nice list because I have been responsible and kind. These are a few things I want: 3 Thunder tickets and 2k 26 and Kobe Grinches.
-Love, Jack Stoltz

Dear Santa,
I how you and Mrs. Claus are about ready to deliver everything. I think I should be on the nice list because I have helped people up. I have also done stuff without complaining. For Christmas I want basketball shoes and school shoes and a pogo stick. Is it cold there? If it is, try to stay warm. Are the reindeer ready to fly? Thank you for reading my letter.
-Sincerely, Kayson Evans

Dear Santa,
Hello Santa! How is your day going? My day has been going good. How is Mrs Claus and the reindeer doing? I have helped my mom and dad with Ivy. Santa, this is what I want: baseball cards, power tools, a PS5, and a black air rifle that you can put a scope on and that is easy to calking. Thank you for reading and even taking your time to read this.
-Love, Boyd Spieker



Sounds of the Season

On Monday, December 8, music filled the gym as vocal and instrumental music students at Elgin Public School entertained the audience at their Christmas Concert.

E-R photos/DMorgan



Thanks a Latte for Your Support!

We really appreciate your generous support in 2025. Your visits always perk us up, and we look forward to serving you again soon.

Here's hoping your Christmas is the perfect blend of peace and happiness - and that your cup runneth over with good fortune in 2026!



510 N. 2nd
Elgin, NE

402-843-2333

Merry Christmas



TO ALL OF
OUR CUSTOMERS
AND FRIENDS.

We wish
you a "smooth,
joyous and
trouble-free"
holiday season.

ELGIN BODY & GLASS

402-843-2418
Elgin, Nebraska

from:
Judson, Kristina
and family

Wishing You A "WHEELIE" Great Holiday And A "TIRE"-ific New Year

We look forward to going the extra mile for
our customers in 2026 and beyond.

THANKS FOR YOUR BUSINESS!

MERRY CHRISTMAS

from
everyone at



402-843-1010

Parts & Service for:
Passenger Vehicles
Seminis | Work Pickups

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

May the joy and hope of the season
resonate in your soul and fill
your heart with faith, love and
contentment to last all year.

BAUM
SEED
SERVICE
LLC

Jim and
Mary Baum

"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them,
and the glory of the Lord shone round about
them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel
said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you
good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all
people. For unto you is born this day in the city
of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."
- Luke 2:9-11

Home

Is Where the
Heartfelt Joy Is...

Thank You for Sharing It With Us!

Friends and customers like you mean
so much, and we wish you all the best
this holiday season and always!



Jeff Temme
Sales Associate
402-843-8440



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Merry Christmas

From our *Gnomes* to your's!

We hope your holiday is simply wonderful!



Elgin Hardware & More

Located east of the Sleepin Inn, Elgin

It Pays To Advertise!

Season's GREETINGS

Wishing you all the best under - and on - your tree and but especially in your heart this season!

PRECISION REPAIR

North Highway 14 | Elgin
402-843-2181



Antelope Memorial Hospital honors employees for years of service

Employees of Antelope Memorial Hospital were recognized for years of service and Caring Kind at the AMH Christmas Party held on Saturday, December 13th at the American Legion in Neligh. Receiving awards (for number of years honored) were front row (l-r): Peggy (40), Dennis (40), Kathleen (50), Shannon (15), Jean (30) and Deanna (25); back row: Sheila (15), Martha (25), Michelle (10), Melodie (10), Vince (5), Marvi (10), Anne (15), Vicky (15), Bailey (5) and Kirstyn (5). Not pictured: Bentley (5), Kelly (5), Emily (5), Wendy (5), Melissa (5), David (10), Amy (10), Mandy (10), Margaret (25), Diane (35) and Tamara (Caring Kind).

Photo submitted

STOCKING STUFFERS

AND SO MUCH MORE!

Wrap up your CHRISTMAS shopping here, at home, with our area merchants.

Download our app and keep the cards "loaded"

The ultimate Stocking Stuffers - buy them today!

HUNGRY? Call ahead or order online or via our app

SUBWAY

402-887-5073

Hwy 275 | Neligh

Give them a great start to their days with a

Gift certificate

Open 7 am - Noon M-F
Open 8 am - Noon Sat

Drive through at the corner of Hwy 14 & Cedar St

UNIQUE GIFT IDEAS AROUND EVERY CORNER!

New and gently used items

- Clothing • Furniture
- Household Items
- Toys • And So Much More.

Give them the **BARGAIN BOX** shopping experience with a **GIFT CERTIFICATE**

Open weekly Tuesday thru Saturday

Give The Gift Of MEAT!

Select your meat cuts

Purchase a **Gift Certificate** or consider putting money on a grocery account.

DEAN'S MARKET

402-843-5300

We carry a great selection of **HOME DECOR** items at our Albion & Petersburg stores. See our nice collection of artwork, area rugs, foot stools and occasional tables as well as living room, dining room and bedroom **FURNITURE**... right now, we have a **LARGE INVENTORY**. We'll special order for you.

Leifeld

Hardware & Furniture
Downtown Petersburg
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Elgin ONE STOP & SLEEPIN INN

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Junction Hwys 14 & 70

- Gift Certificates
- Lottery Tickets
- Travel Accessories

- Gift Certificates
- Daily Specials
- Specialty Coffee Drinks & More!

North Hwy 14, Elgin

402-843-2323

Still looking For That "PERFECT" Christmas Gift This Year?

Come see our beautiful selection of gifts but if you're still not sure, try our **Gift Certificates!**

ELGIN PHARMACY & GIFT

Mainstreet, Elgin
402-843-5555

Stop by for unique Holiday gifts!

CITY LIMITS

200 S 2ND STREET

made in Nebraska products

- GIFT ITEMS
- MEATS
- SNACKS
- BEVERAGES
- GAMES
- MORE!

Merry Meals START HERE

This Holiday season, consider a **Christmas donation** for meals at the Center.

Meals may be picked up at the Center or delivered to their home.

ELGIN COMMUNITY CENTER

402-843-5757

What they need is HERE, CLOSE TO HOME.

Save yourself time, aggravation and, believe it or not, money.

Buy **Elgin Bucks**, available at the Bank of Elgin and good to use at all Elgin merchants.

We have it right here... **FOR YOUR "Nice" List**

Hair Products plus **GIFT CERTIFICATES** for any of our services!

Total Image Salon

108 S 2nd Elgin
402-843-5595

For that special person on your list, give our **GIFT CERTIFICATES!** They can enjoy steaks, burgers, fish, chicken, sandwiches, salads and much more!

Contact us today to book your group's Holiday meal

FOUR CORNERS BAR & GRILL

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GIFT ITEMS, TOOLS & ACCESSORIES for the family's DIYer PLUS APPLIANCES!

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The Elgin Review

Publishers/Editors Dennis & Lynell Morgan

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elginreview@yahoo.com

We are Elgin's weekly letter from home.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DECEMBER 11 MTG.
ANTELOPE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Neligh, Nebraska
December 9th, 2025

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

Approved agenda. Approved minutes of the December 2nd, 2025 BOC meeting.

Approved payroll.
Approved vendor claims.

General: MELVIN AHLERS ps 24.00; AMAZON ex 105.59; AMERITAS ins 22,777.10; AMY PICKREL ex 20.00; ANTELOPE CO COURT ex 234.00; APPEARA ex 80.50; APPLIED CONN TECH ex 6,269.90; FIRSTNET ut 643.48; BEAR GRAPHICS ex 572.17; BECKY KERKMAN ex 20.00; BLACK HILLS ENERGY ut 824.97; BCBS ins 80,378.87; BOMGAARS ex 92.92; BRITE ex 5,760.00; MARCY BROWN ex 100.00; ARDITH CARR ps 108.00; CITY OF NELIGH ut 2,070.15; CITY OF NELIGH-RECY ut 1,000.00; CLEARFLY ut 159.42; CLERK OF THE DIST COURT ex 72.00; COLDTYPE PUB ex 922.63; JUDITH COLE ps 10.00; COLONIAL LIFE ins 108.40; CUBBYS ex 885.29; D&L TIRE ex 81.15; DAS STATE ACCTG ex 1,214.60; DUSTYS ex 793.88; EAKES OFFICE SOL ex 38.49; JAMES EGGLEY ex 100.00; ELGIN ONE STOP ex 127.75; ELGIN REVIEW ex 132.31; ELITE COURT REPORTING SVC ex 444.35; ELITE OFC PRODS ex 278.72; FED W/H tax 13,735.09; FIRST CONCORD ins 3,079.96; FLOOR MAINTENANCE ex 359.08; GREAT PLAINS COMMS ut 309.71; DARRELL HAMILTON ps 11.00; MAX HIETER ps 36.00; INTL ASSOC OF ASSESSING OFFICIALS ex 255.00; JACKS UNIFORMS ex 289.78; JAMIE SCHRADER ex 20.00; JONNY DODGE ex 160.97; K&M REPORTING ex 100.00; KLEIN LAW OFC ex 464.10; KOINZAN ENT ex 175.00; LIBERTY NATL ins 87.19; LICHTENBERG TIRE ex 986.62; MADISON CO DIST COURT ex 50.00; MADISON CO SHRF ex 30.41; MADISON NATL LIFE ins 133.04; MARLIN MATSON ps 48.00; MENARDS ex 17.95; MICROFILM IMAGING SYSTEMS ex 122.00; DUANE MILLER ex 12.00; MIPS ex 3,244.04; MUTUAL OF OMAHA ins 992.24; N&B GAS ex 60.00; NACO ex 320.00; NATL INS SVC ins 58.50; NEBR DEPT OF REV tax 6,316.57; NEBR FIRE SPRINKLER CORP ex 515.00; NEBR SHRFS ASSOC ex 200.00; NIELSEN INS ex 40.00; VSP - NACO VISION ins 563.88; NCPD ut 56.33; NE NEBR HEATING & AIR ex 1,368.33; BRUCE OFE ps 108.00; CONNIE OFE ps 84.00; ONE OFC SOL ex 576.67; LISA PAYNE ex 63.98; PETTY CASH (CO CLERK) ex 20.00; PINNACLE BANK ex 71.87; PITNEY BOWES LEASE ex 1,063.26; PITNEY BOWES RESERVE ex 3,000.00; PITZER DIGITAL ex 45.00; PLATTE VALLEY COMM ex 518.50; RAZOR TRACKING ex 700.08; JANICE RIDDER ps 10.00; JERALD SCHWAGER ps 36.00; MONTE SHABRAM ps 36.00; CAROLINE SIEMS ps 25.00; WEX BANK ex 936.21; SOC SEC 29,312.98; STEALTH BROADBAND ut 1,141.06; RYAN STOVER ex 100.00; THRIFTWAY ex 22.10; TRUSTMARK ins 243.67; UNIV OF NEBR-LINCOLN ut 45.02; WASHINGTON NATL ins 285.92; WESTERN OIL II ex 580.00; JAMES WILCOX ps 72.00; SUE WILLIAMS ex 40.00; UNIV OF NEBR-LINCOLN ex 50.00; ANTELOPE CO TREAS ex 100,000.00; PAYROLL 148,233.12;

Road/Bridge: AKRS ex 1,286.62; AMERITAS ins 12,208.63; AMH ex 19.00; APPEARA ex 75.72; FIRSTNET ut 140.24; BECKMAN LUMBER ex 340.00; BLACK HILLS ENERGY ut 641.51; BLACKSTRAP ex 1,320.05; BCBS ins 59,535.27; BOMGAARS ex 1,167.23; CARHART LUMBER ex 29.50; CATERPILLAR ex 40,836.22; CITY OF ELGIN ut 7.50; CITY OF TILDEN ut 70.78; COLONIAL LIFE ins 370.83; CONSTELLATION ut 8.17; CORNER HARDWARE ex 29.61; CREDIT MNGT SVCS garn 373.27; CUBBYS ex 951.68; DINKEL IMPLEMENT ex 207.70; DIXON CONSTRUCTION ex 110,532.62; DUSTYS ex 171.46; ELGIN ONE STOP ex 95.35; ERP-

PD ut 1,033.13; EMMER SAND & GRAVEL ex 16,505.69; FARMERS PRIDE ex 24,700.41; FED W/H tax 6,790.36; FIRST CONCORD ins 793.81; FORCE AMERICA DISTR ex 113.81; FRONTIER COMM ut 730.83; GREAT PLAINS COMMS ut 346.09; GRUBB GRINDING ex 475.50; HEARTLAND FIRE PROTECTION ex 171.25; ISLAND SUPPLY WELDING ex 220.80; JOEL SINCLAIR ex 10,451.95; JEO CONSULTING ex 8,656.00; JONNY DODGE ex 3,953.32; K&S DOOR ex 166.00; KAYTON INTERNATL ex 3,964.13; KIMBALL-MIDWEST ex 96.72; LAWSOON PRODS ex 82.00; LAZY T TIRE ex 50.00; LIBERTY NATL ins 154.27; LICHTENBERG TIRE ex 370.57; MADISON NATL LIFE ins 64.77; GEORGE MAJERUS ex 1,522.50; MATTEO SAND & GRAVEL ex 22,102.71; MEIS FARMS ex 650.00; ETHANS REPAIR ex 340.20; MR S'S ex 1,337.34; MURPHY TRACTOR ex 19,895.06; MUTUAL OF OMAHA ins 776.73; N&B GAS ex 1,140.90; NACO ex 320.00; NATL INS SVC ins 56.75; NEBR CHILD SUPPORT ex 1,048.50; NEBR DEPT OF REV tax 3,220.65; NPPD ut 219.04; NELIGH AUTO & MACHINE ex 308.90; VSP - NACO VISION ins 417.21; NMC EXCHANGE ex 12,033.53; NCPD ut 224.03; NORTH CONSTRUCTION ex 10,294.40; NE NEBR HEATING & AIR ex 586.00; NNTC ut 75.86; LISA PAYNE ex 12.35; QUALITY IRON & METAL ex 384.00; QUICK SERVE OIL ex 111.48; RAKA ex 381.89; RAZOR TRACKING ex 1,577.50; RDO TRUCK CENTERS ex 190.00; BRUCE ROEBER ex 4,187.50; ROYAL ONE STOP ex 182.84; SAPP BROTHER PETRO ex 7,032.14; WEX BANK ex 882.15; SOC SEC 16,671.82; SPUD CONSTRUCTION ex 78,660.86; STEALTH BROADBAND ut 95.75; MARV THIEMAN ex 150.00; TRUSTMARK ins 340.19; TWO RIVERS AUTO PARTS ex 839.80; VILLAGE OF BRUNSWICK ut 54.50; VILLAGE OF ORCHARD ut 82.80; WASHINGTON NATL ins 99.60; WEST-HODSON LUMBER ex 3,626.00; WESTERN OIL II ex 295.97; 319 GRAPHICS ex 315.00; PAYROLL 83,518.64;

Register of Deeds: MIPS ex 361.20;

Law Enforcement: AMERICAN SCREENING ex 248.10; APPLIED CONN TECH ex 1,332.29; BLACK HILLS ENERGY ut 337.65; CASH-WA DISTR ex 2,386.40; CITY OF NELIGH ut 2,290.87; STEPHEN CAREY ex 2,430.00; CUBBYS ex 5.98; CULLIGAN ex 95.75; APRIL CURTISS ex 96.00; FAITH REGIONAL HEALTH SVCS ex 270.00; HILAND DAIRY ex 427.40; MERIT MECHANICAL ex 570.00; NEBR BEAN ex 24.00; NEBR SVC PLUS ex 262.82; PINNACLE BANK ex 114.00; DENDINGER DRUG ex 1,525.62; THRIFTWAY ex 1,816.19; DENDINGER DRUG ex 85.91; U-SAVE PHARMACY ex 88.88;

Commissary: CASH-WA DISTR ex 262.58; KEEFE SUPPLY ex 191.36; NEBR POPCORN SALES ex 66.00; PINNACLE BANK ex 476.78.

Public comments. Correspondence was reviewed. Sheriffs Fee Report. Treasurer's Fund Balance, Miscellaneous Revenue, and Sweep Account Statement, and Clerk of the District Court Fee Report for November were presented.

Zoning Administrator report and permit report. Short discussion, and no action on official wages and employee handbook. County attorney will work with village attorney on interlocal agreements. Approved memorandum of understanding for Juvenile Services with Madison County. County attorney reviewed open meetings regulations.

Road Superintendent Report. Approved nine (9) oversize permits. Tabled road closing - for further information.

Meeting Adjourned.

Antelope County Board of Commissioners

CHARLIE HENERY
Chairman of County Board
Attest: LISA PAYNE /s/
Antelope County Clerk
PUBLISH: December 17, 2025
ZNEZ

PUBLIC NOTICES

Stay in the know. Read the Public Notices

PROCEEDINGS OF DECEMBER 11, 2025 MEETING
THE VILLAGE BOARD OF BARTLETT

VILLAGE OF BARTLETT
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
11 DECEMBER 2025

The Board Meeting of the Village of Bartlett was called to order at 6:58 p.m. on December 11th, 2025. The meeting met at the Village Office, 425 Randolph St. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Williamson. The members present were Nordhues, Tetschner, Einspahr and Plugge. Also present: Emma Smith, village clerk and members of the community. Notice of the meeting was given in advance by posting at: Bartlett Post Office, WeMart, and Village Office. Chairman Williamson proclaimed the meetings to be a legal meeting and acknowledged that the Open Meetings Act was posted in the meeting room.

MINUTES: It was moved by Nordhues, seconded by Tetschner to approve the November 10, 2025, regular meeting minutes. Roll call vote: Yes—Plugge, Tetschner Einspahr, Williamson and Nordhues. No: None. Absent: None. Abstained: None. Motion Carried.

STREETS: It was moved by Einspahr, seconded by Nordhues to appoint Jay Meyer, Class A, License S-1162 as street superintendent during January 1 thru Decem-

ber 31, 2026 for the purpose of the 2026 calendar year. Roll call vote: Yes—Plugge, Tetschner Einspahr, Williamson and Nordhues. No: None. Absent: None. Abstained: None. Motion Carried.

The board discussed how the culvert by the state yard is starting to sink from being rusted out underneath.

WATER: Was discussed. Mark Nordhues asked for a raise to \$450/month starting January 1st. It was moved by Plugge, seconded by Einspahr to raise the water operator salary to \$450/month starting January 1st. Roll call vote: Yes—Plugge, Tetschner Einspahr, Williamson and Nordhues. No: None. Absent: None. Abstained: None. Motion Carried.

SEWER: Was discussed.

USER FEES: Were discussed.

DECEMBER CLAIMS: It was moved by Plugge, seconded by Einspahr to pay all claims except those to Mark Nordhues for Professional fees of \$300. Roll call vote: Yes—Plugge, Tetschner Einspahr, Williamson and Nordhues. No: None. Absent: None. Abstained: None. Motion Carried.

It was moved by Einspahr, seconded by Tetschner to pay Mark Nordhues' claim. Roll call vote: Yes—

Plugge, Tetschner, Einspahr and Williamson. No: None. Absent: None. Abstained: Nordhues. Motion Carried.

OTHER BUSINESS: The board discussed the CCFE Feasibility Study community input meeting planned for December 15th at 6 pm. The meeting might be moving to the high school gym.

GENERAL: Internal Revenue Service, Payroll Taxes, \$68.34; Rick Custard, Potholes, rake leaves, sewer chemicals, branches, \$210.00; Federal Signal Corporation, Siren, \$17,338.18; Blue Valley Public Safety, Push button control on siren, \$247.50; Wilkins Architecture Design Planning, CCFE Study *paid out of CCCFF acct*, \$4,664.80; Elgin Review Newspaper, printing, \$146.63; Farmers & Merchants Bank, Safety Deposit Box fee, \$20.00; Northeast NE Telephone Company, Internet, phone, \$131.67; WeMart, Fuel, \$196.85; NE Department of Labor, Lower tax rate, \$32.09; L & L Sanitation, Garbage pick-up, \$1,742.00; Sherry Tetschner, Board Member Expense, \$50.00; Kurt Einspahr, Board Member Expense, \$50.00; Mark Nordhues, Board Member Expense, \$50.00; Scott Plugge, Board Member Expense, \$50.00;

Dan Williamson, Board Member Expense, \$50.00; Emma Smith, Printer ink, \$100.73, Salary, \$412.50
TOTAL GENERAL EXPENSES: \$25,561.29

TOTAL KENO EXPENSES: \$0.00

SEWER: Municipal Chemical Supply, Powdered enzymes, \$700.00; Loup Valley RPPD, Utilities, \$66.01

TOTAL SEWER EXPENSES: \$766.01

STREETS: Loup Valley RPPD, Utilities, \$988.09

TOTAL STREET EXPENSES: \$988.09

WATER: Loup Valley RPPD, Utilities, \$564.51; Mark Nordhues, Professional Fee, \$300.00

TOTAL WATER EXPENSES: \$864.51

GRAND TOTAL OF EXPENDITURES: \$28,179.90

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

The next regular meeting will be Monday, January 12th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Dated this 11th day of December 2025
PUBLISH: December 17, 2025
ZNEZ

PROCEEDINGS OF DECEMBER 10, 2025 MEETING
THE DISTRICT #18 BOARD OF EDUCATION

ELGIN PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD
Regular Meeting
EPS Board Room

December 10, 2025, 7:00 PM
President Lisa Welding called the regular meeting of the Elgin Public School Board to order at 7:00 p.m. The board members present were Eric Beckman, Ron Bode, Steve Busted, Luke Hinkle, Todd Heithoff and Lisa Welding. Also, present were Superintendent Mike Brockhaus and Principal Greg Wemhoff.

President Welding led the "Pledge of Allegiance." Welding reminded everyone that a copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Law was posted in the meeting room.

School board meeting notice complied with Meeting Notice Policy #204.07. The agenda was posted on the school website, at the Elgin Post Office and the door of the EPS High School building.

Steve Busted motioned and Eric Beckman second to approve the Consent Agenda: #5- Minutes of Regular Meeting, #6- Adopt the Agenda, #7- Financial Report, #8- Board Bills. Motion carried, vote 6-0.

APPEARA, 535.13; APPLIED CONNECTIVE TECHNOLOGIES, 2,465.50; BECKMAN LUMBER, INC, 75.00; Beckman, Ann, 218.40; Bishop Business, 175.43; Boys Town Press, 397.20; CARHART LUMBER CO - NELIGH, 10.00; CASEY'S GENERAL STORE, 45.99; CASH-WA DISTRIBUTION, 0.00; CDW Government, 5,358.00; Computer Hardware, Inc., 1,441.50; COR Therapeutic Services, LLC, 2,125.00; CORNER SERVICE AND TIRE, 174.72; CORNHUSKER INTERNATIONAL TRUCKS, 1,249.47; DEAN'S MARKET, 132.67; Dollar General Store, 14.00; EAKES OFFICE PLUS, 1,332.39; Edpuzzle, Inc., 13.50; ELGIN ONE-STOP, 2,920.30; ELGIN REVIEW, THE, 1,253.35; EMBASSY SUITES HOTELS LA VISTA, 541.80; ESAU, DUANE, 35.00; ESU #7, 20.00; ESU #8, 54,983.00; FLOOR MAINTENANCE & SUPPLY, INC, 378.24;

Gimkit, Inc., 59.88; Great America Financial Services, 1,468.09; GREAT PLAINS COMM., INC., 337.10; HF Group, 190.00; Hilton Omaha, 678.00; HHM Education Company, 716.75; ISLAND SUPPLY WELDING, 144.00; J.W. PEPPER & SON, INC, 77.00; JONNY DODGE CHRYSLER JEEP, 2,223.55; Klub 81, 51.54; Moby Max LLC, 111.00; NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL BOARDS, 1,228.00; NORTHEAST COMMUNITY COLLEGE, 150.77; Old Mattress Factory, 35.81; OLSON'S PEST TECHNICIANS, 110.00; OVERLAND REHAB, 902.40; PROTEX CENTRAL, 444.00; RASMUSSEN MECHANICAL SERVICES, 180.21; Retirement Plan Consultants, 400.00; Speed Services, LLC, 129.00; TUNITIN, LLC, 2,559.55; TYPING. COM, 309.45; U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, 2.17; VERIZON WIRELESS, 65.12; WAGWORKS, INC., 144.50; Waste Connections of Nebraska, Inc, 23.00; WAYNE STATE COLLEGE, 65.00

TOTAL: 88,701.48

President Welding recognized visitors and asked if the patrons had any comments.

No standing committees to be reported.

Principal Wemhoff provided a summary of recent activities and upcoming events.

Supt. Brockhaus gave an update on the school's AQUESTT rating of great. Also, went over 2025-2026 Board goals and Board Self Evaluations.

Todd Heithoff motioned, Ron Bode second to approve the Teacher's Negotiated Agreement as presented for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 academic school years. Vote 6-0, motion carried.

Luke Hinkle motioned to approve the Superintendent's Contract for the 2026-2027 academic school year with a salary of \$128,484.83 and 2027-2028 academic school year with a salary of \$131,696.95. Steve Busted seconded the motion. Vote 5-1, with Ron Bode opposing. The motion

passed.

No steps were taken to approve an early retirement application.

Heithoff motioned to approve bid from Complete Floors for \$39,792 for the removal and replacement of the flooring under the gym bleachers, seconded by Bode. Vote 6-0, motion carried. Busted motioned, Beckman seconded to approve the transportation for the Music Booster Club on Sunday, January 25th to Omaha. Vote 6-0, motion carried.

Discussion was held on the Wolfpack uniform rotation and updating uniforms every five years. Track uniforms are being ordered and will be wore this spring. Girls and Boys high school basketball uniforms will be ordered in the spring of 2025, to be worn in 2026-2027.

The next regular board meeting will be on Wednesday, January

14, 2026, at 7:00 PM in the Board Room. The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bode and seconded by Hinkle. Vote 6-0, motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Bode, Secretary

Jessica Niewohner, Recorder

-This is a draft copy and does not become official Elgin Public Board minutes until approved at the next regular or advertised meeting.
PUBLISH: December 17, 2025
ZNEZ

Community Calendar

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

Wednesday, December 17
Bank of Elgin Open House ■ Pope John Pre K-12 Christmas Concert at St. Boniface Auditorium (7 p.m.).

Thursday, December 18
Bank of Elgin Open House.

Monday, December 22
Start of Christmas break for Elgin schools.

Wednesday, December 24
Christmas Eve worship services to be held at area churches*.

Thursday, December 25
Merry Christmas!

Monday, December 29
First round of the Madison Boys & Girls Holiday Basketball Tournament.

Tuesday, December 30
Final round of the Madison Boys & Girls Holiday Basketball Tournament.

Events listing courtesy of
ELGIN VETERANS' MEDICAL CLINIC
an outpatient department of Boone County Health Center
116 N 2nd Street, Elgin
402.843.5910

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OF NEWS PUBLICATIONS

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This is a unique opportunity to serve as both the editorial and operational leader—overseeing print and digital content, managing staff and freelancers, handling financial responsibilities including payroll and budget, and reporting directly to our Board of Directors.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS :

- Strong writing and organizational skills
- Knowledge of budgeting and financial management
- Familiarity with Adobe Creative Suite
- Advertising or Development experience preferred
- Associates Degree in relevant field of study
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Controlling lice in your herd

As we move into the colder months, producers may need to start thinking about lice control in the cow herd. Lice populations really ramp up during winter, with numbers typically peaking in January and February. Catching problems early can help prevent rubbing, hair loss, and reduced performance — and it's one of the simpler winter management tasks to stay ahead of.

Nebraska Extension Entomologist Dave Boxler shares: If you suspect lice, take a few minutes to get a closer look. The best way is to run animals through the chute and part the hair along the topline, withers, and face. When you part the hair, look closely for small, flat insects moving on the skin or attached near the base of the hair. You may also spot tiny white or yellow eggs — called nits — stuck to the hair shaft. Both are signs lice are present and actively feeding.

A few lice — maybe one to five per square inch — is considered a low infestation. Six to ten is moderate. But once you're seeing ten or more, that's a heavy load, and treatment is usually warranted.

There are several treatment options available. Non-systemic pour-ons and sprays work well for winter control. Systemic products — including systemic pour-ons and injectables — can also kill lice, but they shouldn't be used between November and February if a systemic product wasn't already applied in the fall due to cattle grubs. Ani-

IT'S ALL ABOUT BEEF



Beef Systems
Asst. Ext. Educator
Ben Beckman

mals carrying cattle grubs can have adverse reactions to systemic products during this window while grubs are in the esophagus or spinal canal, so it's important to keep in mind when making product choices.

One other key reminder: rotate chemical classes. Using the same product year after year increases the risk of resistance. Rotating modes of action helps keep treatments effective long term and protects the tools we have available.

Heavy lice loads aren't just a cosmetic issue. UNL research shows that cattle carrying significant lice burdens can lose about two-tenths of a pound of gain per day. Over the winter, that adds up — especially for growing calves or cows that need to maintain condition going into calving.

As we head into the colder stretch of the year, keep an eye out for cattle lice. Take a few minutes to check the herd, identify any problem animals, and choose a treatment strategy that fits your operation. A little attention now can prevent rubbing, hair loss, and lost performance later on.

For more information on this topic, and for a detailed list of insecticides along with their group number, visit beef.unl.edu.

- 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

FUTURE

►from page 1

-rated cities and villages — if approved by local voters — to collect and appropriate local tax dollars, including sales and/or property tax, for economic development purposes. Elgin is seeking to add .5% to the current sales tax (6.5%) for economic development. Much of the legwork for LB840 (survey, business/housing inventory) was completed prior to the 2024 election however approval of the wording by an attorney was yet to be completed. Plans are for LB840 to be on Elgin's November 2026 ballot.

Norris again cited how the LB840 funds were utilized by the City of Plainview. "When we received LB840 there for the first couple years, we were really using it for gap financing for businesses. After a while, we realized we're spending almost all of our LB840 getting new businesses going and helping people fix up buildings and get the downtown going. So we weren't really utilizing it for what it could be, using all the possibilities." With that realization, they explored additional funding options. "So what we did instead is we wrote a grant to the USDA for a revolving loan fund. We wrote a grant for the first one (it was) \$100,000 and we matched it with \$25,000 from LB840. We didn't have \$25,000 in LB840 (funds) at that time. So what we did with them is for every loan that we made, 73% of the loan would come from our USDA revolving loan fund and 23% would come from LB840. So now only 23% of our LB840 money is being used. Being used for businesses, which is great. We went ahead and wrote another grant to USDA for a half a million dollars to assist businesses coming into the community." By using a smaller portion of the LB840 funds to secure the USDA funds, that allowed more of the LB840 funds to be used for grant matches for housing and revitalizing their downtown. "LB840 is just a financial tool that the city can use to help them cover those matches, so they won't have to come up with that extra money."

Norris emphasized the need to be open and educate voters on LB840 before the November election. "They (Plainview) didn't want to put more of a burden on the taxpayers in the area when the economics of today are so tough, but nobody's coming to save your town -- you have to save yourselves. So it's one tool in your belt that can help you get there." On the ballot, voters will need to vote "yes" on BOTH the development of the economic plan AND for the implementation of the tax. If both items are not passed, LB840 will fail.

She also reminded those in attendance that LB840 shouldn't be thought of as a tax on Elgin residents "...people are already spending their dollars. Why not capture

Elgin to consider implementing a revitalization plan

what you can, you know, if you have people that are driving through? You have a highway coming through. People are stopping to get gas and do other things. You're capturing their dollars as well. The City of Norfolk was a really great example. 50% of their LB840 was coming from the outside communities because everyone was going to Norfolk to buy their bigger purchases."

• LB256 - Vacant Property Registration Act (originally introduced as LB219). This bill has many variables in it, allowing its enforcement to be customized by communities for their unique needs. The crux of the bill is that a city or village

"...nobody's coming to save your town -- you have to save yourselves."

Susan Norris
Executive Director
Pierce County Economic Development

may create a data base of unoccupied buildings (both business buildings and residential buildings/housing) through registration and may assess fees to the property owners "for the increased public costs associated with vacant properties". This bill allows cities to incentivize owners of what is commonly considered nuisance properties (vacant/run-down buildings that are an eyesore and/or creating public health concerns) to repair for occupancy, to sell or to demolish said property.

The opening verbiage of the bill is worded as such "The Legislature finds and declares that: (1) Vacant properties have the potential to create a host of problems for Nebraska communities, including a propensity to foster criminal activity, create public health problems, and otherwise diminish quality of life;

(2) Vacant properties have the potential to reduce the value of area properties, increase the risk of property damage through arson and vandalism, and discourage neighborhood stability;

(3) Vacant properties represent unrealized economic growth in Nebraska communities..."

If readers would like to learn more about this legislation, also refer to Nebraska Revised Statute §18-1720 and Nebraska Revised Statute §19-5401. Many communities are utilizing these statutes to keep their communities free of nuisance properties as the legislation has proven to be a tool for local governments to steer absentee owners/"slum" landlords into either cleaning up, removing or selling these nuisance buildings.

Also discussed was the current availability of quality homes when discussing the need for new housing in Elgin. Norris



AI generated image

gives the example of Pierce County... "In Pierce County, 24% or 25% of housing stock is owned by people who are over 55. Well, that tells me, in the next 10 to 15 years, we're going to have turnover, turnover (of) older homes. So I can go out here and build all the single family brand new homes I want. But what am I going to do with these older homes where they hit the market? That doesn't help your town either, right? Because now you've created another problem. What we're looking at is how do you create programs to help people flip some of those older homes? How do you help create programs that help owner-occupied rehab? People living in the homes that maybe need to bring them up to code? If they're over 55 and they own their home, can we have a program that helps them do that? There is grant money for that, and three of my communities have that grant, and you probably do too, because it's a program from the 80s.

It is important to note that, while separate committees designed to be a cross-section of Elgin's population would be doing the footwork on these programs, their recommendations would be passed along to the Elgin City Council who would make the ultimate decision on what will be implemented and acted upon.

As the meeting wrapped up, the general mood of the room was "let's move forward!" Norris told the *Elgin Review* in a followup that she was encouraged to see the large group that came out on a Wednesday evening and she looks forward to working with any committees and the City of Elgin on a revitalization plan to get Elgin on a positive path forward. The *Elgin Review* will keep readers posted on followup meetings.

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Did you know?

Every year certain gifts emerge as the "hot" toys and games for children. These are the presents kids are eager to find wrapped up and ready for them. Adults often scramble to secure these popular items.

According to the United Kingdom-based retailer Argos, the following are among the most popular items children were asking Santa Claus to deliver over the previous decade:

- 2022: LEGO Icons Optimus Prime "Transformers" Robot Model Set
- 2021: Bluey Family Home Playset
- 2020: Hatchimals Pixies Crystal Flyers
- 2019: Furreal Cubby Bear
- 2018: Fingerlings Untamed T-Rex and Dino Cage
- 2017: Cozmo, White Robot
- 2016: Hatchimals, Purple Egg
- 2015: Barbie Saddle 'N Ride

2024: BeyBlade Xtreme Battle Set

2023: Nerf Elite Double Punch

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Merry Christmas!

The Elgin Review

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54 BLK/BWF Strs	837#	353.00
30 BLK/RED Hftrs	900#	307.50
55 BLK/BWF Strs	946#	342.50
90 BLK/RED/CHAR Strs	988#	337.50
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Spinning Tales

Livy Ostransky was special to all of us

ELGIN — I’ve watched Randy Eisenhower coach football and in recent years, girls basketball. He’s had great success, putting his team in a position, year in and year out, to compete for state championships.

He’s won big games and while success at the state tournament has eluded him, this year’s team could be the one to break through and bring great joy to

Wolfpack fans.

Yet, on Friday night, he may have coached the most heart-wrenching game in his long career on the bench.

On Friday, the team came out to play with heavy hearts, having learned that six-month-old Livy Ostransky, the infant daughter of assistant coach Trent Ostransky and wife Bay-lee, left this life to become an

angel in Heaven.

He said the girls knew at practice one day earlier that the end of Livy’s health battle was indeed near. Eisenhower said at practice, basketball took a back seat to Livy’s precarious situation.

On Friday, they took to the court wearing the blue t-shirts they have been wearing for the past few games, showing

their support for the Ostransky family. As the team came out for warmups, Eisenhower carried a small vase of flowers given to the team from the Plainview team. The flowers were placed where the team could see them throughout the course of the game.

About the game, the team played for Livy, running and jumping, rebounding and scoring for her, playing the game which she will now never get to play.

Whatever success the Wolf-pack have this season will be for their youngest fan. Each victory will be for her.

SPINNING TALES



Publisher
Dennis Morgan

Merry Christmas

Wishing you joy and peace at Christmas and throughout the New Year!



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BOYS WRESTLING

Dec. 20...@ EPPJ* (Senior Day, PJ) 9:30
Jan. 9.....@ Burwell10:00

GIRLS WRESTLING

Dec. 19...@ EPPJ* (Senior Day, PJ)..... 2:00
Jan. 8.....@ Norm Manstedt Inv. (Columbus) 8:00

BOYS & GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Dec. 18... @ Boyd County4:00
Dec. 22... @ Creighton4:00
Dec. 29-30...Holiday Tourney @ Madison... 11:00

BOYS & GIRLS JH BASKETBALL

Jan. 6 vs CWC (PJ) 3:30
Jan. 8..... @ St. Mary's (G).....4:00



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Dec. 17 PJCC Christmas Concert
Dec. 19 PJCC noon dismissal; EPS 1 pm dismissal for Christmas break
Jan. 3 (‘26)..... EPPJ Wolfpack Youth Wrestling Tournament
Jan. 6..... Classes resume - all Elgin schools • JH Quiz Bowl @ Stuart
Jan. 12-Feb. 6 PJCC STAR testing
Jan. 14 FFA District LDE @ West Holt • EPS school board meeting
Jan. 15 PJCC NHS Induction
Jan. 16 PJCC K-6 only - NO SCHOOL
Jan. 17 Pierce Speech Meet
Jan. 19 All Schools - NO SCHOOL
Jan. 28 Howells-Dodge Speech Meet

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402-887-4151 Elgin Clinic 402-843-5444



WOLFPACK

Wolfpack Sports



Photo submitted

Wrestling for the first time this season, Jayda Chessmore posted two victories, both pins, at the Wood River Invite.

Wolfpack girls pile up pins at Wood River Invite

WOOD RIVER — The Wolfpack duo of Libby Evans and Anna Dworak, for the second meet in a row, both medaled. Competing Saturday at the Wood River Invite, Evans won three of four matches, registering two pins. In the finals, she lost a major decision (11-0) to Graclyn Simmons (NW). Dworak, competing at 105 pounds, pinned Arianna Decoff (NW) in the consolation finals to earn a third place medal. Altogether, Dworak wrestled six opponents and came away with five victories. Competing for the first time this season was Jayda Chessmore who pinned three opponents in four matches. Her fastest pin came against Elizabeth Nunez (SCYL), pinning her in 1:19. Individual results were:

105 — Anna Dworak (EPPJ) pinned Dinah Culp (WIHL) in 1:28; Arianna Decoff (NW) pinned Dworak in 43 seconds; Dworak pinned Hosesty Apodaca (GRIS) in 35 seconds; Dworak pinned Yaritza Mejia (SCYL) in 2:48; Dworak defeated Teagan Holmes (FRNK) match forfeit; consolation finals, Dworak pinned Arianna Decoff (NW) in 1:00

130 — Jayda Chessmore (EPPJ) was pinned by Elizabeth Nunez (SCYL) in 1:19; Chessmore pinned Bailey Atz (KENE) in 3:59; Chessmore pinned Alynna Wallace (WOR) in 1:55; Sawyer Waltemath (L) M) pinned Chessmore in 55 seconds

190 — Libby Evans (EPPJ) pinned Julina Kurz (SHLT) in 1:57; Evans pinned Josa Dunse (ALMA) in 1:03; Evans won 9 to 7 over Leslie Garcia Gomez (GRIS); finals, Graclyn Simmons (NW) won 11 to 0 (MD) over Evans

Wolfpack play for Livy; defeat Plainview 53 to 41

ELGIN — Playing with heavy hearts Friday night, the Wolfpack girls basketball team defeated Plainview 53 to 41. Tip-off of the game just hours after the passing of Livy Ostransky, the baby daughter of EPPJ Ass't. Coach Trent Ostransky, it was one of the most emotional games the team has played in years. It showed at the start of the game as the Pirates carved out a 15 to 10 lead after one quarter. Then, momentum swung to the Wolfpack and they outscored Plainview 43 to 26 the rest of the way. The Wolfpack's high-scoring trio came through again. Mady Kurpgeweith had a game-high 20 points, Braelyn Martinsen added 15 and Kayton Zwingman tossed in 12. Together, they scored 47 of the team's 53 points. Other statistical leaders were junior Elizabeth Moser. In addition to scoring four points, she dished out a team-high three assists.

The game's outcome may have been determined at the free throw line. EPPJ made 12 of 20 free throws compared to the Pirates who made just one of five. Also, EPPJ had a 17 to six edge in steals.



E-R photo/DMorgan

Mady Kurpgeweith (23) and **Braelyn Martinsen** (5) battle for a rebound against the Lady Pirates Friday night. Kurpgeweith finished with 10 rebounds, Martinsen had five.

EPPJ hold off Vikings to boost record to 5-0

ELGIN — The Vikings just wouldn't go away so the Wolfpack made them pay in the fourth quarter. Leading 41 to 38 to start the fourth quarter, junior Michael Selting drained two big treys down the stretch to secure the team's fifth victory of the season. Coach Matt Euse said they have been working in practice to get Selting more involved in the offense and it showed. Both of his field goals were treys and he made four of eight free throws to finish with 10 points. Two other EPPJ players scored in double figures. Max Henn scored 17 points and senior teammate Karson Kallhoff made three treys to finish with 10 points. Euse said the team continues to improve at both ends of the



E-R photo/DMorgan

From the high post, Michael Selting was 'instant offense' with 10 points against Wausa.

EPPJ starts slow, finishes fast against Lady Warriors

NELIGH — After a slow start, the Elgin Public-Pope John girls basketball team pulled away to defeat Neligh-Oakdale 57 to 30 Tuesday night. Playing on the Warriors' home court, the Wolfpack broke the game wide-open in the second quarter. Tied 11-all at the start of the second quarter, the Wolfpack took control of the game with an 18-0 run. Junior

court.

EPPJ 52, Wausa 44

Vikings.....18 12 8 6 — 44
Wolfpack.....10 25 6 11 — 52

Wolfpack — Michael Selting 2-5 4-8 10, Joseph McNally 0-0 0-0 0, Karson Kallhoff 3-8 1-2 10, Evin Pelster 1-3 0-0 2, Jarek Erickson 3-12 2-4 8, Max Henn 5-8 6-11 17, Jayvin Erickson 1-3 2-2 5. Team totals: 17-42 11-19 52. Three-point shots — Wolfpack 7-20 (Kallhoff 3, Selting 2, Henn 1, Jv. Erickson 1). Wausa team totals: 17-48 3-4 44. Three-point shots — Vikings 7-29. Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 29 (Henn 12, Ja. Erickson 9), Vikings 24. Assists — Wolfpack 12 (Kallhoff 5), Vikings NA. Steals — Wolfpack 3 (Henn 2), Vikings NA. Turnovers — Wolfpack 7, Vikings 9.

EPPJ rolls past Warriors

NELIGH — Elgin Public-Pope John overcame an improved Neligh-Oakdale squad Tuesday night, winning the game 63 to 45. Playing just their third game of the season, the Wolfpack boys took control of the game in the middle two quarters, outscoring the Warriors 31 to 16. Max Henn led a trio of Wolfpack players scoring in double figures. Henn had 15 while seniors Jarek Erickson and Karson Kallhoff each had 14 points. The Wolfpack's other two starters, Evin Pelster and Michael Selting, combined for 15 points. The Wolfpack made nine of 22 treys, led by Kallhoff with three.

EPPJ 63, Neligh-Oakdale 45

Wolfpack.....17 12 19 15 — 63
Warriors.....14 4 12 15 — 45

Wolfpack — Michael Selting 3-7 0-0 8, Joseph McNally 0-0 0-0 0, Karson Kallhoff 5-14 1-2 14, Evin Pelster 3-4 1-2 7, Brayden Burenheide 0-1 1-2 1, Jarek Erickson 4-6 6-8 14, Max Henn 6-9 2-2 15, Braedon Hinkle 0-0 0-0 0, Christian Preister 0-0 0-0 0, Justice Blecher 0-1 1-2 1, Jayvin Erickson 1-3 0-0 3. Team totals: 24-47 6-10 63. Three-point shots — 9-22 (Michael Selting 2, Karson Kallhoff 3, Jarek Erickson 2, Max Henn 1, Jayvin Erickson 1). Warriors team totals: 18-49 5-9 45. Three-point shots — 4-16. Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 29 (Max Henn 8), Warriors 22. Assists — Wolfpack 12 (Ja. Erickson 7), Warriors NA. Steals — Wolfpack 6 (Evin Pelster 2), Warriors NA. Turnovers — Wolfpack 9, Warriors 10.



E-R photo/DMorgan

Freshman Jayvin Erickson is providing the Wolfpack with quality minutes off the bench. Here, he's battling Pirate Wyatt Schroth for a rebound.

EPPJ makes nine treys in blowout over Pirates

ELGIN — Making almost 40 percent of their three-point shot attempts, the Wolfpack boys dominated Plainview 59 to 29 Friday night. Leading 22 to 17 to start the second half, the Wolfpack pulled away by outscoring the Pirates 37 to 12 to earn the victory. Wolfpack senior Karson Kallhoff connected on four treys to lead EPPJ's long-range shooters. Jarek Erickson made three treys while Michael Selting and Jayvin Erickson each had one. Kallhoff proved to be an effective playmaker on this night, dishing out seven assists and making three steals, both team highs. The Wolfpack had a definite size advantage in the 'paint' and it showed in rebounds. EPPJ pulled down 38 rebounds compared to the Pirates with 24. Max Henn led the team with

10 while Evin Pelster wasn't far behind with eight.

EPPJ 59, Plainview 29

Pirates.....8 9 9 3 — 29
Wolfpack.....11 11 20 17 — 59

Wolfpack — Michael Selting 1-3 1-2 4, Joseph McNally 0-0 0-0 0, Karson Kallhoff 6-16 0-0 16, Evin Pelster 2-6 0-0 4, Jarek Erickson 6-12 4-6 19, Max Henn 5-8 3-5 13, Braedon Hinkle 0-1 0-0 0, Brayden Burenheide 0-0 0-0 0, Christian Preister 0-0 0-0 0, Justice Blecher 0-0 0-0 0, Jayvin Erickson 1-3 0-0 3. Team totals: 21-48 8-13 59. Three-point shots — Wolfpack 9-24 (Kallhoff 4, Selting 1, Ja. Erickson 3, Jv. Erickson 1). Plainview team totals: 9-51 6-10 29. Three-point shots — Pirates 5-27. Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 38 (Henn 10, Pelster 8), Pirates 24. Assists — Wolfpack 15 (Kallhoff 7), Pirates NA. Steals — Wolfpack 5 (Kallhoff 3), Pirates NA. Turnovers — Wolfpack 11, Pirates 8.

record to 3-0.

EPPJ 57, Neligh-Oakdale 30

Wolfpack.....11 23 13 10 — 57
Warriors.....11 2 7 10 — 30

Wolfpack — Kayton Zwingman 5-7 0-1 10, Gentry Zwingman 0-2 0-0 0, Elizabeth Moser 3-4 0-0 6, Kinley Druelle 3-10 1-1 7, Braelyn Martinsen 3-9 3-3 12, Lillian Moser 0-3 1-2 1, Kinley Miller 2-4 0-1 4, Sydney Niewohner 0-1 0-0 0, Jael Lammers 1-3 0-0 2, Mady Kurpgeweith 6-13 3-6 15, Gemma Miller 0-1 0-0 0. Team totals: 23-57 8-14 57. Three-point shots — 3-11 (Martinsen 3). Warriors' team totals: 9-48 12-20 30. Three-point shots — 0-8. Team statistics: Rebounds - Wolfpack 33 (Kurpgeweith 7, Martinsen 5), Warriors 29. Assists — Wolfpack 17 (Kurpgeweith 5), Warriors 3. Steals — Wolfpack 20 (Kurpgeweith 7), Warriors 17. Turnovers — Wolfpack 31, Warriors 33.

Tidings of Comfort & Joy

We hope your holiday season is filled with your favorite pleasures. Thank you for making our year so enjoyable with your visits!

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the Reason for the Season

As we celebrate the miracle of Christ's birth, may the power of His love touch your heart, deepen your faith and strengthen your connection to everyone around you.

In the spirit of unity and goodwill, we wish all of our neighbors, customers and friends a Blessed and Happy Christmas. Thank you for making us feel so at home here, and for your continued trust in us.

Peace be with you!

KEITH G. HEMMER

CPA, P.C.

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