



**Wolfpack senior wrestlers
recognized on Parents Day**

See page 6



**EPPJ stays unbeaten with
big victory over Falcons**

See page 11

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

The Elgin Review



Wednesday
December 24, 2025

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In Brief //

UNL graduation ceremony held Friday & Saturday

Wright among local graduates.

Graduation was held Friday and Saturday, December 19-20, at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Among the local graduates were:

Elgin — Colton Wade Wright, College of Engineering, Bachelor of Science in Construction Management.

Albion — Ava Claire Frey, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Bachelor of Science in Animal Science; Serena Marie Henry, College of Arts and Sciences, Bachelor of Science; Carson Robert Maricle, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics.

Clearwater — Cassidy Layne Beringer, College of Business, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration; Morgan Rose Erhardt, College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, Bachelor of Science in Animal Science.

Dates announced for gun show to be held in Neligh

Set for January 3-4.

The Antelope County Shooters Club will host a gun show/swap meet early next month. It will be held Saturday and Sunday, January 3-4, at the exhibition hall at the Antelope County fairgrounds in Neligh.

Public Notices //

Public notices in this week's newspaper include:

Notice to Defendants — Antelope County District Court
Notice of Meeting — The Antelope County Board of Equalization
Notice of Organization — 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

Weather //

The high temperature last week was 65 degrees recorded on Tuesday, December 16.

The low temperature during the same period was -1 degrees recorded on Sunday, December 14.

Altogether, .13 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 14	32	-1	.00
Dec 15	58	14	.00
Dec 16	65	29	.13
Dec 17	26	10	.00
Dec 18	20	10	.00
Dec 19	53	14	.00
Dec 20	44	25	.00
Total for last week			0.13
Total for December			0.20
Total precipitation 2025			26.03



May the light of Christmas guide you through the coming year with faith, goodwill and wisdom.

Merry Christmas!

Thanks for being a part of our journey this year. We've enjoyed your company every step of the way.

May you find the joy this Christmas season and throughout 2026.

from our entire staff at the
The Elgin Review

Attorney fails to appear for court hearing

Motions to sever on Warnke case to be heard on January 28

The defendant in a sexual assault case appeared in Antelope County District court on Dec. 16.

The attorney for Thomas A. Warnke - Dustin Garrison of Beatrice - did not, prompting the Honorable Mark Johnson to set a show cause hearing and a hearing on motions to sever for Jan. 28 in Antelope County District Court.

According to court documents, Garrison will need to show "why he should not be held in contempt for failing to appear at the hearing."

Warnke faces one count of sexual assault-1st degree, a Class II felony, and one count of attempt of a Class II felony, a Class IIA felony.

Courtesy of SAM



Academic All-State honorees

Students from Elgin Public and Pope John Central Catholic high schools were recognized with the announcement of the Fall 2025 Nebraska Chiropractic Physicians Association (NCPA) Academic All-State Awards earlier this week.

Six high

See ALL-STATE, Page 6 ▶



E-R photo/DMorgan

Applause, applause!

The colors of the season could be seen on the girls' fingernails last week as students from Pope John school held their Christmas concert at St. Boniface Auditorium. For more than an hour they entertained family and friends, singing songs and playing musical instruments. Once they finished, they returned to the bleachers for the duration of the concert. Shown here, clapping after one of the numbers was Mylah Schindler. See more photos on Page Seven.

Mass of Christian Burial set for Charf

A veterinarian who loved to care for animals, Dr. Stacy Charf, D.V.M. served Antelope and other surrounding counties for decades.

That service came to an end Friday, December 19, when he passed away.

He owned and operated Antelope County Veterinary Clinic in Elgin and Clearwater, faithfully serving the communities where his services were needed. He provided veterinary services to the Verdigre Livestock Market for 29 years.

The son of Sid and Sharon Charf, he graduated from Neligh-Oakdale in 1987, then pursued a career as a veterinarian, graduating from Kansas State University in 1995.

He is survived by his wife Danelle, and children Hunter, Taylynne, Ashlynne and Kellan.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, December 27, at St. Boniface Catholic Church. Burial will be in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Neligh.

Visitation will be Friday, December 26, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at St. Boniface Catholic Church with a 7 p.m. wake service.

A complete obituary can be found inside this week's newspaper. Snider Memorial Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.



Dr. Stacy Charf, DVM

DeKay considering three legislative proposals for 2026

Around this time of year, senators are often asked this question: "What legislation are you bringing next year?" This week, I would like to provide a brief preview of three legislative proposals that I am considering for the next session. Please be aware that any proposal discussed here is subject to change and may or may not be ultimately introduced at my discretion.

Earlier this year, an individual reached out to me who qualified for the disabled veteran homestead exemption but was unable to submit the necessary documents prior to the June 30 deadline, resulting in no homestead exemption for this year. There is currently a process in place that allows a person suffering from a debilitating medical condition or dealing with the death of a spouse to submit a late application for a homestead exemption.

However, no such process exists for disabled veterans who are dealing with a situation such as a paperwork delay at the VA. I am considering legislation

for veterans or their spouses seeking a veteran homestead exemption to submit a late application in the event documentation from the VA is delayed. Looking ahead, as this past October and November illustrated, it could take weeks for Congress to resolve a federal government shutdown, and there is no guarantee that a future shutdown will exempt the VA nor impact new veteran benefits applications.

Another possible bill of mine would designate bromazolam as a controlled substance. Bromazolam is a drug originally developed in the 1970s which is structurally related to Xanax (alprazolam). It has never been approved for medical use in the U.S. or in any other country.

The substance began appearing in the illicit drug supply in the U.S. in 2019 and is being found in counterfeit pills or mixed with opioids like fentanyl. However, unlike fentanyl, bromazolam overdoses can't be treated with opioid reversal medications like Narcan (naloxone). Bromazolam is not currently scheduled under the federal Controlled Substances Act, but states are beginning to take action on an individual basis and designating the drug as a controlled substance due to the growing number of overdoses and law enforcement seizures related to this drug.

I am also considering legislation at the request of a constituent which would create a new series of alternate license plates: the University of Nebraska State Museum plates. This bill would require the Nebraska Department of Motor Vehicles to work in collaboration with the Friends of the University of Nebraska State Museum to create license plates that recognize the three museums managed by the University of Nebraska: Ashfall Fossil Beds in Royal, NE; Morrill Hall in Lincoln, NE; and Trailside Museum in Crawford, NE. Randomized alphanumeric museum plates would cost \$5 and personalized message museum plates would cost \$40.

Since this will be my news article of 2025, I want to end by expressing my appreciation for all the support I have gotten this year.

I am truly honored to serve as your State Senator. In closing, my wife Brenda and I, along with our entire family, want to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas, a happy New Year, and a safe holiday season.

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Price: \$500.00

Approx. Wt. 50#

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E-R photo/DMorgan

How many Lil' Pack dancers can one stage hold?

From JoAnn Baum's Kitchen

Almond Joy® Cookies & Peanut Butter Cups

Merry Christmas!
The busy season is here! Are you ready?
Do you have all of those goodies made? Is the shopping done? Is the tree up?

I am still working on mine. I thought I'd share a couple of our family favorites.

These recipes make a lot so maybe you could share with a friend or neighbor.

In the next few weeks, I will be sharing some fun and different party food ideas.

With the New Year coming, maybe you could use one of these recipes.

Ted and myself Wish You All A Very Merry Christmas!

Ted & JoAnn Baum
I'd like to "thank" all my readers and those who follow my recipe column. I appreciate all the comments and your kind words. I plan to continue

for another year. I hope you will continue to follow along.
God Bless You All!

JoAnn

ALMOND JOY COOKIES

1-1/4 oz pkg sweetened coconut
1-1/4 oz can sweetened condensed milk
2/3 cups salted & roasted almonds (chopped)
2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
Preheat oven to 325°. Bake on parchment paper on your cookie sheet, spray with a little cooking spray. Spoon the mixture onto the parchment paper about the size of a walnut. Bake 12-14 minutes or until golden brown. Watch the baking time — depends on the size of cookie.

PEANUT BUTTER CUPS

1 cup melted margarine
1 cup peanut butter
2-1/2 cups powder sugar
1-3/4 cups graham cracker crumbs
1 cup milk chocolate chips
1 cup butterscotch chips
Mix first four ingredients together. Put in a 9x13 pan. Melt the 2 cups of chips. Frost bars in the pan. Refrigerate until firm. Cut into bars when cool.



On Saturday, December 13, some of Elgin's finest young ladies participated in a dance camp at Elgin Public School. Leading the camp were members of the Wolfpack dance team. Then, that night, during halftime of the Wolfpack-Wausa boys basketball game, they entertained parents and fans with the moves they had learned earlier in the day.



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CLOSED THURSDAY FOR NEW YEAR'S DAY

Nationwide CSP, EQIP application deadline set for January 15

Farmers and ranchers interested in signing up for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) have until Jan. 15 to submit initial paperwork.

Although the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs allow for continuous sign-up, the agency is implementing this national batching period to ensure producers have access to funding and support following the government shutdown.

Administered by NRCS, CSP and EQIP provide financial and technical assistance for producers implementing conservation practices while maintaining agricultural production.

"CSP and EQIP are voluntary programs designed to help producers meet their conservation goals while maintaining their bottom lines," said Andrew Tonnies, policy associate with the Center for Rural Affairs.

"The financial support provided through these programs is especially important given the tight profit margins producers are facing."

CSP is designed to reward producers for new and existing conservation activities across an entire operation. To be eligible, applicants must demonstrate they are currently addressing priority resource concerns on their farm or ranch and a willingness to implement additional practices.

EQIP offers assistance for single practices or projects to help producers address a particular resource concern. Several structural practices, such as terraces, can be funded through EQIP as well.

Through both programs, the applying producer will develop a conservation plan with support from local NRCS staff to ensure the implemented practices benefit natural resources and meet the applicant's conservation goals.

Clay Govier, a corn and soybean producer from Broken Bow, Nebraska, has used CSP

and EQIP to help implement no-till practices, cover crops, and nutrient management, and install moisture meters.

"CSP and EQIP have been great programs to help cover some of the cost of adopting practices that have an upfront expense, but a long-term benefit," Govier said. "The local NRCS office has been helpful

Farmers interested in applying for either program are encouraged to contact their local NRCS office.

Applications for the recently launched Regenerative Pilot Program will also be accepted during this time.



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FFA STUDENT of the MONTH

Dannyka Smidt



Dannyka Smidt is the member of the month!



Dannyka Smidt

academy during the state FFA convention.

Most recently, Dannyka did very well at the District X livestock judging contest. She and her Senior division team qualified for the state contest in Lincoln later this spring.

Congratulations Dannyka!

Wishing you everything festive and fun at this wonderful time of year!

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My brain feels like a lost-and-found box

One thing people would say about me is that I have a great memory. I have memorized scripts for plays, piano pieces for solos, and countless ridiculous facts that can be used for no purpose other than entertainment...or perhaps a modern version of Trivial Pursuit. The downfall is that I tend to be the person that ends up with the mental burden of remembering everyone's schedules, appointments and needs. That burden can be incredibly taxing.

The inventory of things parents must hold in their brain is insane. What day is "wear purple day" at school? Did I sign the permission slip for the field trip? What's my password for the 47 different sites I need for each of my kids' activities? My brain is basically a cluttered

junk drawer. Or perhaps it's more akin to a web browser with 47 open tabs.

It's honestly exhausting to ensure I read all the emails and all the notes that come home from school. On top of that I'm keeping up with the schedule for soccer, taekwondo, and cello practice. I have my own appointments to track, plus, all the kids' doctors and dentist appointments. Throw in some birthday parties, random field trips, and social events and there's chaos in my brain.

Over the years, I've had to come up with things that work for me. These may not work for everyone (my husband, ahem). First, I keep a lot of lists. Some are in the form of spreadsheets, and some are just on a sticky note. Regardless of the format,

writing down all my to-dos so I can check them off is incredibly helpful.

It helps to get it out of my brain. If I don't write down all the things, I tend to have a lot of anxiety and lose sleep thinking about everything that must get done. Getting it on paper allows me to offload that burden, so I don't sit up stressing over whether I'll remember things in the morning. Plus, I get to share the amazing honey-do list with my husband. I've started teaching my kids to do the same. My middle child now has a packing list for Scouts after forgetting something for the first seven campouts. Each time, he adds to the list and now it's in pretty good shape.

It's also ok to ask for help. As parents (mostly us moms),

we don't usually like asking for help. We don't want to admit to ourselves that we can't do it all. And, if you're like me, you end up resenting other people in the house if they're not helping with the burden, all the while they are oblivious to the fact that there

are things to get done. I tell my kids I can't read their mind, but I must remind myself they can't read mine.

I've had to put the onus back on the kids when they need to remember something. It's their responsibility to give me forms for school or remember their library book. If it's something important that may impact a grade, I'll try and step in. But if I always bail them out then they will never learn this responsibility. Once they're off at college or in the workforce, I'm not going to be reminding them of every little thing.

Will I ever be completely absolved of this burden? Doubtful. However, I can take steps to teach the kids responsibility and take steps to reduce my own anxiety. For the time being, my brain will likely still be a clutter box and I look forward to when I have an emptier calendar.

Comments are welcome and can be sent to talesofatiredmomma@gmail.com.

Elgin Columnist
Katherine Cobb

Looking Back

The Elgin Review

Sixty Years Ago

December 30, 1965

Bill Schmitt, industrial arts instructor in the Winside schools, lost the ends of three fingers Wednesday of last week in a dado saw while working at school. The accident resulted in the loss of one finger to the first joint and the tips of two others on his left hand.

Automobiles driven by Glenn Dozler, 32, and Reuben Best, 58, of Norfolk were involved in a two car accident around 1:40 p.m. Tuesday two miles south of here on Highway 14. Best was driving north on Highway 14 and Dozler was entering the highway from the west and apparently failed to see the approaching vehicle as he came onto the highway. There were no personal injuries.

Nebraskan's were favored with a white Christmas this year but the resulting 2-3 inches of snow made travel hazardous, especially so in certain parts of the state. Snow fell here Friday which melted and as the temperature dropped caused icy highways.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Reuss announce the engagement of their daughter, Cecelia of Columbus, to John Skalak of Bellwood. Both Miss Reuss and her fiance are employed by Becton, Dickinson & Co. An April 16 wedding is planned.

Gov. Frank Morrison announced this week that the University of Nebraska, in conjunction with the State Civil Defense Agency, will hold a Civil Defense conference in the courthouse at Neligh January 10 from 7 to 10 p.m. This is one of a series of such conferences to be held throughout the state.

Fifty Years Ago

December 25, 1975

The rivalry between Neligh and Pope John ended in a 56-3 victory for the Crusaders on the home mat December 16. The Crusaders now have an undefeated record at 4-0.

Elgin High School wrestlers waxed Wolbach last Friday, 51-10 to run the season dual record to 5-0. Six pins, 2 forfeits and 1 decision were the end results of the dual. Elgin high will participate in the Newman Grove Invitational Dec. 27.

The sale of 1976 motor vehicle license plates begins Friday, Jan. 2 at the office of the Antelope County Treasurer in Neligh. Anyone desiring to have license plates mailed this year, from the County Treasurer's office, must include 65¢ mailing fee.

Pond owners should be aware that conditions are right for many farm ponds in northeast Nebraska to suffer winter fish kills. According to Lee Rupp, District Fisheries Manager in northeast Nebraska, the recent snows plus the dry weather this fall has been the major cause of the problem.

With the coming of the new year, graduation from a Game and Parks Commission hunter safety course will be required of young hunters in Nebraska before they can legally take the field. The law applies to hunters from 12 through 15 years of age.

Thirty Years Ago

December 27, 1995

Influenza complications have resulted in the deaths of two Midlands children and an adult this year. Health officials are urging family members of sick individuals to watch out for sudden confusion and disorientation which may indicate encephalitis, an unusual complication of the flu.

Pope John girls basketball team holds a 3-3 season record during the Christmas holiday break after defeating Lynch, 45-37, on Tuesday, Dec. 16, in a home game.

Verdigre defeated Elgin High School, 53-49, in Niobrara Valley Conference girls basketball action at Verdigre last Friday night.

Elgin Community Center menus

Monday, December 29:
Chicken & stuffing casserole, sweet potatoes, cheesy broccoli & cauliflower, pears, bread/butter, milk.

Pork roast, garlic mashed potatoes, creamed peas, plums, bread/butter.

Thursday, January 1:
Closed.

Friday, January 2: Closed.
Menus are provided by the Community Center and are subject to change. Suggested price is \$7 per meal for persons 60 years of age and older.

Share the love! Dorothy Swiatek
will celebrate her 95th Birthday on January 1st.

Greetings may reach her c/o Bailey Pointe,
7208 Van Dorn St #105, Lincoln NE 68506

SORRY WE'LL BE CLOSED

We will be closed for maintenance work
now through Friday, January 2

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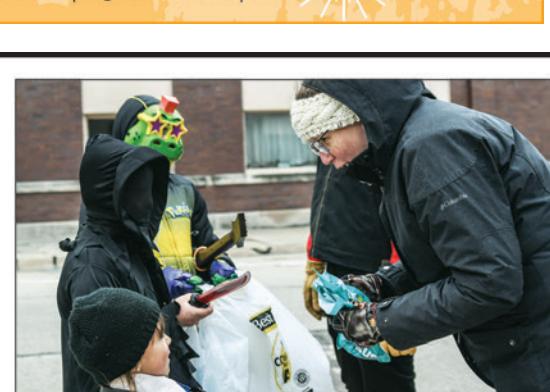
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Opinion

READ, REFLECT, RESPOND.



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

Edward R. Murrow

'Cornhusker Clink' doesn't help state's image

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

No matter your opinion of immigrants, I think we can agree on one thing – having a federal detention center in Nebraska is not a good look for our state.

The opening of the "Cornhusker Clink" illustrates that Nebraska is in full-throated agreement with the roundup and deportation of those who came to our country in search of a better life but in violation of immigration rules.

There's growing opposition to the sometimes brutal roundups organized by mask-wearing agents of the Trump Administration.

According to the latest Pew Research Center polling, 53% of those polled believe Trump is "doing too much" to enforce immigration rules.

That's quite an increase from March when polling showed only 44% felt the raids were excessive.

Immigrants play an important role in our state and in our communities. They fill tough jobs that not everyone wants to fill in a state that has struggled with labor shortages. We're talking jobs like roofer, road construction and concrete worker, housekeeper, cook and (maybe most important) meat packer. Overall, about 7.7% of Nebraska residents are foreign born (about four times the number in 1990), with immigrants making up 9.4% of the state's workforce, according to the American Immigrant Council.

That 9.4% figure is about double the national figure. But I doubt it's that high now.

I know buddies who've had co-workers suddenly "self-deport" and have watched as their roofing crew stopped coming to work out of fear of being detained. Like I've said before, the vast, vast majority of immigrants are law-abiding and just want what our ancestors wanted – a safe place to raise a family and the opportunity to work and get ahead.

Right now, there isn't an easy pathway to citizenship for such people, and there's questions about whether we're screening out criminals.

ALL THINGS NEBRASKA



State Correspondent

Paul Hammel

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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.

Josiah Bartlett

(1729-1795)

Josiah Bartlett's ancestors were from Normandy who emigrated to England and from there at the close of the 17th century, a branch of Bartletts emigrated to America. Josiah was born in 1729 in Amesbury, Massachusetts. His mother was a Webster.

Mr. Bartlett did not have a formal college degree. He was self-taught in medicine beginning at age 16 and passed the medical exam with honor at age 21, allowing practice as a medical doctor. His practice began at Kingston, New Hampshire, and becoming well known in his community, he was called upon to lead in many areas such as colonel in the county militia and a justice of peace. He started the New Hampshire Medical Society of which he was president. Josiah and wife, Mary, had 8 living children and a farm.

Even though Bartlett held to strict republican views, the royal governor, Wentworth, thought highly of him. In 1765 he was elected to the provincial legislature of New Hampshire. About this time, the Stamp Act occurred to which Bartlett greatly disagreed. He became a leader of a party opposing the oppressive measures dictated by the British. Governor Wentworth tried using bribes to dissuade Dr. Bartlett from his patriotic stand. Further alarming to Wentworth was a Committee of Communication formed in several

See INDEPENDENCE, Page 5 ▶

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

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

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

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

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

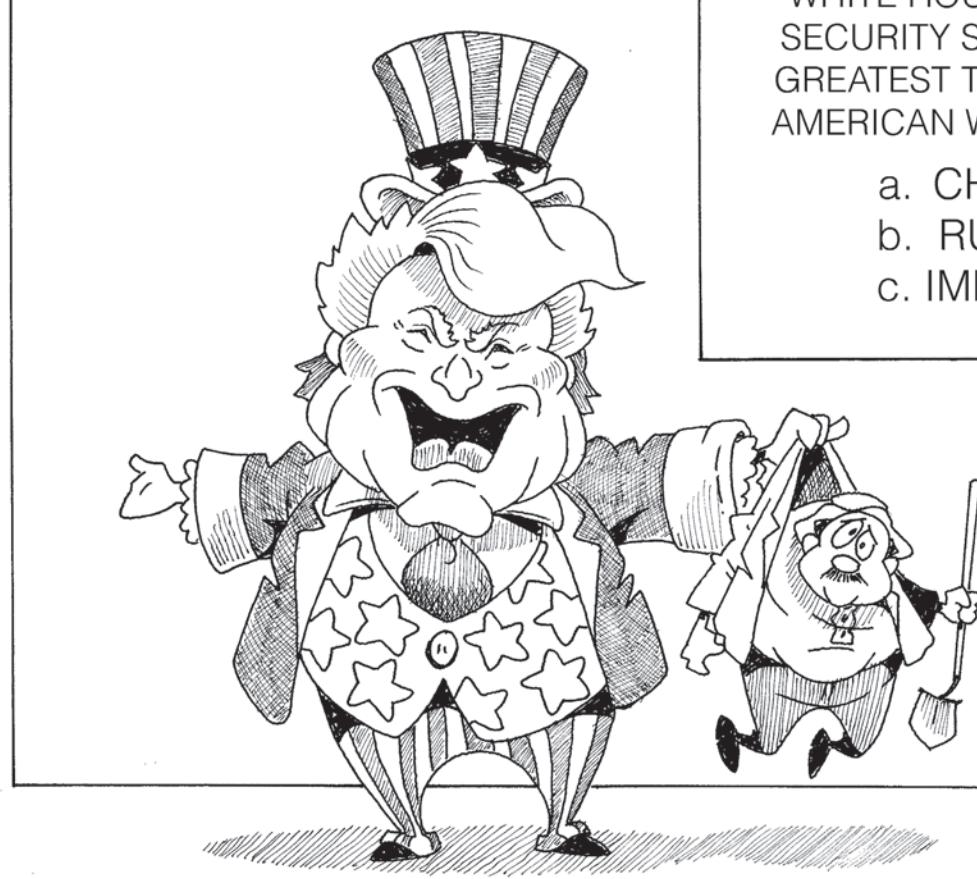
Senator Deb Fischer: 825 B Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington D.C. 20510. Phone: (202) 224-6551. Fax: (202) 228-1325.

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-

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A QUIZ:

ACCORDING TO LATEST WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY, THE GREATEST THREAT TO THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE IS:

- a. CHINA
- b. RUSSIA
- c. IMMIGRATION

awaiting deportation hearings.

A handful of state senators got a look at the Cornhusker Clink recently, and came away saying it appeared clean and orderly. But now Nebraska has the notoriety of being the home of such a facility.

You gotta think there are smarter – and less expensive – solutions than spending billions to hire squads of new ICE agents, establish more detention camps and deport migrants.

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.

Christmas in 'The Good Life'

Christmas is nearly upon us, but in *The Good Life*, the spirit of the season lasts all month long. You may recall that last year I featured our state's Christmas City of Minden in my Christmas column.

Even with more than 12,000 lights illuminating the courthouse dome and town square, Minden's magic extends far beyond its dazzling display.

Each year, the community comes together to present The Light of the World Christmas pageant — an impressive culmination of months of preparation and local pride.

The village of Comstock is another beloved holiday destination. With 20 blocks of festive displays and hundreds of inflatables, neighborhoods like Grinchville and Snowman's Land make Comstock well worth the visit.

My staff and I also cherish holiday traditions across the state, from the twinkling Zoo Lights in Lincoln and Omaha, to the living nativity scene in Murdock, to Creighton's Santa-land in Bruce Park.

From Omaha to Panhandle – whether you're looking to enjoy outdoor art, live music, or hot cocoa – there are countless ways to celebrate the holidays in Nebraskan style.

Over the past year, I've reflected often on how our state's values of hard work, service, and family have shaped who I am. Leading up to this holiday season, Nebraskans have worked tirelessly to provide for their families and loved ones — putting food on the table and gifts under the tree. Many Nebraskans have stepped up to serve their communities through food drives, neighborhood carpools, and school fundraisers.

And as families gather across generations to celebrate together, we are reminded of the values that bind us together.

Whether you celebrate this season at one of Nebraska's many special events or at home with loved ones, please know that I am wishing you a joyful holiday.

During this season of reflection, I am especially grateful for the opportunity to serve each of you in the U.S. Senate. I wish you a very Merry Christmas and many blessings in the new year!

Helping Nebraskans deal with loneliness

The holidays are a special time in Nebraska. We volunteer to serve our communities.

Families and friends spend more time together. But for too many Nebraskans, the holidays can be lonely. Families are increasingly spread apart. Digital connections are good, but it's not the same thing as being there in person. Nebraskans of all ages are becoming more isolated as a result.

No Nebraskan should feel alone this holiday season. Yet, about a third of Nebraskans report feeling lonely some of the time. As I travel the state, I hear stories of Nebraskans who feel like they're losing connections to their communities.

That's why I recently introduced the Improving Measurements for Loneliness and Isolation Act.

We must recognize and address loneliness in America.

Across Nebraska, mental health care providers are hard at work to address the growing loneliness problem. Loneliness occurs in both our urban and rural communities.

Seniors are more vulnerable.

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine reports loneliness and isolation in older adults are strongly associated with poorer health outcomes. That includes cognitive decline, depression, anxiety, a decreased quality of life, and early death.

A report from February 2020 found that about a quarter of seniors were socially isolated. More than 40% of people over age 60 said they felt lonely.

The COVID pandemic exacerbated many of these problems. One-size-fits-all policies from the federal government didn't help.

Loneliness doesn't just affect Nebraska Seniors.

A study conducted by the University of Nebraska Lincoln found that 21% of Nebraskans feel lonely some or all of the time.

These numbers are too high.

It's time to address loneliness. Like any other policy issue, we need to know what to measure in order to tackle the problem and improve lives. We must invest resources to improve measurements that target social isolation.

Only then can we implement common-sense policy to stop the loneliness crisis.

That's why I introduced the Improving Measurements for Loneliness and Isolation Act. It's a bipartisan bill I am leading with Democrat Senator Maggie Hassan of New Hampshire. Representative Mike Flood introduced this bill in the House.

This bill will establish a working group that standardizes the measurements of loneliness and isolation. This will allow experts to target the root causes of this epidemic.

Addressing these factors is essential for the well-being of Nebraska communities.

This holiday season, remember to reach out to those who might feel isolated. Encourage them to join in your holiday festivities. Bring them with you as you volunteer with charities, churches, or schools. Nebraska Nice is not just a phrase. It's defined by how Nebraskans lift up one another. Federal mandates alone will not solve this crisis.

In fact, it's just the opposite. We can do a lot at the federal level. But at the end of the day, strong communities will help lift people out of loneliness and isolation.

Nebraska is what America is supposed to be.

Let's lead by example and support every Nebraskan this season.

WASHINGTON REPORT



U.S. Senator

Pete Ricketts

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BCHC enhances patient visits with new AI documentation tool

Boone County Health Center (BCHC) has launched a new artificial intelligence (AI) tool to support providers during patient visits. The tool is designed to streamline documentation, improve accuracy, and give providers more uninterrupted time with their patients.

The AI captures only the pertinent medical information needed for the patient's chart—not the entire conversation. Providers remain fully in control and review, edit, and approve every note before it is signed. The tool meets all BCHC privacy, security, and confidentiality requirements and operates fully within HIPAA guidelines.

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charting and allows us to look up from the computer and connect more with our patients," said Bryant Carlson, MD. "Anything that gives us more face-to-face time ultimately improves the patient experience."

The tool was implemented after extensive research and evaluation by BCHC's internal AI committee. Committee member Courtney Ruzek, PA-C, said the tool brings valuable benefits to the clinical workflow. "It helps capture important details more accurately and efficiently," Ruzek said. "Most patients won't notice a change in how their visit feels, but the quality and clarity it brings to the documentation behind the scenes is significant."

The AI serves strictly as an assistive tool—it does not replace staff, make medical decisions, or interact directly with patients. BCHC emphasizes that all care, judgment, and decision-making remain in human hands. Providers and staff continue to be the ones delivering and documenting care.

BCHC understands that new technology can raise questions, and the Health Center is committed to transparency. The community can be assured that:

- Every note is reviewed and finalized by the provider.
- The system follows all HIPAA and BCHC security standards.
- Only relevant clinical information is captured, not entire conversations.
- The technology supports staff—it does not replace them.
- "Patients will continue to receive the same compassionate, personal care they've always known here," Ruzek said. "This simply gives us more tools to deliver that care effectively."

Independence

◀ FROM Page 4

Colonies bringing independent thinkers together. He decided to dissolve the Assembly. Governor Wentworth fled New Hampshire after hostilities broke out in Concord and Lexington but before leaving, he took Bartlett off the New Hampshire magistracy list and deprived him of his militia position. The Assembly, ignoring the Governor's orders, continued to meet, placing Dr. Bartlett back into his positions of leadership. As a price for Bartlett's patriotism, it appears the 'loyalists' burned his house to the ground in 1775 after being warned to stop his 'pernicious activity.'



Dr. Bartlett was elected to the Continental Congress, proudly signing his name on the Declaration of Independence. He wrote to his wife, Mary, "I have been for about a week on a committee of one member from each colony to form a Confederation or Charter of firm & Everlasting Union of all the United Colonies. It is a matter of the greatest Consequence & requires the greatest Care in forming it. May God grant us wisdom... as the happiness of America to all future Generations Depend on it." (Descendants of the Signers, Thornton Calef Lockwood, descendant, 2008)

Through his hardships, he was determined more than ever to stand for freedom. During the Battle of Bennington, he was a field surgeon. He was fortunate, unlike many Signers, to serve his state after the Revolution, being Chief Justice and then Governor of New Hampshire. He had an active role in the Convention for his state to adopt the Constitution occurring in 1788. He was elected to the first Senate but already being the Governor of New Hampshire, he declined. Bartlett held governorship till 1794, returning to private life but for a short time when in 1795 at age 66 he passed away.

Three sons and five grandsons followed his footsteps, becoming physicians.

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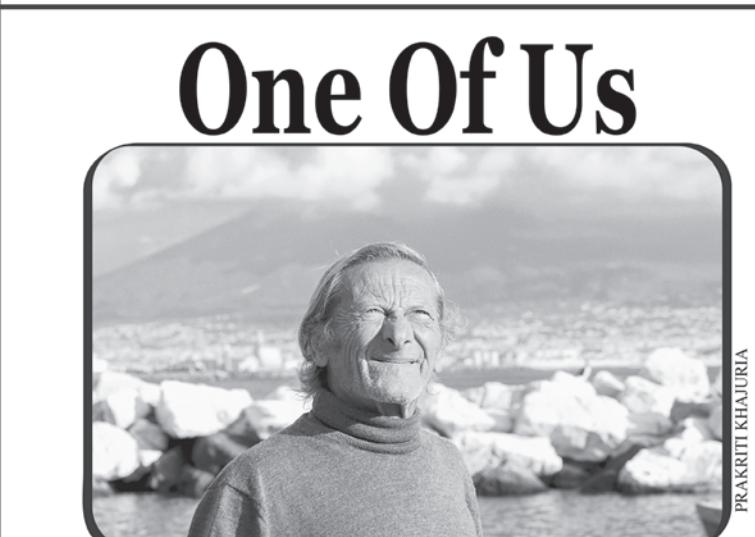
1 CORINTHIANS 16:13-14
 "BE WATCHFUL, STAND FIRM IN THE FAITH, ACT LIKE MEN, BE STRONG. LET ALL THAT YOU DO BE DONE IN LOVE."

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And the word became flesh and lived among us...

John 1:1-14

Isaiah 52:7-10

Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)

Psalm 98

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

Sunday, December 28, 2025

First Sunday After Christmas

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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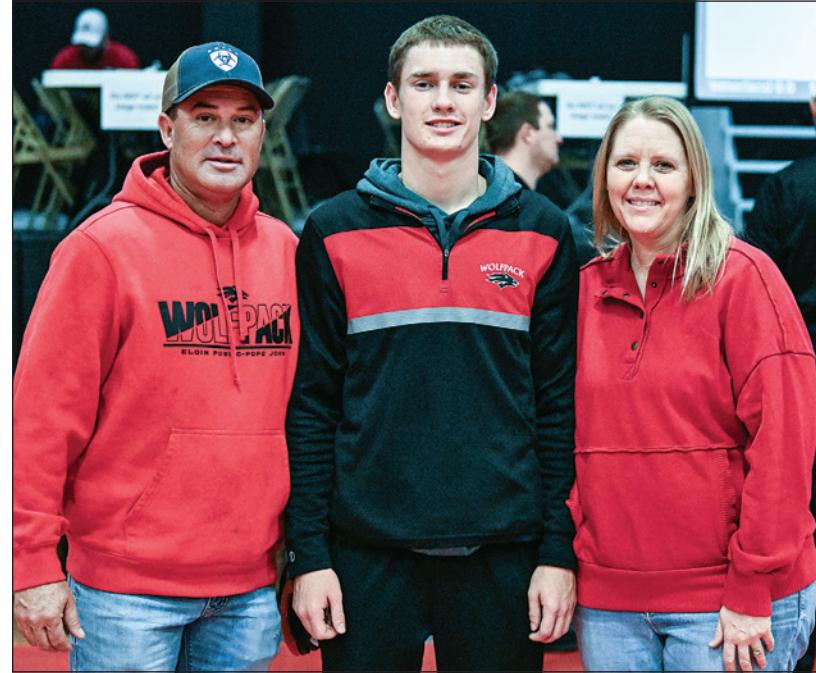
Heb 11:1



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OBITUARIES

Dr. Stacy E. Charf, 56

March 3, 1969 - December 19, 2025

He dedicated his life to the care and well-being of animals and the people who loved them.

Funeral service for Dr. Stacy E. Charf age 56 of Neligh, Nebraska will be 10:30 a.m. Saturday, December 27, 2025 at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Elgin with Father Mark McKercher officiating. Burial will be in Laurel Hill Cemetery in Neligh, Nebraska.

Visitation will be held Friday, December 26, 2025 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Elgin with a wake service at 7:00 p.m.

Snider Memorial Funeral Home is handling the arrangements.

Stacy passed away on December 19, 2025.

Condolences may be directed to the family www.snidermemorial.com. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the family for later designation.

Stacy Eugene Charf was born on March 3, 1969 in Neligh, Nebraska to Sid and Sharon (Michael) Charf. He attended school in Wymore, Nebraska before moving to Neligh Nebraska in 1983 his freshman year of High School.

Stacy played football and basketball and was named all state football player. He graduated from Neligh Oakdale High School in 1987.

He attended the University of Nebraska - Lincoln for Veterinary School where he was part of the UNL Rodeo Team. Stacy graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1991 and from the Veterinary College at Kansas State University in 1995.

Stacy was married to Danelle Hellbusch on May 20, 2000 at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Elgin.

Together they had four children, who were the pride of his life. Hunter(24), Taylynne(21), Ashlynne(20) and Kellan(14).

The Elgin Review • December 24, 2025

Joseph "Joe" V. Knust, 83

November 29, 1942 - December 19, 2025

A U.S. Army veteran, he did carpentry, farmed and was a seed salesman. He was known as a quiet man with a large heart.

Joseph "Joe" V. Knust, 83, of Petersburg, NE, passed away on Friday, December 19, 2025, at the Mid-Nebraska Lutheran Home in Newman Grove, NE.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:00 a.m., Saturday, December 27, 2025, at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, Petersburg, NE with Rev. Frank Baumert and Deacon John Starman officiating.

Interment will be at St. Bonaventure Cemetery, Raeville, NE with military rites conducted by American Legion Post #334 of Petersburg, NE and the Army Funeral Honor Guard.

Visitation will be 5:00-7:00 p.m. Friday at the church with a 7:00 p.m. wake service.

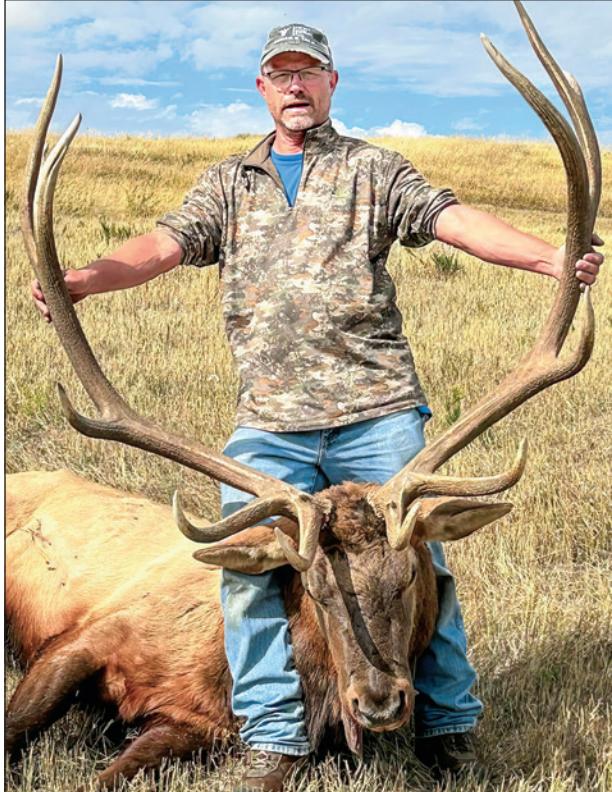
Levander Funeral Home of Albion, NE is in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be sent to the family at: www.levanderfuneralhome.com.

Joseph "Joe" Victor Knust, son of Michael Edward and Josephine Elizabeth (Rollman) Knust was born November 29, 1942 at Humphrey, NE. He was baptized at home by his uncle Fr. Pascal Rollman. Joe attended school at St. John the Baptist in Petersburg, NE and graduated from there in 1960. Following his high school education, Joe was inducted in the U.S. Army where he served honorably.

On November 16, 1964, Joseph was united in marriage to Catherine "Kate" Mary Stuhr

The Elgin Review

• December 24, 2025



Stacy was a member of the Nebraska Veterinary Medical Association and dedicated his life to the care and well-being of animals and the people who loved them.

He owned and operated Antelope County Veterinary Clinic, with locations in Elgin, Nebraska, and Clearwater, Nebraska, where he faithfully served the community and surrounding areas for many years and provided veterinary services to the Verdigris Livestock Market for 29 years.

Outside of his work, Stacy loved all things outdoors. He found his greatest joy in life's simple pleasures, especially time spent with family and friends.

Whether enjoying the outdoors by hunting, fishing, or sharing a vibrant campfire with loved ones, he cherished the relationships and memories that mattered most.

In addition to his wife and children, survivors include; his parents, Sid and Sharon Charf; his sisters, Sheleene Charf-Kamphaus (Terry) and Salissa Mlnarik (Dan); sister-in-law, Danene Miller (Troy) and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Opal and Clarence Michael and Swede and Adeline Charf and father-in-law, Dan Hellbusch.

The Elgin Review • December 24, 2025

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SNOWFLAKES

and Christmas classics filled the air

Vocal and instrumental music students at Pope John XXIII Central Catholic school presented their 2025 Christmas concert last Wednesday evening.

E-R photos/DMorgan

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2026

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As we ring in 2026, we wish you all a happy, successful and fulfilling year. We're so grateful to everyone who has helped us out and supported us in 2025, and we're excited for the possibilities ahead. The best is yet to come, and we look forward to sharing it with all of you!

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2026

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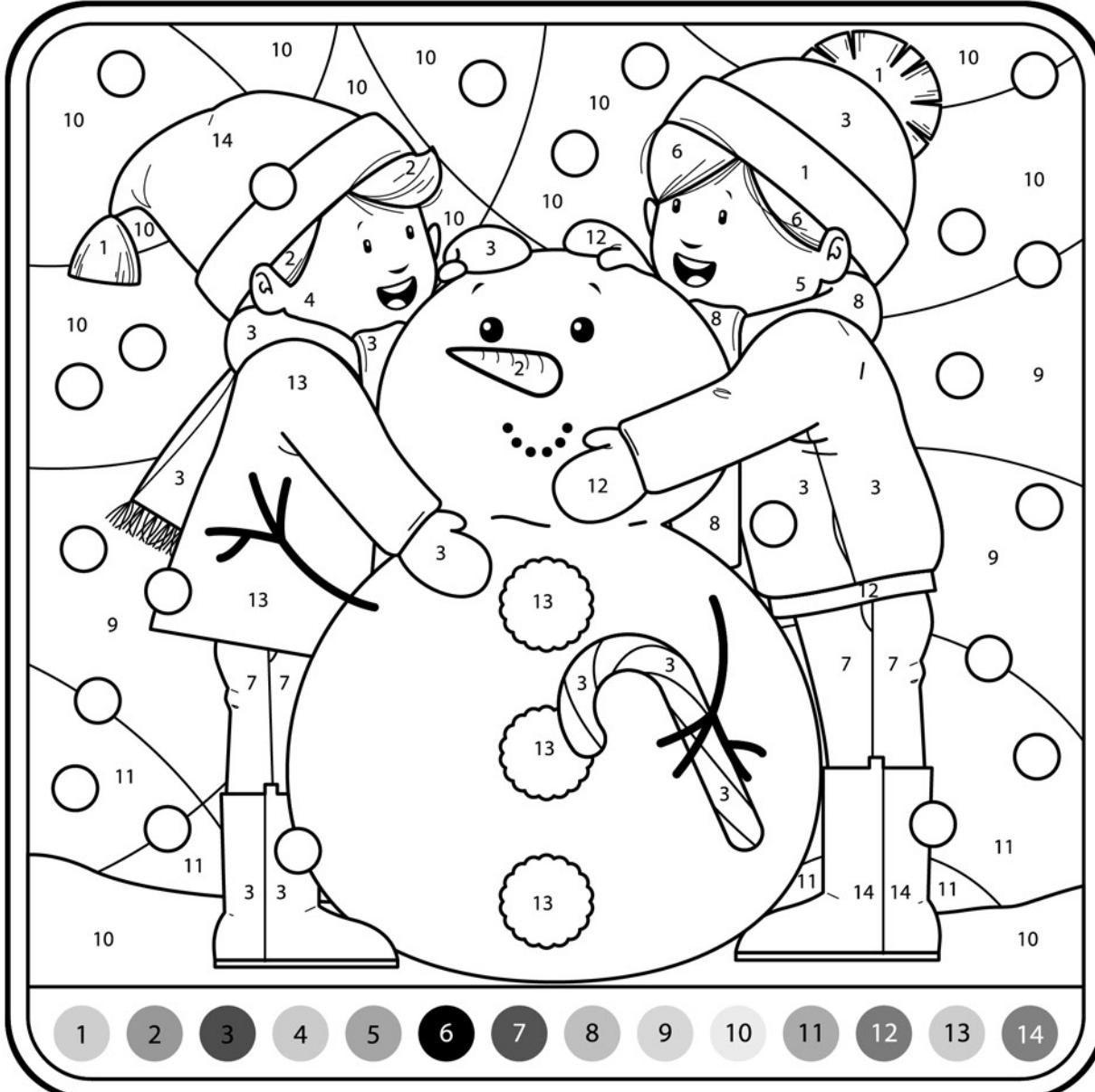
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Merry Christmas!

HoliYAY FUN



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Market Report Summary from 12.22.25 Weigh Cow & Bull Sale

Bulls.....	185.00 - 199.00
Feeding Cows.....	185.00 - 199.00
2nd Cut Feeding Cows.....	150.00 - 184.00
Kill Cows.....	115.00 - 145.00
Thin Cows/Cripples.....	70.00 - 114.00

UPCOMING SALES:

JAN. 5 Feeder Cattle
Special/Weigh Cows & Bulls

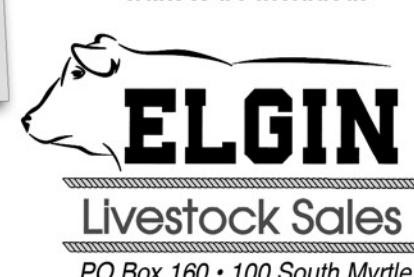
JAN. 19 Feeder Cattle
Special/Weigh Cows & Bulls

FEB. 2 Breeding Heifers/
Bred Females/Weigh Cows
& Bulls

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Forecast to help plan your heifer replacements

Producers know that choosing the right replacement heifers is critical for long-term herd success, but with market conditions fluctuating, it's not always easy to determine the best investment. That's where the UNL Beef Economics Team steps in. In their 6th Annual Beef Heifer Replacement Forecast, experts shared tools and strategies to help producers make informed decisions. I'm going to give a summary of their report today, but if you are interested in the full details, visit beef.unl.edu.

One big takeaway from the report is the importance of understanding breakeven costs. Breakeven value is the maximum price a producer can pay for a replacement heifer and still expect her to cover her costs over her productive life.

IT'S ALL ABOUT BEEF



Beef Systems
Asst. Ext. Educator
Ben Beckman

These costs depend on factors like cull rates, heifer purchase prices, and production expenses. For example, herds with lower cull rates and lower annual production costs often achieve the highest breakeven values, meaning they get the most value out of their investment. In contrast, higher cull rates and higher costs per head can lead to reduced profitability.

Annual production costs for 2025 were broken into low, mid, and high ranges. On the low end, cost per cow was \$1,033.81. Mid was \$1,266.28 per cow, and high was \$1,422.92 per cow. A large part of this was feed costs, which made up 45 to 53 percent of all costs on average. Breaking that down even further, pasture and

hay costs were 33 to 40 percent of total costs.

When evaluating heifers in your herd, take a look at the longevity of replacement heifers. Longevity not only impacts productivity but also affects cost efficiency. A heifer that stays in the herd longer spreads her purchase cost over more productive years, ultimately lowering her per-year cost. While breakeven value forecasts were given for a number of scenarios, the most common used a 20 percent replacement rate. Under these conditions, breakevens for low-cost herds were \$3,327.59 per head, mid-cost herds were \$2,424.19 per head, and high-cost herds were \$1,808.68 per head.

Another key takeaway was the importance of aligning replacement heifer selection with operational genetic and management goals. This ensures compatibility with the existing herd and maximizes productivity. While upfront costs might be higher for genetically superior

heifers, their longer-term productivity can offset the initial expense. Another management implication was the cost of raising replacements. While it may seem cost effective, when accounting for all costs associated with home-raised replacements, an accurate comparison can show purchasing replacement heifers to be more profitable.

With beef markets expected to remain dynamic, understanding the true value of replacement heifers in the herd is vital. Tools like the Replacement Heifer Forecast can be a great instrument to evaluate this portion of your operation to ensure quality animals for your herd and a profitable enterprise.

- 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

Jokes That Sleigh!

What do snowmen call their kids?
Chill-dren

What did the elf use when he sprained his ankle?
A candy cane

How much does Santa pay to park his sleigh?
Nothing, it's on the house!

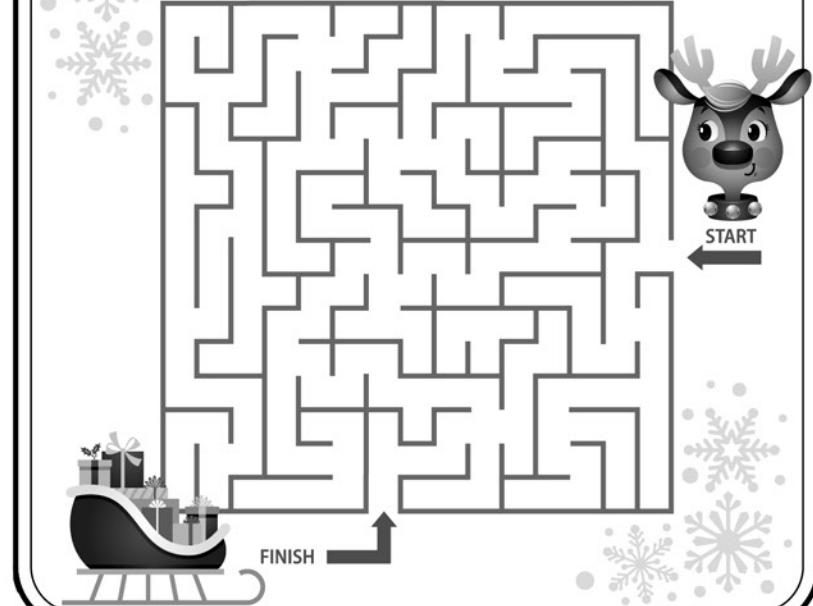
What kind of currency do they spend in the North Pole?
Jingle bills

Where does Santa keep his money?
The snowbank

What do you call a reindeer with bad manners?
Rude-olph

MAZE FUN

Help Rudolph Find His Way to the Sleigh!



Did You Know?

As residents of the United States of America celebrate the nation's two hundred and fiftieth anniversary, some might be curious where the "America" portion of the country's name comes from. According to the Library of Congress, America is named after Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci. The LOC contends that Vespucci was the first to suggest that the lands Christopher Columbus sailed to in 1492 were part of a separate continent. German mapmaker Martin Waldseemüller honored Vespucci's assertion in 1507, when he created a notable map

that was the first to depict the lands as a separate continent, naming the area "America," which is a Latinized version of "Amerigo." That map is now part of the cartographic collections at the LOC, and is sometimes referred to as "America's Birth Certificate."

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WOLFPACK



Wolfpack Sports

EPPJ boys rally to defeat Falcons 49 to 41

TILDEN — Games between good teams are usually won in the fourth quarter. On Tuesday night the Wolfpack trailed by three points heading into the fourth quarter. Coach Matt Euse told the team it was time to take control. The result? EPPJ pulled away to defeat EV 49 to 41.

Jarek Erickson scored eight of the team's first 10 points in the fourth quarter (Michael Selting had the other two) as the Wolfpack built a six-point lead.

Twice the Falcons would cut the lead to three points and twice the Wolfpack answered with Max Henn's putback and free throw. Then, Erickson and Karson Kallhoff closed out the game making seven of eight free throws.

Erickson finished with a game-high 19 points, going five of 10 from the field and making seven of eight free throws. He grabbed nine rebounds and dished out a team-high three assists. Selting finished with 11 points, Henn had 10 and Kallhoff added nine.

Thursday action

Single digits in December are usually associated with wind chills and low temperatures.

On Thursday night, the Wolfpack (7-0) defeated Boyd County 53 to 30. EPPJ allowed just five points in the first half as they built a 26 to five lead. Boyd County finally broke into double-digit scoring midway through the third quarter as the Wolfpack took a commanding 45 to 11 lead.

Freshman Jayvin Erickson led a balanced Wolfpack attack with 14 points, Max Henn had 13 and teammate Karson Kallhoff added 10.

EPPJ 49, Elkhorn Valley 41

Wolfpack.....7 14 8 20 — 49

Falcons.....11 8 14 8 — 41

EPPJ drops first game; rebounds with win over BC

SPENCER — Having suffered their first loss of the season days earlier, Elgin Public-Pope John returned to their winning ways Thursday night.

Holding Boyd County to just nine second half points, the Wolfpack girls crushed Boyd County 55 to 31 Thursday night.

Junior Mady Kurpewit led all scorers with 18 points as she was seven of 12 from the field. She also led the team in rebounds with 11.

Two other Wolfpack players

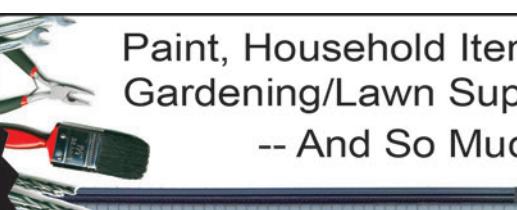


Denying this Lady Falcon a path to the basket were Wolfpack players (l-r): Kinley Druke, Sydney Niewohner, Lillian Moser and Kinley Miller.

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E-R photos/DMorgan

Junior Libby Evans (r) looks her opponent in the eye. She had two pins and finished second in the 170-pound weight class.

EPPJ trio pick up pins; win medals Saturday

ELGIN — Twenty-three girls wrestling teams took part in the EPPJ Girls Wrestling Invite held Friday.

Competition was fierce in all weight classes.

Three Wolfpack wrestlers competed in the invite, two receiving medals for their efforts.

The Wolfpack was led by junior Libby Evans. Competing at 170 pounds, she pinned her way to the finals where she lost to R. Kursave of Arcadia/Loup County. She placed second in the weight class.

Bringing home the fourth place medal in the 105-pound division was Wolfpack freshman Anna Dwork. She had one of the fastest pins in the tournament, 14 seconds over Jalee Haggerty of St. Paul.

Senior Jaydalynn Chessmore wrestled in the 130-pound division. She had one pin in the tournament, beating Justice Olson (LCC) in 45 seconds.

Wayne won the team title with 191 points followed by Sumnerland 133, Plainview/Osmond 91, St. Paul 87, Neth-Oakland 84, Crofton/Bloomfield 77, Norfolk Catholic 70.5, Schuyler 65, Sandhills/Thedford 46, Elkhorn Valley 41, Arcadia/Loup City 35, Burwell 27, EPPJ 27, St. Mary's 26, TCNE 20.5, Fullerton 20, Laurel-Concord-Coleridge 16, Central Valley 11, Homer 7, Riverside 7, Creighton 6, Niobrara/Verdigre 4 and Twin River 0.

Individual results were:

105 pounds — Anna Dwork pinned J. Haggerty (STPA) in 14 seconds; Dwork was pinned by Y. Mejia (SCYL) in 1:51; Dwork was pinned by E. Balux (Wayne) in 2:45.

130 — Jaydalynn Chessmore (EPPJ) was pinned by Makenzie Mosel (PLN) in 1:32; Chessmore pinned Justice Olson (LCC) in 45 seconds; Lilly Kester pinned Chessmore in 4:33.

170 — Libby Evans (EPPJ) pinned Shaun Anderson (BRBL) in 2:18; Evans pinned Alexandria Ziska (Wayne) in 4:26; finals — Rylee Kursave (A/LC) pinned Evans in 2:33.



Anna Dvorak went cheek-to-cheek with Schuyler's Y. Mejia during an early round match at Friday's EPPJ Girls Wrestling Invite.

Veik reigns as 165# champ at EPPJ Invite

ELGIN — Wrestling in your hometown, in front of friends and family, sometimes brings out the best performances.

Two Wolfpack wrestlers did just that Saturday at the EPPJ Boys Wrestling Invite.

Wrestling at 165-pounds, senior Landyn Veik turned in a stellar performance, winning all three of his matches to take the gold.

"I've been wrestling in the gym ever since preschool," Veik said just moments after pinning Riverside's Jordan Dodds in the championship match. "It gives me a lot of confidence."

Teammate Grady Druke won three of his four matches to claim the third place medal. In the consolation finals he won by technical fall (16 to 0) over Tucker Smith of Fullerton.

John Zwingman split his four matches. In both of his victories, Zwingman registered pins.

Ethan Hansen took both of his opponents deep into the matches before being pinned.

Fifteen teams competed at the invite.

Taking home the championship trophy was Plainview

with 145.5 points followed by Pender 145, Twin River 91.5, Summerland 78.5, Fullerton 70.5, Norfolk Catholic 69.5, Riverside 65.5, Arcadia/Loup City 51.5, EPPJ 40, Sumner-Eddyville-Miller 38.5, St. Mary's 37.5, Wauneta-Palisade 31, Palmer 14, Sandhills/Theford 2.5 and Archangels Catholic 0.

Individual results were:

138 pounds — Christopher Allen (Riverside) pinned Ethan Hansen (EPPJ) in 3:14; Jaxson Ward (Plainview) pinned Hansen in 4:37

157 — Grady Druke (EPPJ) won a major decision 12 to 1 over Austin Conner (Amherst/Loup County); Chance Swantek (Twin River) pinned Druke in 1:04; Druke pinned Zane Cole (St. Mary's) in 3:49; Druke won by technical fall (16 to 0) in 2:36 over Tucker Smith (Fullerton)

165 — Kolton Lavicky (St. Mary's) pinned John Zwingman (EPPJ) in 2:57; Zwingman pinned Myles Smith (Fullerton) in 3:42; Zwingman pinned Emiliano Solorzano (Plainview) in 4:50; Zwingman lost by technical fall (17 to 0) to Heath Henson (Sumner-Eddyville-Miller)

165 — Landyn Veik (EPPJ) pinned Cesar Chavez (Sandhills/Theford) in 59 seconds; Veik won by technical fall

(15 to 0) over Heth Henson (Sumner-Eddyville-Miller); Veik pinned Jordan Dodds (Riverside) in 5:20



E-R photos/DMorgan
Grady Druke won three of four matches to place third in the 157-pound weight class Saturday.



Sometimes you have to go upside down to set your opponent up for a pin. Landyn Veik had a moment like that Saturday as he went on to win the 165-pound championship.

BOYS WRESTLING

Jan. 9....@ Burwell10:00
Jan. 10.... @ Summerland10:00

GIRLS WRESTLING

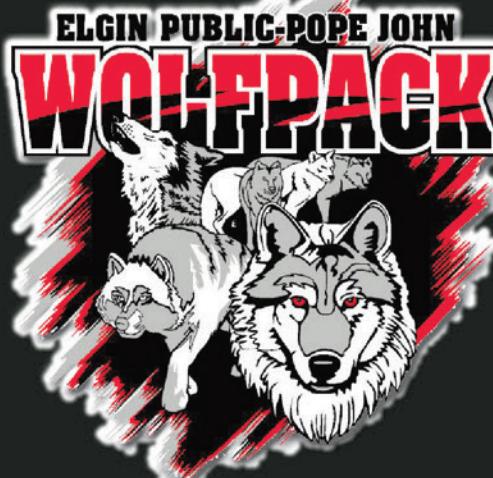
Jan. 8....@ Norm Manstedt Inv. (Columbus) 8:00
Jan. 12.... @ Summerland1:00
Jan. 15.... @ Ord1:00

BOYS & GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Dec. 29-30...Holiday Tourney @ Madison...11:00
See bracket in this issue
Jan. 2....@ North Central (Bassett)4:00
Jan. 8....@ St. Mary's (G)6:15
Jan. 10...vs Bloomfield (PJ)2:15

BOYS & GIRLS JH BASKETBALL

Jan. 5.... vs CWC (PJ)3:30
Jan. 8.... @ St. Mary's (G)4:00
Jan. 12.... @ Niobrara-Verdigre (B)4:00



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Jan. 3 ('26).....EPPJ Wolfpack Youth Wrestling Tournament
Jan. 6.... Classes resume - all Elgin schools - JH Quiz Bowl @ Stuart
Jan. 12-Feb. 6PJCC 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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