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From JoAnn's Kitchen

# Pumpkin Bars & Cream Cheese Frosting

Great way to use up some of that "extra" pumpkin filling you bought for pumpkin pies!

Greetings,  
Happy New Year!  
This week I am going to share one of my all time favorite pumpkin bar recipes. These are so moist and delicious. If you have



some pumpkin left that you didn't use when you made your pie for Christmas, here is a great way to use it. Just make sure the bars are very cool when you frost them. This is a great recipe to serve for any occasion, not just the holidays. Enjoy! Happy Baking!

Jo Ann



## PUMPKIN BARS AND FROSTING

- 4 eggs  
1 2/3 cup white sugar  
1 cup vegetable oil  
1 (15 oz can) pumpkin puree  
2 cups flour  
2 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda  
2 tsp ground cinnamon  
1 tsp salt

Preheat oven to 350°. In a medium bowl, combine eggs, sugar, oil, and pumpkin. Mix with a mixer until fluffy. Sift the flour, baking powder, salt, soda, and cinnamon. Stir into the pumpkin mixture until combined. Spread in a 10x15 jelly roll pan. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes. Cool before frosting.

### Frosting:

- 1 3 oz pkg. cream cheese softened  
1/4 cup softened butter  
1 tsp vanilla  
2 cups powdered sugar

Combine the cream cheese and butter. Mix in the vanilla. Add powdered sugar a little at a time, beating until smooth. Spread over the cooled bars. Delicious!

## Find your roses this year!

"God gave us memory so that we might have roses in December." - J.M. Barrie, creator of "Peter Pan"

I happened across that quote early in December, and it couldn't have been more fitting for me. Days later I would be traveling across the Pacific for the trip of a lifetime: two weeks in Hawaii!

The weather wasn't exactly wintry back home while I was away, but I knew that inevitably we could expect a winter blast.

Then I'd have Hawaiian memories to dream about: walks along beaches; viewing amazing sea life while snorkeling; watching the sunset over the Pacific; tracking whales and sea turtles; gazing at lush plants, palm trees and flowers; eating fresh pineapple, coconut and papaya.

Thanks to the generosity of my sister and brother-in-law, I'll have warm memories to treasure not only during the cold winter months but for the rest of my life.

Barrie's quote has multiple layers of meaning, though.

When I left for the trip, life at home was crazy - typical for a large family or perhaps any busy person.

My husband volunteered to bravely take on the adventure at home, while one of our daughters took his place on the trip to paradise. That kind of sacrifice is one of the many reasons I love him. Sigh. Sure enough, though, after my escape, I returned home to exactly the same craziness I had left. But the vacation had me renewed to take on those challenges again.

The same pattern seems to happen in our spiritual lives: consolations and desolations.

God allows challenges and crosses in our lives. Sometimes we bear those burdens day in and day out - and it can be exhausting. But truly He never gives us more than we can handle.

The Lord gives us timely consolations to help us and

renew us, which we can hang on to during the cold and dreary winter seasons of our spiritual lives. When we feel alone and drifting, we can remember when we felt His nearness, His tenderness, His love. We can be assured that God is always with

us, though we don't always feel His presence. That takes faith. It takes memories.

So if you find yourself struggling, look back. Remember when God felt near. Find your roses!

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**January 8 - March 15, 2024**

Categories: Men, Women & Team

Register by  
**Fri., January 5, 2024**

**Cost: \$30/person or \$100/team of four**

\*Or \$40/person and \$120/team after January 5th



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To register: call 402.887.6204

\*Price includes: t-shirt, weekly weigh-ins & use of wellness room



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## Community Calendar

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

**Wednesday, January 3**  
School resumes at EPS • Elgin City Council regular meeting @ City Hall.

**Thursday, January 4**  
School resumes at PJCC/St. Boniface.

**Monday, January 8**  
Red-E-4-Fun/Red Hatters, noon at the ECC, please RSVP • EVFD Meeting.

**Tuesday, January 9**  
Regular meeting of the Antelope County Board of Commissioners in Neligh.

**Wednesday, January 10**  
District #18 Board of Education meeting @ 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, January 11**  
PJCC National Honor Society induction.

**Saturday, January 13**  
Alice Stodola 80th Birthday Open House @ Norfolk VFW Club.\*

**Sunday, January 28**  
Annual 'Evening With Friends' gala @ the Elgin Knights of Columbus Hall.\*



Events listing courtesy of  
**ELGIN VETERANS' MEDICAL CLINIC**  
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## Blue Tie Affair

Committee for The Continuation of Pope John's Annual

**Evening With Friends**  
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Sunday evening,  
**January 28**



Delicious Meal,  
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## A New Year Means A New Scam

**We're Looking Out For You, 24/7**

Telemarketing calls, robocalls and spam calls, spam emails and fake social media messages are a daily occurrence. Getting constant, unwanted calls and messages is more than annoying — in 2022, Americans lost over \$29 BILLION to scam callers.

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Ticket sales begin at 7:00 pm  
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**Jan. 5, 6 & 7**  
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Next Weekend: Aquaman  
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# ALMANAC

## Elgin Community Center Menus

**Monday, January 8:** Chicken & rice casserole, broccoli, pears, milk.  
**Tuesday, January 9:** Lasagna soup, lettuce salad, cottage cheese, pineapple, milk.  
**Wednesday, January 10:** Boneless pork chops, scalloped potatoes, cheesy broccoli/cauliflower mix, applesauce, milk.  
**Thursday, January 11:** Cream chicken over biscuits, mixed vegetables, blushing pears, milk.  
**Friday, January 12:** Hamburger on bun, French fries, baked beans, strawberry/peaches mix, milk.

(All meals served with bread & butter. Menus are provided by the Community Center. and are subject to change)  
**Suggested price is \$6** per meal for persons 60 years of age and older.

**Under 60 is \$8.50.** Serving starts at 11:45 a.m. and ends around 12:15 p.m.

Meals are served Monday thru Friday. Takeout starting at 11:30 a.m. Please call 843-5757 by 9:30 a.m. to reserve a meal for that day.

For a great meal, come to the community center!

## Bartlett News

The Bartlett Lions Club met at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 14 with six members present.

The Lions Club sponsored a Christmas movie, *‘The Naughty Nine’* for the Wheeler County community on Sunday afternoon, December 10 in the Wheeler Central New Gym.

Popcorn and hot chocolate were served by Bridget Schmidt and Kay Reineke.

The Lions Club Christmas party will be held January 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the New Fire Hall in Bartlett.

Those attending are asked to bring a side dish. The meat will be provided. Also, \$15 is the suggested gift price for those wishing to participate in the gift exchange.

I had the privilege of attending the Sunday morning worship service, December 31 at the Burwell Baptist Church. Jessica Redman played *‘Jingle Bells* and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas’* at the beginning of the service. She played beautifully before a church that was a ‘Full House.’ The service was also broadcast live on ‘Face Book.’ I am very proud of her

performance and courage.

The rest of the service featured the ‘Seidel Family Ministry.’ This included Thomas Seidel and his wife Joy and their 12 children with another due in May. Thomas is the son of John and Cindy Seidel of Ainsworth, Nebraska. John, a very gifted pianist teaches piano in Aurora, Illinois.

The program was based on the Christ centered Christmas. Musical Christmas selections were performed throughout the church service by Thomas, Joy and their children.

Much of the music was performed by strings, many of which were violins.

The service also included piano solos and duets, string ensembles, vocal ensembles and the Christmas Nativity Pageant with all the children participating. Thomas gave the message of salvation.

This was the Seidel’s 18th service with their ministry beginning this past year.

I pray that you are ready for new beginnings for the new year. The old has gone, the new is come.

By Sherry Tetschner

## Letter to the Editor

### Utilizing the best programs for Nebraska’s children

Dear Editor,

Ensuring the safety and well-being of Nebraska’s kids is our state’s top priority. Providing access to programs that best guarantee the delivery of nutritional foods is vital.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, person-to-person interaction was severely restricted. As a result, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) created the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) program. At the time of this emergency, P-EBT was an important program to deliver services for Nebraskans most in need. In 2021, Governor Ricketts declared an end to the pandemic. President Biden declared it over in May of this year. Recently, the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program (S-EBT) was created to essentially continue the pandemic era P-EBT.

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is committed to fighting food insecurity and improving the economic self-sufficiency of Nebraskans. Nebraska has a robust infrastructure of established and time-proven programs already in place

connecting Nebraskans to the resources and support they need.

Another option is the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC). It provides supplemental food, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides food benefits to low-income families so they can afford the nutritious food essential to health and well-being. There is also the SNAP E&T program which partners with Ignite Nebraska.

Knowledgeable, dedicated, and compassionate public servants are ready to assess families’ situations, determine eligibility for economic assistance programs and refer families to community resources.

Shannon Grotirian, Director of the Office of Economic Assistance, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services

## New regulation for improved screening process at BCHC

If you are a patient at Boone County Health Center, you can expect our staff to ask a few more personal questions. The purpose of this is to gain a more comprehensive understanding of our patient’s overall well-being and identify potential concerns that may influence health outcomes.

This new and complex screening process is required of all healthcare entities beginning January 1, 2024, by the federal government.

Social determinants of health are nonmedical factors that influence health outcomes. Research from the Nebraska Hospital Association shows that quality of care and access to care determines 20% of an individual’s overall health. At the same time, the remaining 80%

is determined by social needs, including socioeconomic factors (education, job status, income, family support, community safety), physical environment (housing, food, quality air and water, utilities, transportation) and health behaviors (tobacco use, diet and exercise, alcohol use, sexual activity).

Understanding social determinants allows healthcare providers to take an in-depth look at patient care, considering the medical conditions and the broader context of how patients live.

Social determinants can be strong predictors of health risks.

For example, not having enough healthy food or lacking access to safe housing may contribute to higher risks of

chronic diseases. Understanding a patient’s living conditions can impact the likelihood of following a specific medication regimen.

Identifying social determinants that may impact health also allows healthcare providers to connect patients with appropriate support services and community resources.

This may include mental health support, housing assistance, or nutritional programs.

Incorporating social determinants into healthcare discussions fosters better communication and engagement between providers and patients. It helps build trust and a more collaborative relationship.

However, the decision to provide this information is ultimately up to the patient.

At BCHC, respecting patients’ autonomy is essential.

“Treating a symptom in healthcare has always been an approach every healthcare delivery system wants to avoid, as it doesn’t get to the real issue at hand. Though this regulation adds to the ever-changing healthcare landscape, we believe it will lead to productive dialogue amongst patients and healthcare staff to address current and future issues affecting long-term health. At BCHC, our goal is to ensure patients feel comfortable and respected, while our knowledgeable healthcare team takes a holistic approach to patient care, and these changes supplement that process,” said Caleb Poore, Chief Executive Officer of Boone County Health Center.

## Spilling Bill’s beans: Gates bought \$113 million in Nebraska farmland

By Destiny Herbers  
*Flatwater Free Press*

A glance at federal records shows the series of Nebraska farms listed as foreign owned, though there’s no country attached and no hint that these farms with unassuming names might be related.

Willowdale Farms, Merrick County Farms, Dove Haven Ranch, Champion Valley Farm, Schroder Family Farms and many more are concentrated in northeast Nebraska but spread to the southeast corner and west nearly to Wyoming.

In Nebraska’s business records, they have one similarity: Each farm’s office address leads to a single-story brick building in the St. Louis suburbs, an office park housing a dentist, lawyers and, until recently, a farmland investment startup called AgCoA.

For years, AgCoA was owned by the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board, a government-owned group managing the retirement funds of 21 million Canadians.

But in 2017, the Canadian board decided to offload a half-billion dollar chunk of its American farmland portfolio – including all 22,830 acres of its Nebraska land.

The buyer of those unassuming-sounding Nebraska farms wasn’t publicly listed. Until now, the financial details of the transaction and the gargantuan loan he’s taken out against it have remained publicly unknown.

The buyer’s name: Bill Gates. The billionaire who co-founded Microsoft has, in the past six years, spent more than \$113 million buying Nebraska farmland.

The *Flatwater Free Press* analyzed five years of land sales data, between 2018 and 2022, originally gathered by a University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Journalism and Mass Communications data journalism class.

If that data would have included the year 2017 – when Mt. Edna Farms, the Gates-owned company that made that massive purchase from the Canadian pension board – then Gates would have been the top buyer of Nebraska ag land by money spent.

Since 2017, he has spent more than double the second-place buyer.

Gates’ farmland is held by more than 20 shell companies spread across the country. Some lead back to a P.O. Box in Kirkland, Washington, the city where Cascade Asset Management, which manages all Gates’ investments, is headquartered.

Others are linked to Lenexa, Kansas, and Monterey, Louisiana, population 371, where reporters have previously traced Gates’ operations.

These limited liability com-

panies, buried under layers of business names, overlapping employees and addresses in at least three states, form a network more tangled and opaque than the one created by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which is buying a giant amount of Nebraska ranch land.

Because it’s hidden, Nebraskans living and farming in communities where Gates is among the largest landowners are often unaware that one of the world’s richest men owns the cornfield down the road.

Gates now owns around 20,000 acres of farmland across 19 counties in Nebraska after selling some land in recent years. He owns the largest chunk of land, about 8,500 acres, in Holt County.

“I think if you ask on the street, who owns Mt. Edna Farms, nobody’d even know what it was,” said Bill Tielke, chair of the Holt county board. “So it’s not like people realize that he does own that much land in Holt County.”

Mt. Edna has a farm manager in Holt County, Tielke said, and local people work for the farm and rent the ground. Tielke has worked as a crop adjuster for local farmers who rented Mt. Edna’s land, and said that if they hadn’t told Tielke that Gates bought the land, he wouldn’t have known.

“I don’t remember it throwing up any bells or whistles or anybody even saying anything about it,” Tielke said.

The Nebraska Farm Bureau, through spokesperson Cassie Hoebelheinrich, declined to comment on Gates’ farmland ownership.

“This is an issue we really don’t follow and isn’t a priority for us,” Hoebelheinrich said in an email.

Gates’ land ownership has been the source of much rumor, and some concern, in Nebraska, partly because of his connections to the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which runs programs addressing issues of global public health, sustainability and climate change.

If Gates’ land was given to a nonprofit – potentially making it exempt from property taxes – it would “decimate” the counties involved, State Sen. Tom Brewer, a Republican whose district covers 11 rural counties in central and northern Nebraska, said in an email.

“It would force action from the Legislature to protect the counties,” Brewer wrote.

But the farmland is one of Bill Gates’ financial investments, said the company who manages those investments, not part of the Gates Foundation’s portfolio.

“The investments that Cascade makes in Nebraska farmland are not connected with the agricultural or climate initia-

tives of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation,” a Cascade spokesperson said in an email.

Cascade Asset Management declined to answer further questions about its Nebraska farmland purchases and the structure of the affiliated LLCs.

Gates himself recently publicly reinforced the idea that his farmland purchases are investments.

“The decision to buy this land was made by people who help manage my money so that we get a good return, so that the Foundation can buy more vaccines,” Gates said on a November episode of Trevor Noah’s podcast. “And they saw that if we could invest in land and (improve) the productivity of that land, that it would have a good return.”

Gates doesn’t simply receive rent checks from his Nebraska farmland. He’s also using it to borrow staggering sums of money.

Three days before Christmas 2021, Mr. Edna Farms filed paperwork with Dawson County, clearing the path to use a part of Gates’ land as collateral.

Gates’ LLC then took out two loans against his Nebraska farmland. The total of those loans: \$700 million.

The obvious question: Why is Gates, who Forbes deemed the world’s richest man 18 different times between 1995 and 2017, using Nebraska farmland to take out a \$700 million loan?

Using IRS data, the news outlet ProPublica estimated Gates’ total average annual income between 2013 and 2018 was \$2.85 billion, with an average federal income tax rate of 18.4%. That income primarily came from sales of Microsoft stock, which is taxable.

But extremely high net-worth individuals like Gates often use a strategy of borrowing against their assets – like land – if they want spendable money. Selling those same assets would generate taxable income, said Adam Thimmesch, a University of Nebraska College of Law professor specializing in business and tax law.

“If you can hold those assets until you die, all of that taxable gain goes away, so the ideal tax planning technique, if you’re wealthy enough to be able to do it, is to invest in those appreciating assets,” Thimmesch said.

If certain conditions are met, tax law then allows someone to inherit the land and avoid paying taxes on the long-term appreciated value if they sell it, Thimmesch said.

In the meantime, ultra-rich Americans can borrow against their assets to fund their lifestyles or make other investments. Banks are happy to lend money for something like farmland, the law professor said, because there’s security in the value.

“Then on your death, your heirs can sell the property if they need to, to pay back the debt, and there’s just no tax liability anymore,” Thimmesch said. “So you can eliminate that entire layer of tax, while still kind of enjoying the benefits of being wealthy while you’re alive.”

In order to use this so-called “buy-borrow-die” method, Gates would need to place his Nebraska farmland in his own name before he dies, or be the sole owner of Mt. Edna Farms LLC.

The corporate structure and official ownership of Gates’ various shell companies has never been publicly explained. It’s impossible to know now if his land would be eligible for the

tax provision, Thimmesch said.

Cascade Investment declined to answer questions about the loan, and the management of Gates’ investments beyond confirming that they are not connected to the activities of the Gates Foundation.

Gates’ land ownership in Nebraska includes the valuable water beneath that land.

He has access through 191 existing wells, which add to the value of the land for farmers and investors alike by providing crop irrigation.

Gaining access to groundwater is often a priority for potential farmland buyers. If you own land in Nebraska, you have the possibility of accessing the underlying groundwater, but natural resource districts regulate how water is used.

“I’m sure that the NRD is well aware (of Gates), and that every one of those wells is no doubt permitted, and has associated certified acres and probably does some annual reporting to the NRD as well,” said Don Blankenau, a lawyer who provides water-related legal counsel to Nebraska NRDs.

Gates’ existing wells were transferred to Mt. Edna with the lump sum purchase of land in 2017, public records from the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources show.

“We don’t treat Bill Gates any different than Dean Edson or anybody else. They can have that land, but they don’t own the water,” said Dean Edson, director of the Nebraska Association of Resource Districts. “If they want to use the water, Bill Gates is gonna have to come get a permit.”

If you buy land in Nebraska without a well, there’s no guarantee your local NRD will grant a permit to dig one. But if the land already has a well, the NRD has likely already certified its use. The landowner, be it Bill Gates or Bill Jones, can continue to use that water so long as the use follows existing rules, Blankenau said.

“I’ve heard over the decades I’ve done this, people are always concerned that somebody’s gonna go out and buy a big tract of land in the Sandhills, and then transport that water away,” Blankenau said.

That’s nearly impossible, he said, because Nebraska has tight limitations on the transportation of groundwater, especially outside of state borders or as a commodity. An investor like Gates moving large quantities of groundwater via pipeline or trucking operation would attract the attention of neighbors and the local NRD.

“If you extract groundwater out of the ground, carbonate it and add sugar to it, you’ve got soda pop, and you can move that all over the place. Same thing with beer, one of my law partners started brewing, and I always tease him that he’s exporting groundwater in the form of beer,” Blankenau said.

In Holt County, Gates’ operation has gone mostly unnoticed by neighbors and county officials. And the actual farming of that land has barely changed.

But Gates’ land buys still matter, Tielke, chair of the Holt County Board, thinks, because the purchases of any large outside investor limit the opportunities of small farmers to break into the industry.

“I think it’s going to cause a lot of problems for future generations to get young people started,” Tielke said. “It’s getting pretty hard to compete with these guys that are coming here buying this land now.”

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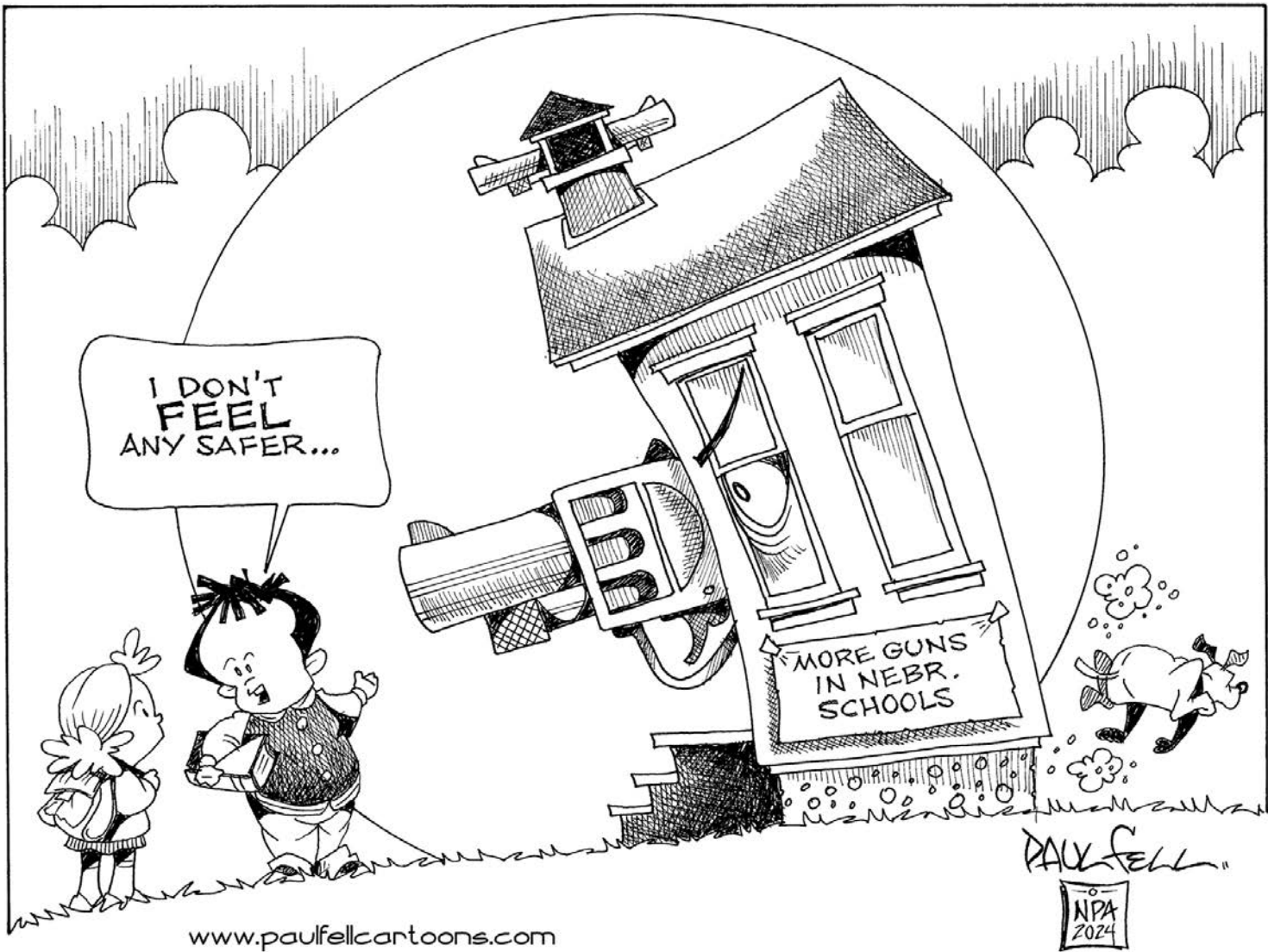
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Edward R. Murrow



More guns in schools, pool for legislative clerks and more ahead

They're back. The 108th Legislature, Second Session, convenes today. One can expect proposed bills and discussion of some hot button issues as well as what could be a protracted debate on rules. It's likely that state Sen. Tom Brewer of Gordon will have something to say about guns in schools. The Education or Revenue committees will likely address school financing and the Executive Council will seek discussion about putting legislative committee clerks in a pool to provide uniform training while avoiding partisanship. The council will also offer something to deal with legislative oversight of corrections and social services. Who should be allowed to carry a gun on school property, beyond on-duty law enforcement officers?

Eight committee clerks failed to turn in completed reports detailing the efforts of senators on those working groups to the clerk's office by the Oct. 1 deadline this year, while three end-of-session reports from the 2023 session are still missing. One committee clerk forgot to turn on the recording equipment during an interim hearing at the Capitol, meaning no record was created for a portion of the proceedings, while in other situations, recording equipment has been left on to capture senators' private conversations. They have suggested creation of a new Legislative Committee Support Office to provide clerks with uniform training and supervision from legislative staff rather than from state senators who chair committees and hire the clerks as part of their staff. Metzler said the centralized office would allow the Legislature to operate with fewer committee clerks than it does currently because clerks could be assigned to multiple committees.

Several senators, mostly those who now serve as committee chairs, bristled at the idea of moving the clerk outside of their office, which they said would cut down lines of communication and potentially slow the Legislature's work. Several said clerks work best when they work closely with senators. Omaha Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh, who is not a committee chair, said she believed having a clerk that was part of the professional staff and not a political ally or former campaign member would benefit the institution as a whole. "Your committee clerk should not be helping you get your bill out; their job is to run the meeting and keep a record," Cavanaugh said. "This shouldn't be a political position, and they shouldn't be in control over who is running the record of the Legislature." Stay tuned. Trust me, this'll be an interesting session.

J.L. Schmidt has been covering Nebraska government and politics since 1979. He has been a registered Independent for more than 20 years.

Debate over rules, LB575 could stalemate legislature again

With the end of the darkest days of the year, we, in the Legislature, are making final preparations for the session in January. Senator Kauth's LB575, the Sports and Spaces Act, remains poised to be the topic of contention during the next session. This bill would require sports participation and access to bathrooms in schools to align with one's biological gender. With the attention Nebraska received this year from an historic filibuster, state senators were presented with an opportunity to hear from Riley Gaines (a former competitive swimmer for the University of Kentucky who competed against Lia Thomas, a biological male who now identifies as a woman) in La Vista, Nebraska. Several of my colleagues and I heard Gaines' personal experience competing against Thomas and the competitive advantages biological males have competing in biological female sports. I remain concerned with allowing biological males to compete in women's athletics. I also view the notion of people of the opposite sex going into the same bathroom as inappropriate. Mrs. Gaines explained the discomfort that came with sharing her locker room space with Thomas and wishes that no other women and girls have to be subjected to such circumstances. Passing LB575 would ensure that sports remain fair for all student-athletes given their intrinsic differences and that locker rooms would remain spaces separated by said intrinsic differences. Both the debate over the rules and LB575 could stalemate the Legislature again this next session, but the rules need updating to avoid some of the political games with the filibuster. Despite these potential roadblocks, my office and I have been working to introduce new legislation for next year with the hope that, if not this upcoming session, we will be able to address these issues in the future.

braska man successfully enrolled at a high school and was later charged with one count of sex trafficking of a minor. Resultingly, I am considering a proposal which would require the State Board of Education to work with the Attorney General and the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force to develop and provide a list of approved training materials relating to human trafficking in a school environment. Schools would have the option to provide the training developed by the Board to teachers and all school personnel who interact with students. Other states, such as Florida, Tennessee, and Utah, have enacted similar legislation in recent years. Another proposal I am considering would help combat sex trafficking by imposing a five-dollar fee on live adult entertainment establishments for each entry by each customer admitted. The proceeds of the fee and penalties would go to both (a) the Sexual Assault Payment Program Cash Fund, which facilitates programs that reduce or prevent the crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, child abuse, child sexual assault, human trafficking, labor trafficking, or sex trafficking, and (b) the Human Trafficking Victim Assistance Fund, which provides support care, treatment, and other services for victims of human trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of a child. I am also considering enhancing Nebraska's domestic violence, sexual assault, and harassment protection order statutes. This proposal would extend the initial time period of a protection order, which is currently one year unless dismissed or modified by a court, as well as revise the types of protection orders which can be renewed. There is also a need to clean up and standardize this subset of law to ease its use for judges, lawyers, and victims. Unfortunately, I do not have the space to discuss all the proposals I am working on. Final plans for my proposals, including bill introduction next year, remain subject to change. Once my legislation has been introduced, I plan to give more specifics about them as they are heard and considered in the upcoming session. You can contact me at any time; I always appreciate hearing from you. Call my Capitol office telephone number at (402) 471-2801 or send email to bdekay@leg.ne.gov. My mailing address is: Senator Barry DeKay, District #40, P.O. Box 94604, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE 68509.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



District 40 Senator Barry DeKay

CAPITOL VIEW  
Nebraska Press Association

Statehouse Correspondent  
J.L. Schmidt

Brewer, a military veteran and gun rights advocate who has been shot at and missed more often than the ducks I hunted as a youth, held forth in an interim study on the question with invited testimony from rural and private school officials, firearms experts and security contractors. No teachers or teachers unions or leaders or school board members from public schools in Nebraska's largest cities made that list. While he said he hasn't decided on wording for his next gun bill after successfully passing last year a bill eliminating training requirements for carrying concealed handguns, there were some likely targets identified during the hearing, according to the Nebraska Examiner. Among them: allowing certified law enforcement officers to carry service weapons on school property and at school events when off-duty; giving elected local school boards the authority to allow armed teachers and staff at schools; requiring updated digital mapping of school buildings compatible with mapping software and equipment used by local and state law enforcement. "We don't have enough money to put school resource officers in ev-

Transforming families and communities with estate planning

One of the most powerful ways to impact your family's future after you're gone is through estate planning, particularly through passing on your assets to the next generation and beyond. Be they cash, retirement assets, stocks, land, or other tangible property, your gifts can create bountiful opportunities for the ones you love as they build their own legacies and those of future generations. But what if you could impact not just your family but your neighborhood? Or your local school? Or your entire community? For those with such aspirations, the scope of an estate gift can go well beyond family. In addition to ensuring loved ones and children receive the security they need, many Nebraskans are choosing to also include the causes dear to their heart when making their legacy plans. For some people, this means giving to a charitable organization tackling issues important to them. For many of us across the state, it means leaving something for the communities we cherish and the places and people that have done so

much for us and our families. Nebraska Community Foundation Board Member Kent Warneke and his wife, Susan, opted to put 60% of their estate into a charitable remainder trust upon their passing. The arrangement affords the Norfolk couple's two children—Sarah and Alex—the opportunity to receive income from the principal for 15 years, giving Kent and Susan the peace of mind that their family is taken care of. To paraphrase Kent, when it comes to family versus charity, it's not a choice. Chuck Hibberd, another NCF board member, recently updated estate plans to benefit the causes important to his heart. He and his wife, Janel, discovered the plans they had did not align with their values, so they began a deliberative process to make sure they did. The rural Lincoln couple decided to leave 20% of their estate to charity, set up as the Hibberd Charitable Fund, which will be managed by NCF. Fifty percent of the gift will help continue NCF's mission, while the other half will support early childhood education and

the Nebraska 4-H Foundation's youth development efforts. They frequently communicated their thoughts with their children during the process, ensuring their family was taken care of before allotting the rest of their estate to those causes they care about. Charitable gift planning allows people to provide for the future of their family and their community. Nebraska Community Foundation's Five to Thrive campaign encourages Nebraskans to leave just 5% of their estate to local organizations benefiting their community, like NCF's community-based affiliated funds which are building endowments to meet community needs long into the future. The 2021 Transfer of Wealth Study documented more than \$100 billion in Nebraska wealth passing from one generation to another over the next 10 years. Over 50 years, the figure swells to \$950 billion. If generous Nebraskans gave just 5% to local charitable causes, it would amount to more than \$5 billion in the next decade—and \$47.5 billion over the next half-century.

As we embark on a new year and nail down those resolutions for 2024, January marks an ideal time to reevaluate plans for the future. And if you're one of the 66% of American adults without a will, this is a great moment to begin evaluating how you want to structure your estate so your family and community both benefit from your success. Estate planning can be intimidating for many reasons but making those preparations now can provide peace of mind that your family and community will be taken care of in the future. Creating a gift in a will is also one of the easiest ways to make a charitable gift. Many Nebraskans have told us they were surprised with just how simple and convenient it was for them to make their planned gift. The website www.NebraskaHometown.org has an abundance of resources on tax-wise charitable gift planning, including gift planning calculators, stories of donor impact and a free downloadable wills guide. From The Nebraska Community Foundation

Numbers to Know

President Joe Biden, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20510; phone (202) 456-1111.  
U.S. Senate Website: www.senate.gov  
Senator Deb Fischer: 825 B Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington D.C. 20510. Phone: (202) 224-6551. Fax: (202) 228-1325.  
Senator Pete Ricketts: 386A Senate Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. Phone (202) 224-4224.  
U.S. House Website: www.house.gov  
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ington, 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  
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# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Not everyone has the gift of time this year

No WIFI. Pretend it's 1995. Talk to each other.

Most every establishment (food and beverage) we frequented during a recent trip to British Columbia, Canada had this sign hanging prominently. Look around and you didn't see many cell phones unless someone wanted to show off a photo of a mountain view or skiing move.

Maybe that's a good 2024 New Year's resolution. Take a phone break. Hard to do though with these mobile phones attached to us every waking moment. They're much more than devices to phone a friend or stand by for a friend when you said you'd be only a phone call away.

Geez, my phone gets used to tell time (don't wear a watch anymore), keep my calendar, search the web, find the location of hubby Rick and son Philip, keep up on social media posts, listen to music, light my way, do math problems, maintain my contact list, take notes, read email and text messages, and, yes, make a phone call or engage in a video chat on occasion. There are probably many more functions out there still to be discovered.

Then there is an app for everything, it seems. There are more than seven million apps on IOS and Android platforms with more created by the hour. Identify a bird by its song. Tap out a melody on a keyboard. Synchronize your phones flashlight with the head-banging opening music at Husker volleyball games.

And there's more, such as the mapping function using the Global Positioning System (GPS). We carry a paper map or two in the truck just in case, though seldom use them. Google Maps shows the way, calls out directions, and points out the best place to get some lunch, fill up the fuel tank, and take a rest break. Since hands-free driving and eyes on the road are a must for safety, newer vehicles have a screen to clearly display the mapping function and the directions blast through the speaker system.

When traveling internationally, the mobile phone is nearly as important as a passport. Keep important documents on it, such as visas, covid booster and other medical records, and, of course, airplane boarding passes. My latest travel trick is using a lanyard, so my phone is not loose in my pocket or bag.

Growing up in southeast Nebraska, the phone hung on the wall. Our ring was two longs and a short. It was a party line so Mrs. Busybody at the next farm over could listen in easily. Sometimes, when talking with a boyfriend, it was necessary for me to say - "Whoever that is listening in, if this isn't an emergency, would you please give us a minute?" Sometimes, especially when it was a certain eavesdropper, I wasn't that nice.

When our son Philip hiked the Pacific Crest Trail (2,600 miles) alone, we got him a satellite phone in case of emergency. Cell phones require cell towers to transmit radio waves using

electrical signals. In some remote localities, there was no cell connection, and, with a clear view of the sky, Philip could send messages or make short phone calls connecting to satellites high above the earth.

Soon the wall phone transitioned to the dial desk-top or wall mount style; then the push-button pad, and now even voice-activated. When our son Ryan played trumpet in the American Youth Philharmonic, we got him a cell phone, since he was traveling for rehearsals alone at night on scary northern Virginia expressways. It was a big phone contraption in a bag. Now the cell phone comes pocket-sized, and the choice of color and glitz is all the rage - any hue, sparkles or plain.

About phone colors, when someone is talking on the big white telephone, it means they're vomiting profusely into the toilet.

The red phone refers to immediate, effective communication. This term got started in 1963 when the United States and Russia started a system of direct communication between leaders. There was no telephone line and no red phone. It was a teletype system, then fax machine in 1986, and now a secure computer link.

Phone calls in public places such as airports and women's restrooms, some even using the phone's speaker so all around can hear the complete conversation, really don't sit well with me. Never quite understood how someone could ditch a boyfriend

while sitting on the throne. One fascinating instance though was discovered while touring British Prime Minister Winston Churchill's WWII bunker in northwest London. A tiny room disguised as a private toilet was equipped with the trans-Atlantic phone to call U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

A new portmanteau (a word combining two other words and meanings) these days is phubbing, combining the words phone and snub. It's the practice of looking at your phone, or taking calls or texts you could handle later, when you're with someone.

All too common these days, even to the point of researchers commenting that young people are slowly losing the basic skills of face-to-face socialization.

It's a new year, a great time to be truly with the people we love while you can talk with them in person without distraction. Thanks for reading and all good wishes for 2024!

\*\*\*\*\*

Comments welcome at [jane.schuchardt@gmail.com](mailto:jane.schuchardt@gmail.com).



Elgin Columnist  
Jane Schuchardt

## Looking Back

Sixty Years Ago

January 2, 1964

Miss Barbara Schindler became the bride of William Dinslage, Jr. on Saturday, December 28, 1963. The double ring ceremony was performed in St. Boniface church at 11 a.m. Father Frederick Schindler, uncle of the bride, officiated at the ceremony.

After ten years as custodian at the Antelope County Courthouse, Oscar Thorin plans to retire the first of this year. His plans after retirement are indefinite.

Wally Cook, pilot for the Kluthe Flying Service, reported this week that he was flying three men to Miami to see the Orange Bowl game in Joe Kluthe's new twin engine Piper. Several other persons are rumored to have left Elgin to see the Nebraska-Auburn football game, but since none have been confirmed we are hesitant to list names.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Stuhr, Jr. of Petersburg are the parents of a daughter, Sheila Ann, born Christmas Day, 1963.

Mr. and Mrs. Elvon Kinney and children came from Boone, Iowa Christmas Eve and were guests of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jason Squire and Mrs. Martha Kinney over Christmas.

Fifty Years Ago

January 3, 1974

New officers for the Elgin Chamber of Commerce were elected at a special meeting of the board of directors at the fire station. The new board members were Ray Dinslage and "Bud" Anderson.

Congressman Dave Martin, who was a 13-year veteran in the House of Representative from Nebraska's Third Congressional District, announced his retirement.

The Raeville District 45 school children held their Christmas program.

This event was held in the parish hall with a good attendance. Santa arrived with treats for the children.

Mr. and Mrs. George Pelster of Columbus are the parents of a son born Dec. 22, 1973.

A joint Christmas party was recently held by the FFA and FHA. The FHA sponsored the food and decorations while the FFA sponsored entertainment.

Thirty Years Ago

January 5, 1994

Elgin City Council approved a renewal of its annual recycling agreement with the City of Neligh during a brief regular meeting. The semi trailers, supplied by the City of Neligh, are used to store and transport recyclables.

The Sheriff's office investigated a report of vandalism damage at the former Eggleston farm east of Elgin. The front door of the house had apparently been kicked in, and a window was broken. Total damage was estimated at \$65.

Kylie Evans of Oakdale and Jeff Hoaston of Norfolk were united in marriage at St. Francis Catholic Church in Neligh, Saturday, Dec. 18.

All Elgin area boys and girls from ages 10 to 14 were invited to participate in the local 1994 Knights of Columbus International Free Throw Championship. It was held on Jan. 9 in the St. Boniface Gym.

Twenty Years Ago

January 1, 2004

Lisa Welding has been named the new coordinator at the Elgin Senior Citizens & Community Center. Mrs. Welding took her position on Jan. 5, replacing Teresa Moore, who has served as the coordinator for the past 13 1/2 years.

Christal Parks of Neligh, a junior at Pope John High School, has been named a United States National Award winner in mathematics.

Miss Parks was nominated for the award by her mathematics teacher, Sister Patricia Hoffman, and her name will appear in the Achievement Academy's official national yearbook.

Elgin FFA Chapter presented Chapter Awards and Greenhand Awards during its Winter Ceremonies. Advisor Phil Simpson presented Chapter Awards to Ross Becklun, Melissa Hemenway, Zack Schmidt and Clayton Hesley.

Greenhand Awards were presented to Paige Redding, Travis Sprout, Ben Beckman, Jake Bode, Wes Prater, Brandon Anderson, Brandon Grosserode, and Danny Henn.

A total of 45 youngsters from ages nine to fourteen competed in the annual Elgin Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest in the St. Boniface Gym.

Olin J. Peterson of O'Neill was arrested for the burglary of the Bomgaar's store west of Neligh at about 11:05 p.m. on Jan. 1.

By Olivia Klein



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WOLFPACK

# Wolfpack Sports

## Holiday tournament champions



MADISON — Elgin Public-Pope John girls reached the 10-win mark on the young season Friday, defeating Madison to win the Madison Holiday Tournament.

Playing the championship game Friday afternoon, the Wolfpack defeated the host school 63 to 24. It capped a tournament where the Wolfpack posted outcomes which resembled football blowouts. Against the Dragons, at no time did the Wolfpack allow their opponent to think they had a chance to win the game.

Even though the Dragons

E-R photos/DMorgan

It was all about energy as the Wolfpack dominated in victories over Riverside and Madison. (Left) Ashlynnne Charf averaged 14 points per game. (Below) Brenna Martinsen (shown here battling for position) was a leader in assists and steals.



## Spinning Tales

Imagine no holiday tournaments? There would be good and bad.

MADISON — Another year of holiday basketball tournament came to an end Friday afternoon.

For the Wolfpack, the boys placed third by defeating Lyons-Decatur in the consolation finals of the Madison Holiday Tournament. Then, just over an hour later the unbeaten Wolfpack girls again claimed the first place trophy.

We've been spending time in Madison watching basketball for a number of holiday tournaments now. Now, with the camera firmly stowed away, I'm left wondering why we seemingly play the same teams year after year.

### SPINNING TALES



Publisher  
**Dennis Morgan**

Each time the two teams meet in Madison, it seems the games go down to the wire. While this year's game might not have been the case (the Chargers won by 14 points in the opening round), games have been much closer in past years.

During my time at Grant, they would always bring in a team from central or eastern Nebraska willing to travel out west for the tournament. People would open up their homes to house the teams. It was a great way for schools and their players/fans to get to know each other. I don't know if they still do that or even if they have a holiday tournament, but it was

great while it lasted.

One more thing, those were some great tournament games. Paxton had good teams, Wallace had a run of good years at the tournament. For that part of the state, the tournament served as a means to determine bragging rights. Those games meant something to the players.

That's not always the case. From scanning the sports pages seeing holiday tournament pairings, there are probably some games where no rivalry exists. You don't always play your best when the games don't mean anything.

Schools who play in these tournaments are signed up months in advance. It's just the way it has to be. Imagine the chaos if tournament teams weren't decided until a week or two before the tournament. Nearly every school either hosts a tournament or plays in one nearby.

I don't have the time to search this out, but I wonder if there are any Nebraska high schools which do NOT play in a tournament over the holidays?

Imagine the student athletes getting out a few days before Christmas then having 2-2 1/2 weeks before going back to school? Imagine having the time to take a real vacation and not worry about missing a game or two? Dream on, it will never happen. On the other side, imagine how bad those teams would be if they hadn't practiced during the break and had to play a game that matters just 2-3 days after returning to school in January? It won't happen either, no coach committed to winning would ever allow such a scenario to play out. Still, someone should try it so there's some record of just how bad an idea like that would be.

Madison is a good location for the Wolfpack teams to play in. It's just about an hour from Elgin. The route there is on good highways, even if the weather isn't the greatest. In the past (before Covid), we would try to get to Burrito King downtown for their burritos. They were the best.

Sadly, the Madison restaurant is closed, but you can still get those great burritos at their location in Columbus just across the street from Pizza Ranch.

Inside the gym, the concession stand has the usual foods, but it doesn't have any one standout item on the menu. It has nothing that compares to Emily Borer's chicken wraps served at St. Boniface Auditorium, it doesn't have ice cream like they serve at Plainview or the coarse hot dogs served at Creighton. Then again, if I had to sit through four games on Friday at Madison, I would be grateful for the pizza they serve at Madison.

So now, holidays behind us, we enter the second phase of the basketball season. Coaches now know what they have for a team, December is like pre-season. January is time to build on what you have. February separates the haves from the have nots. Then comes March - three games to crown a state champion.

The Wolfpack girls are like a runaway train. Who can beat them? After St. Mary's Thursday night, they may not be challenged until February when they square off against Summerland here in Elgin. They could meet at the NVC Tournament prior to that game.

As for the Wolfpack boys, they can be as good as they want to be.

were playing on their home court. EPPJ controlled the action. The Wolfpack jumped out to a 22-point lead before Madison broke into the scoring column. Keyera Eisenhauer had nine points in the run.

As has been the case in many of the Wolfpack's games this season, Coach Randy Eisenhauer substituted freely to keep fresh players on the floor to play aggressive defense.

For the remainder of the game, EPPJ would outscore the Dragons 38 to 21 to claim the victory. Providing points off the bench was junior Sara Bode who connected on two treys and finished with a team-high 12 points.

"I thought we did a really good job today with energy and effort," Coach Randy Eisenhauer said after the game. "We had a lot of good things happen with our press ... Our defense feeds into our offense." He went on to say the tournament provided him an opportunity for all the players on the team to see plenty of action. "That helps a ton," he said about everybody getting in the game. "Developing these kids for later when they are juniors and seniors, you know this playing time right now is good to help."

Aside from Bode, Eisenhauer finished with 12 points and Ashlynnne Charf added 11.

The defensive statistics, as expected, were lopsided in the Wolfpack's favor. EPPJ had 27 steals compared to just five for Madison. Also, EPPJ had 15 turnovers compared to Madison's 34.

Next up for the undefeated Wolfpack is a matchup Thursday night at O'Neill St. Mary's.

**EPPJ 63, Madison 24**

Wolfpack.....25 13 13 12 — 63  
Dragons.....3 4 8 9 — 24

Wolfpack — Kayton Zwingman 1-4 0-0 2, Elise Ruterbories 0-2 1-2 1, Elizabeth Moser 1-2 0-0 2, Ashlynnne Charf 4-12 3-5 11, Braelyn Martinsen 2-3 1-2 5, Callie Heithoff 0-4 0-0 0, Brenna Martinsen 5-8 1-1 11, Kate Furstenau 2-3 0-4 4, Keyera Eisenhauer 4-6 2-2 12, Kierstyn Eisenhauer 0-1 0-0 0, Mady Kurpgeweit 1-5 0-0 3, Sara Bode 4-8 2-2 12. Team totals: 24-58 10-18 63. Three-point shots — Wolfpack 5-16 (Sara Bode 2, Keyera Eisenhauer 2, Brenna Martinsen 1), Madison 2-20. Madison team totals: 8-38 6-9 24.

Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 33 (Ashlynnne Charf 11), Madison 30. Assists — Wolfpack 13 (Ashlynnne Charf 4), Madison 5. Steals — Wolfpack 27 (Brenna Martinsen 4, Ashlynnne Charf 4), Madison 5. Turnovers — Wolfpack 15, Madison 34.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Wolfpack opened the tournament with another strong defensive effort, limiting the Lady Charges to just one point in the second half to win 54 to 7. Applied at the start of the game, EPPJ's defensive pressure forced the Lady Chargers to commit 52 turnovers, a number which almost always guarantees a loss.

EPPJ (9-0) led by 15 points after one quarter, 30 at halftime. Then, in the second half, EPPJ outscored Riverside 18 to one to close out the game.

Eisenhauer led the team with 16 points, connecting on four treys. Teammate Ashlynnne Charf made five of nine shots to finish with 13 points. Another key statistics was steals, EPPJ had 38, Riverside had just nine.

**EPPJ 54, Riverside 7**

Chargers.....2 4 1 0 — 7  
Wolfpack.....17 19 13 5 — 54

Wolfpack — Kayton Zwingman 1-3 1-2 3, Elise Ruterbories 1-2 0-0 2, Elizabeth Moser 0-0 0-0 0, Ashlynnne Charf 5-9 3-4 13, Braelyn Martinsen 2-9 1-2 5, Callie Heithoff 0-5 0-0 0, Brenna Martinsen 0-6 2-4 2, Kate Furstenau 4-9 0-0 9, Keyera Eisenhauer 6-10 0-1 16, Kierstyn Eisenhauer 1-4 0-0 2, Mady Kurpgeweit 0-1 0-2 0. Team totals: 20-58 9-21 54. Three-point shots — Wolfpack 5-18 (Keyera Eisenhauer 4, Kate Furstenau 1), Riverside 0-8. Riverside team totals: 2-22 3-9 7.

Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 33 (Ashlynnne Charf 8), Riverside 29. Assists — Wolfpack 14 (Brenna Martinsen 5), Riverside 0. Steals — Wolfpack 38 (Ashlynnne Charf 9), Riverside 9. Turnovers — Wolfpack 12, Riverside 52.



E-R photo/DMorgan

Gage Thiessen had five points in Friday's victory over Lyons-Decatur.

## EPPJ boys split tourney games

MADISON — The Elgin Public-Pope John's boys basketball team might want to consider changing their name from Wolfpack to Bombers.

In the consolation finals of the Madison Holiday Tournament, EPPJ's 'bombers' made eight of 16 three-point shots to roll to a 50 to 29 victory over Lyons-Decatur.

Jarek Erickson started the game with a trey, then Gage Thiessen added another as EPPJ would never trail in the game as they picked up their seventh victory of the season.

Senior Blake Henn started the second quarter with a trey and the Wolfpack would go on to lead 25 to 12 at halftime.

Lyons-Decatur played better in the second half but never made a run as EPPJ closed out the game. In that span of time, Jarek Erickson made two treys, Karson Kallhoff and Dylan Lueking each had one. Lueking's trey closed out scoring for the Wolfpack. Earlier in the game, Kellan Hoefer connected on two treys.

"A lot of teams would have been thinking about yesterday's loss," Coach Matt Euse said. "I'm glad they didn't do that. I'm so proud of the way we played today (against the Cougars)."

Erickson led the Wolfpack with 12 points, Henn added nine. Coach Euse said Henn's trey in the first half seemed to open things up for Erickson inside. "Being a threat around the perimeter just opens so much more for us like we got a mismatch with Jarek down low, then we had a mismatch with Blake outside. Those two are interchangeable and it's just nice to have two big guys that can go inside now."

The victory improved EPPJ's record to 7-3. Next up will be Bloomfield on Saturday, Jan. 6, at the EPS gymnasium.

**EPPJ 50, Lyons-Decatur 29**

Cougars.....4 8 8 9 — 29  
Wolfpack.....15 10 11 14 — 50

Wolfpack — Blake Henn 4-7 0-0 9, Kellan Hoefer 2-5 0-2 6, Kaiden Bode 0-1 0-0 0, Gage Thiessen 2-5 1-1 5, Karson Kallhoff 2-4 0-0 5, Myles Kittelson 1-3 1-2 3, Nick Anderson 1-5 1-2 3, Jarek Erickson 3-9 3-4 12, Taylor Beckman 0-2 0-0 0, Dylan Kolm 0-1 0-0 0, Dylan Lueking 3-6 0-0 7. Team totals: 18-48 6-11 50. Three-point shots — Wolfpack 8-16 (Jarek Erickson 3, Kellan Hoefer 2, Blake Henn, Karson Kallhoff 1, Dylan Lueking 1), Lyons-Decatur 4-18. Lyons-Decatur team totals: 11-42 3-8 29.

Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 27 (Jarek Erickson 8), Lyons-Decatur 23. Assists — Wolfpack 11 (Karson Kallhoff 4). Steals — Wolfpack 6 (Karson Kallhoff 2). Turnovers — Wolfpack 9, Lyons-Decatur 16.

\*\*\*\*\*

One day earlier, playing their first game coming off the



E-R photo/DMorgan

Jarek Erickson averaged over 16 points and almost 10 rebounds in two tournament games.

Christmas break, the Wolfpack came up short against Riverside 67 to 53.

The Chargers made 10 of 19 three-point attempts as they outscored EPPJ in three of the four quarters of play.

Drew Carraher scored 16 points and three other Chargers scored in double figures as they avenged a loss to the Wolfpack in the season opener for both teams.

The Wolfpack made just over 40 percent of their field goal attempts. From three-point range, EPPJ was just seven of 25.

The Wolfpack were led in scoring by Erickson who made nine of 12 shots to finish with 21 points, Kallhoff added 12.

**Riverside 67, EPPJ 53**

Chargers.....21 15 17 14 — 67  
Wolfpack.....8 19 13 13 — 53

Wolfpack — Blake Henn 4-7 1-2 9, Kellan Hoefer 0-2 0-0 0, Gage Thiessen 4-9 2-3 11, Karson Kallhoff 4-16 0-0 12, Myles Kittelson 0-3 0-0 0, Nick Anderson 0-1 0-0 0, Jarek Erickson 9-12 1-1 21, Dylan Lueking 0-2 0-0 0. Team totals: 21-52 4-6 53. Three-point shots — Wolfpack 7-25 (Karson Kallhoff 4, Gage Thiessen 1, Jarek Erickson 2), Riverside 10-19. Riverside team totals: 27-44 3-4 63.

Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 21 (Jarek Erickson 11), Riverside 20. Assists — Wolfpack 15 (Karson Kallhoff 8). Steals — Wolfpack 9 (Dylan Lueking 3, Gage Thiessen 3), Riverside 6. Turnovers — Wolfpack 18, Riverside 16.



E-R photo/LMorgan

## Wolfpack boys bring home third place trophy

The **Wolfpack** boys basketball team defeated Lyons-Decatur to win the third place trophy at the Madison Holiday Basketball Tournament Friday. Members of the team with the trophy are (front row, l-r): Taylor Beckman, Michael Selting, Karson Kallhoff, Nick Anderson, Dylon Lueking, Dylan Kolm and Landon Kallhoff. Back row: Coach Matt Euse, Brayden Burenheide, Trey Rittscher, Gage Thiessen, Kaiden Bode, Myles Kittelson, Jarek Erickson, Kellan Hoefer, Steven Nelson, Blake Henn, Ticen Sparr, Ass't Coaches Liam Heithoff and Jack Wemhoff.

**Bode, Voborny place first, second**

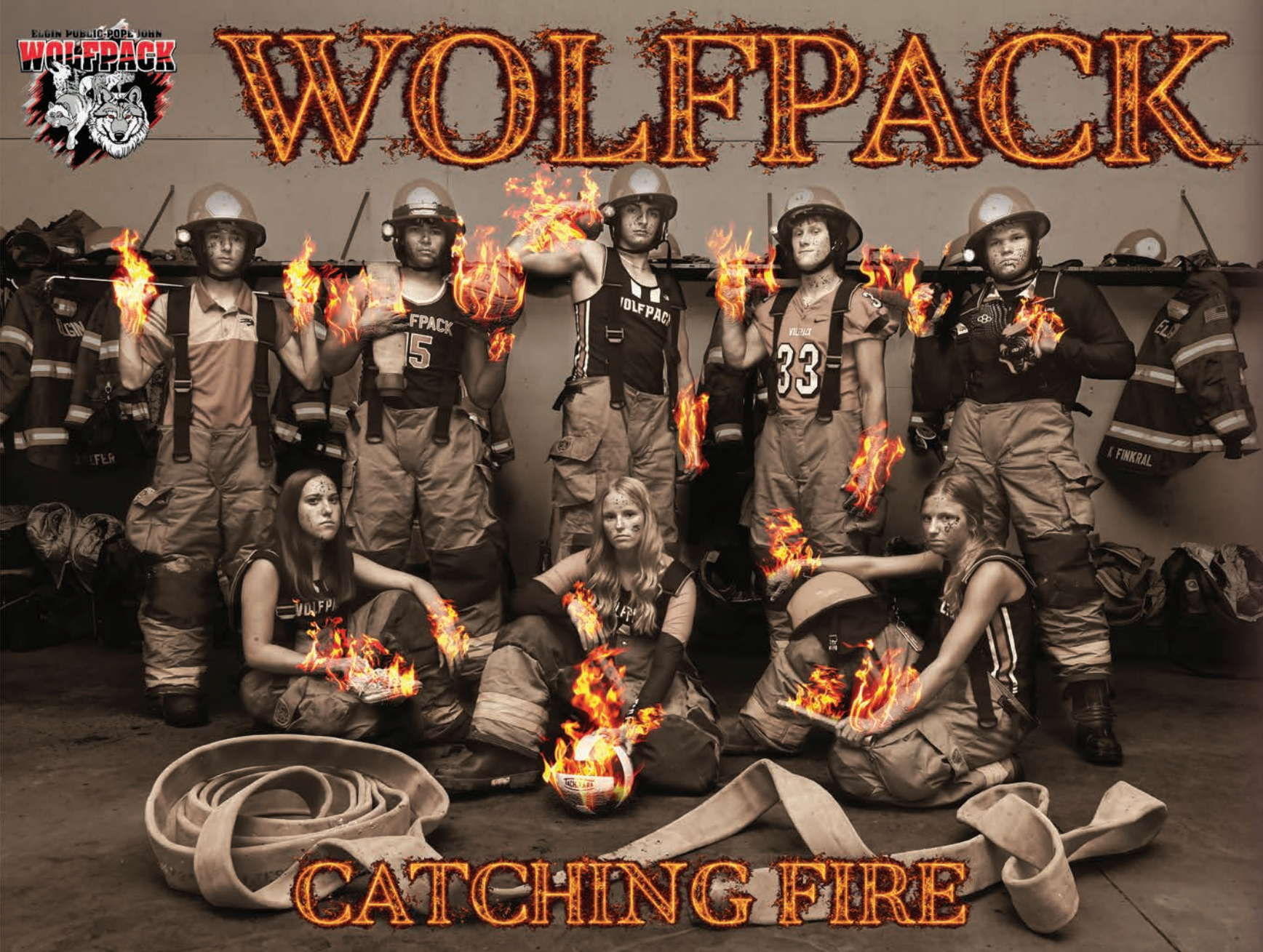
BJ Bode bested David Voborny in a tiebreaker to win the *Elgin Review* Bowl Game Football Contest.

Both Bode and Voborny each missed six games. In the tiebreaker, the total yardage between Michigan and Alabama was 639.

Bode guessed 499, Voborny guessed 647.

Bode's guess was closest without going over the actual figure. He will receive the top prize, Voborny will receive the runner-up prize.

Results of the games were:  
LSU over Wisconsin  
Missouri over Ohio State  
Rutgers over Miami  
Kansas State over NC State  
Notre Dame over Oregon St.  
Tennessee over Iowa  
Georgia over Florida State  
Memphis over Iowa State  
Boston College over SMU  
Clemson over Kentucky  
Oklahoma St. over Texas A&M  
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USC over Louisville  
Arizona over Oklahoma  
Maryland over Auburn  
Kansas over UNLV



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### WRESTLING

#### BOYS VARSITY

Jan. 5	@ Burwell	11:30
Jan. 6	@ Summerland	10:00
Jan. 12	@ SEM (Summer)	12:00
Jan. 13	@ Sandhills-Thedford (Dunning)	10:00

#### GIRLS VARSITY

Jan. 4	@ Norm Manstedt Inv. (Columbus)	8:00
Jan. 12	@ Ord	11:00
Jan. 15	@ Battle Creek	11:00

### BASKETBALL

#### GIRLS & BOYS VARSITY

Jan. 4	@ St. Mary's (G)	6:15
Jan. 6	vs Bloomfield (EPS)	2:00
Jan. 9	vs Fullerton (PJ)	4:00
Jan. 12	@ Stuart	4:00
Jan. 13	vs Winside (PJ)	2:00
Jan. 19	@ West Holt	4:30

#### GIRLS & BOYS JUNIOR HIGH

Jan. 4	@ St. Mary's (G)	4:00
Jan. 11	@ Summerland	4:00
Jan. 15	@ Elkhorn Valley (B)	4:00
Jan. 16	@ Riverside	2:00

#### HOME GAMES IN BOLD

### OTHER UPCOMING SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES

Jan. 3	School resumes for EPS students
Jan. 4	School resumes for PJCC/SB students
Jan. 8	Boone Central Choral Clinic
Jan. 10	FFA Leadership Contest @ Atkinson
Jan. 11	PJCC NHS Induction
Jan. 13	Howells-Dodge Speech Invite
Jan. 18	CyberPatriots Semifinals TBA
Jan. 20	Winter Formal
Jan. 24	EPS, Prevention Solutions-Sexual Harassment
Jan. 28	Evening With Friends • Catholic Schools Week (CSW) begins
Feb. 2	WSC Honor Choir • CSW Parents Day • PJCC/SB 1 pm dismissal
Feb. 3	Stanton JH Honor Band
Feb. 4	EPS 10 am start
Feb. 8	Boys & Girls basketball Senior Night
Feb. 9	Lindsay Holy Family Speech Meet
Feb. 10	ACT
Feb. 14	Blood drive, KC Hall

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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 12, 2023, 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.

CBS AG REPAIR, L.L.C.  
Martin V. Klein  
Klein Law Office, P.C.  
P.O. Box 166  
Neligh, NE 68756-0166  
(402)887-4190  
PUBLISH: December 20, 27, 2023 & January 3, 2024  
ZNEZ

### NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

SEEKIN GIANTS, LLC

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 14, 2023, 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.

SEEKIN GIANTS, L.L.C.  
Martin V. Klein  
Klein Law Office, P.C.  
P.O. Box 166  
Neligh, NE 68756-0166  
(402)887-4190  
PUBLISH: December 20, 27 & January 3, 2024  
ZNEZ

### NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION

CATTLE DRIVE INDUSTRIES, LLC

Notice is hereby given that on the 28th day of November 2023, a Certificate of Organization of CATTLE DRIVE INDUSTRIES, LLC, was filed with the Nebraska Secretary of State's office. Information in regard to that filing is as follows:

1. The name of the organization is CATTLE DRIVE INDUSTRIES, LLC.

2. The address of the initial designated office and address of the registered agent for service of process is 50720 Cattle Drive, Bartlett, NE 68622. The name of the organization's registered agent for service of process is Thomas J. Dwyer.


3. The general nature of the business is to engage in and do any lawful act concerning any and all lawful business, other than banking or insurance, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of Nebraska.

4. The organization commenced on November 28, 2023, and shall have perpetual duration.

5. The affairs of the organization are to be governed by the officers of the organization.

CATTLE DRIVE INDUSTRIES, LLC  
For the Company,  
Joseph F. McNally #23559  
Attorney at Law  
P.O. Box 164  
Neligh, NE 68756  
(402) 887-5022  
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**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
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Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:30 am.

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This week in church, gain courage to proclaim what God has done for you.

**...proclaim the praise of the Lord.** Isaiah 60:1-6

Ephesians 3:1-12      Matthew 2:1-12      Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts for  
Sunday, January 7, 2024  
Epiphany Sunday / Baptism of the Lord

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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Looking back at 2023 - the year in review

IT'S ALL ABOUT BEEF



Beef Systems Asst. Ext. Educator Ben Beckman

As humans, we often like to try and compare things to average or normal. Was the precipitation received within the expected normal range? Were temperatures for a particular season outside of normal? Was our pasture or hay production in the range we consider normal?

Taking this time to look back on last year is beneficial, but resist the temptation to compare things to normal. Very rarely, do things in the ever-changing world of agriculture really meet average or normal.

Depending on where you live last year may have been too hot or too cold, too dry or too wet. Nature is never static. If it were, our job as producers would be much easier. As it is, we lay out our plans then inevitably have to adapt as Mother Nature throws one curveball after another our way.

Some of you may have planted a winter annual forage to graze this spring. If so, manage grazing so there is not the temptation to begin grazing perennial grass pastures too early this spring. This will help give stressed pastures from dry weather last year some additional rest. You might also consider frost-seeding legumes, such as reed clover, in February through mid-March to boost the yield and improve the quality without adding additional nitrogen fertilizer.

When did your pastures run out? Was it mid-summer? late-summer? or fall? Remember that you have plenty of annual forage options to fill any gaps—there are few common ones that can be very productive. Forages like sudangrass and pearl millet can be planted from June until September and

used to fill summer and fall forage gaps. Oats and turnip mixtures can be planted as early as mid-August and used to fill late-fall forage gaps. Plant and use these annual forages when your other pastures have slow growth and are stressed so you have plenty of grazing for your cattle. Your regular pastures will bounce back quicker as well.

Several of you may have taken an extra cutting of alfalfa late in the fall if extra feed was needed. Late cuttings are often higher quality, so it may be sold for a premium price or used for special feeding situations. This coming spring, though, alfalfa grow may start off a little slower. If so, let it begin to bloom before cutting.

Finally, take time now to drag out the new calendar and start planning ahead for 2024. We can be sure to purchase inputs like seed or fertilizer well ahead of when we need them, so we aren't scrambling at the last minute later on. We can get an idea of what grazing rotations or harvest schedules will look

like. Will we need to make changes later to adjust to the actual conditions? Of course! But having it laid out now prevents important dates from sneaking up on us and provides a reminder to assess things as we get near.

Producers work in a dynamic system that seldom repeats itself. In doing so, we learn to be adaptive, to build resilience into our production and planning, and try to spread our eggs out amongst several different baskets. When you take time to look back this year on the challenges and successes, try to see where adapting to a problem worked or how a bit more flexibility next year could keep an issue from arising. Leave the normal and average comparisons out.

- Ben Beckman is a beef systems Extension Educator serving the counties of Antelope, Cedar, Knox, Madison and Pierce. 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

Sudoku

	4			2		8					
				5		3	2				
	3			1	4						
	9		7								
8					1						
5		7	8								
				4		9			7		
							6				
4					6		8				

Level: Intermediate

Crossword

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13					14					15			
16					17					18			
19				20					21				
			22					23				24	
25	26	27		28			29				30		
31			32		33		34					35	
36				37		38				39			40
	41				42				43		44		
							46		47		48		
49	50		51				52			53			
54		55				56					57	58	59
60					61					62			
63					64					65			
66					67					68			

CLUES ACROSS

- Bleated
- Snakelike fish
- Database management system
- Russian-American violinist
- Wendy's founder Thomas
- Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- Negatives
- Rescued
- Self-immolation by fire ritual
- Assigns tasks to
- Island nation native
- Trade
- Detergent brand
- Famed NY Giant
- Before
- Split pulses
- Extremely angry; highly incensed
- Body part
- American state
- David \_\_, US playwright
- Move one's head slightly
- Secret rendezvous
- Improved
- A place to exercise
- 18-year astronomical period
- Automobile
- You can take it
- A radio band
- Jaws of an animal
- Short-billed rails
- Chinese province
- Shameless and undisguised
- Horizontal passage into a mine
- Adult males
- Fail to entertain
- Dried-up
- City in north-central Utah
- Southern U.S.
- German river
- Oxygen
- Make law

CLUES DOWN

- Curved segment
- Wings
- From pentane (Chemistry)
- Gradually gets into
- Commercial document (abbr.)
- Overhang

- Christmas and New Year's have them
- Type of bulb
- Lacking a plan
- Tattle
- Rockers like it "heavy"
- One who's been canonized
- Indicate time and place
- Nobel Prize winner in physics
- The voice of Olaf
- Fragmented rock
- They \_\_
- Master of Philosophy
- Backside
- Landmark house in L.A.
- An act of undue intimacy
- From which a later word is derived
- Equal to 10 meters
- Neither
- Computer language
- Sacred book of Judaism
- A woolen cap of Scottish origin
- A way to dedicate
- Challenges
- British Air Aces
- Large, influential bank
- Portended
- Cavalry-sword
- Vaccine developer
- Napoleonic Wars general
- Italian Seaport
- Hip joint
- \_\_ Clapton, musician
- Insect repellent
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- Delaware



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The rules about leap years

It's widely accepted that a year is 365 days long. However, that statement is not entirely accurate. In fact, it takes Earth a little more than 365 days (365.24223 days to be precise) to orbit the sun. A calendar cannot accommodate that small distinction every year. In order to ensure that seasons do not start drifting from the difference between the Earth's rotation and the time it takes to get around the sun, leap years were established to keep the calendar more consistent and working like

clockwork. The first modern leap year took place in 1752.

Certain guidelines were established to determine which years would be leap years. A leap year typically arrives every four years. However, in terms of end-of-century years, they must be divisible by 400. That is why the year 2000 was a leap year but 1900 was not, according to Royal Museums Greenwich.

This approach is not an entirely foolproof plan since there still may be very small discrepancies in time. Leap seconds have been added to keep time ticking correctly at various points throughout the years. This occurred on December 31 in the years 2005, 2008 and 2012, and also on June 30, 2015.

In terms of adding a day to the calendar for the leap year, it is placed in February, which already is the shortest month. A leap year next occurs in February 2024, and then again in 2028, 2032 and 2036.

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# 2023: The Year in Review

By Dennis Morgan

co-publisher

*“The most important time is now.”*

The words of the famous Leo Tolstoy may be true, but time is also about passages. As one month fades away and a new month beckons, it brings change, some subtle and others reshape us.

Depending on who you are, what you do or where you live, time marches on. Actions taken today cannot be changed the next day, they can only - hopefully - be learned from.

On almost any given day, be-

## Elgin man pleads guilty after plea deal reached

By Sandy Schroth

court reporter

Robert J. Suhr, 24, of Elgin, faced the Honorable James Kube on Dec. 20 for pretrial on two charges, Count I, child abuse, a Class 3A felony, and Count II, third-degree domestic assault, a Class 1 misdemeanor.

A plea agreement with Antelope County Attorney Joe Smith was announced and Kube re-arraigned Suhr on charges in a new complaint filed by Smith, specific to Count I, child abuse/neglect, a Class 1 misdemeanor that carries a penalty up to one year imprisonment and/or up to a \$1,000 fine, compared to the original Class 3 felony charge which had a potential for up to three years and/or up to \$10,000 fine.

Suhr pleaded guilty to both counts committed Sept. 2, 2023.

Kube ordered a presentence investigation report to be prepared by the probation office and set sentencing Feb. 28. Bond is continued at \$10,000, 10% cash. Conditions of bond were amended to allow contact with the victim, who agreed to the amendment.

Suhr is represented by Brad Ewalt of Norfolk.

Christopher Barta, 29, Irene, South Dakota, appeared for arraignment alongside his court appointed attorney, Martin Klein of Neligh, on two Class 2A felony counts.

Barta pleaded not guilty to Count I, conspiracy to commit theft by unlawful taking, and Count II, conspiracy to commit criminal mischief.

Kube set pretrial hearing for Jan. 31 and a jury trial for Feb. 20. Bond is continued at \$25,000, 10%.

If convicted, Barta faces up to 20 years of incarceration on each count, in addition to restitution. There is no minimum penalty.

Barta was arrested July 28, 2023, in South Dakota on an Antelope County warrant, accused of conspiring with others to steal wiring from area irrigation systems last spring and summer.

Jay L. Herrera, 22, of Vermillion, South Dakota, appeared for a bond hearing on a failure to appear charge.

Klein, who was appointed to represent him in his original case, said he was not aware that his client had been arrested until that morning. He requested bond that was revoked in October 2023, be reinstated and asked that the hearing be continued. Smith objected to reinstatement of bond, requesting a significant increase in the previous \$10,000, 10%. Kube set bond at \$30,000, 10%.

Herrera was arrested in Dodge County on Dec. 12, 2023, and transferred to the Antelope County Jail on a warrant issued Nov. 15, after he failed to appear for pretrial hearing in October. He was charged with making terroristic threats, a Class 3 felony alleged June 7.

Kube set pretrial hearing Jan. 31 and jury trial, Feb. 20.

ginning in May and continuing through much of the rest of the year, if you stepped outside in Elgin you could hear the sounds of roof work taking place. A severe hail storm in early May led to most homes in Elgin requiring new roofs.

Fortunately, the hail stones came early enough that it didn't prevent farmers in the community from raising and then harvesting bountiful crops of corn and soybeans.

Elsewhere, the community raised more than \$94,000 to be used to help purchase and equip a new ambulance. The drive continues in 2024 towards the goal of raising \$150,000. Elgin residents and businesses also donated towards a new building to be constructed at the Antelope County fairgrounds in Neligh. The goal there, likely to be completed in 2024, is to raise \$400,000.

November proved to be a busy month for the community. The Elgin Public-Pope John volleyball team, under new coach Jordynn Luettel reached the Class D1 State Volleyball Tournament where they finished third.

Also achieving state recognition was the Pope John One-Act team who finished in a tie for third at the State One-Act

Play competition. Directing the students were instructors Amy Klein and Kerri Druke.

Closer to home, the St. Boniface Catholic Church held their 99th annual bazaar on Thanksgiving Day, serving dine-in meals for the first time since the onset of Covid.

Those are just some of the stories which helped grow our community. Listed below are more highlights compiled by student intern Olivia Klein.

**January**

The annual Antelope County Shooters Club Gun Show was held on January 7-8. All varieties of firearms were sold.

Dale King was sworn in as a new sheriff at the courthouse in Bartlett.

The Elgin High School Choir attended the Boone Central Choral Clinic where they sang Non Nobis Domine, Dreams of Thee, My Good Lord's Done Been Here, and I Remember. The Clinic was directed by Greg Woodin.

The Pope John Central Catholic chapter of the National Honor Society inducted three new members during an all school mass. The members are Eliza Borer, Olivia Klein, and Kaitey Schumacher.

An estimated gathering of 120 students attended the Pope

John Winter Formal that was held at the KC Hall.

**February**

Evening With Friends was held with the theme being “Fiesta”.

St. Boniface and Pope John students worked with artist Linda Garcia-Perez on Mexican-American art during Catholic School Week.

Eleven senior members of the Elgin FFA Chapter were recognized with State FFA Degrees based on interview and record book evaluations. These members were Carter Beckmen, William Heilhecker, Sharon Bartak, Taylynn Charf, Austin Good, Jack Wemhoff, David Durre, Paiton Hoefer, Ethan Hinkle, Cale Kinney, and Camryn Pelster.

Elgin EMTs displayed a check that signified receipt of a \$200,000 grant that was used towards the purchase of a new ambulance and equipment.

Carter Beckman, a senior from Pope John, placed third at the state wrestling tournament.

The Pope John Speech team won the NVC speech tournament.

The Wolfpack Dance Team competed at the state championship in Grand Island.

See YEAR, Page 11 ▶



E-R photo/DMorgan

One thing that brought all of Elgin together was the success of the Wolfpack volleyball team shown here celebrating after defeating Guardian Angels Central Catholic to place third in the Class D1 State Volleyball Tournament.

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Year in review

◀ FROM Page 10

March

The Bargain Box has donated back \$508,888 to the community. This was courtesy of product/monetary donations from the public to the thrift store.



Photo submitted

Chris Redding earned the prestigious 2023 Nebraska 4-H Outstanding Adult Volunteer Award. A volunteer adult leader of the Way Out West 4-H Club, she helped launch the club 27 years ago.

The girls Wolfpack basketball team competed in the Class D1 Girls State Tournament. The Pope John speech team won the team title at the Class D2-2 District Speech Tournament that was held in Elgin.

The Elgin High School and Pope John speech teams competed at the State Speech Contest. Jack Barlow, Skyler Meis, Matthew Dilly, Eliza Borer, and Linus Borer from Pope John all medaled.

The St. Boniface Spring Benefit Auction was held at the KC Hall. The auction items were donated by parishioners and businesses.

Elgin Public School hosted the NVC Quiz Bowl Competition. Winning the event was the team from Pope John XXIII Central Catholic.

Elgin High School competed the the Scholastic Day at Northeast Community College. Sara Bode placed first in Accounting and Jaidyn Schrad placed third in Algebra II.

April The 37th Annual Pope John Development Dinner was held at Werner Hall in Petersburg. Baylee Busted and Brenna Martinsen were chosen to attend the American Legion Auxiliary Cornhusker Girls State.

The Elgin FFA members attended the state convention. Dannyka Smidt and Gemma Miller were state champions in their food science division of Agriscience Fair. Samuel Hemenway was state runner-up in Cooperative Speaking. Finally, Carter Beckman was state runner-up in swine placement proficiency.

Pope John preformed their annual spring musical. The 2023 musical was "Singing in the Rain".

Chris Redding earned the prestigious 2023 Nebraska 4-H Outstanding Adult Volunteer Award.

The Bank of Elgin donated \$5,000 to the fundraising campaign to build an Antelope County 4-H Youth Enrichment Building.

The Elgin Junior-Senior High School choir and band performed at their Spring Concert. They performed selections from the District Music Contest that was held in Norfolk.

Governor Jim Pillen and First Lady Suzanne Pillen spoke to the students from Pope John XXIII and Elgin Public. He gave a positive message of the state's future.

May Highway 14 was closed for multiple hours due to two accidents.

The FFA end-of-the-year banquet was held to recognize the year's achievements.

Six students were formally inducted into the National Honor Society at Elgin Public. These students were Kate Furstenau, Callie Heithoff, Chloe Henn, Taylor Beckman, Sara Bode, and Samantha Durre.

Elgin High had their graduation ceremony with William Heilhecker being the Valedictorian and Ethan Hinkle being the Salutatorian.

The Pope John XXIII graduation ceremony was held the next day with Skyler Meis as their class speaker.

The Elgin High Community Club donated \$4,000 to the Elgin ambulance fund drive.

Kierstyn Eisenhauer was confirmed in the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Elgin.

Multiple Wolfpack athletes competed at State Track. Myles Kittelson qualified in four

events. These included the 100 meter dash, the 200 meter dash, long jump, and the 400 meter relay.

St. Boniface para-professional Tami Schrage and Fr. John Norman became human sundaes to celebrate a successful fundraising campaign to support the school's reading and math programs.

Zachary Eischeid was ordained as a transitional deacon for the Archdiocese of Omaha at St. Cecilia Cathedral in Omaha.

Memorial Day was observed at local cemeteries. Father John Norman of St. Boniface Catholic Church spoke to a large gathering at West Cedar Valley/St. Boniface Cemetery. Reverend Kate West spoke at the ceremony that was held at Park Cemetery west of Elgin.

June Elgin's annual Vetch Days celebration was held. Some of the Vetch Days events included a pool party, kid's games, a color run, a poker walk/run, the tractor pull, the parade, and a lucky duck race.

Elgin's youth baseball and softball began.

The Elgin Review hosted a party to celebrate the newspaper being open for one hundred and forty years.

The Elgin KC Hall held a blood drive.

The Park Center Community Church held it's annual 4th of July Celebration. There was a potluck meal, games for all ages, and fireworks to top it off.

July Jordynnn Luttel was hired as the new head coach for the Wolfpack varsity volleyball team.

Toters from Bud's Sanitary Service were delivered to every residence in Elgin.

Deacon Dennis Wiehn celebrated his 40th Anniversary of Deacon Ordination. A reception was held in his honor at St. Boniface Catholic Church.

The 2023 Antelope County Fair began on July 27th and wrapped up on August 6th.

The missionary Benedictine Sisters celebrated their 100 years of serving the people of northeast Nebraska. Their 100th Jubilee Mass and Dinner was held at St. Bonaventure Parish in Ravenna. The Mass was celebrated by Archbishop George J. Lucas.

August Baseball wrapped up for the Summer.

This years recipient of the Kalin Henn Memorial Award at the Antelope County Fair was Cain Mortensen.

Members of the Elgin Volunteer Fire Department held a training exercise. They burned down a home located approximately one-half block north of Hometown Station on Second Avenue. Members gained valuable experience during this exercise.

Elgin Rescue held a fundraiser to help pay for a new ambulance and updated emergency equipment to go in the ambulance.

The Elgin Bargain Box made one of the largest donations to date to the fund drive for the new rescue squad. They donated \$10,000 during a presentation at City Hall.

The 41st annual Nebraska State Antique Tractor and Horse Plowing Bee was held near Petersburg.

September The Wolfpack Volleyball Team took a trip to Memorial

Stadium in Lincoln to enjoy "Volleyball Day in Nebraska."

The Elgin FFA's annual labor auction took place. Proceeds from the event raised approximately \$20,000 for the statewide "I Believe in Ag" campaign.

Elgin's Treasures in the Park was held.

Pope John XXIII Central Catholic High School's Homecoming Coronation was held. Brooklyn Meis was crowned Queen and Jack Barlow was crowned King.

October Elgin Public High School's Homecoming King and Queen were crowned. Baylee Busted was crowned Queen and Steven Nelson was crowned King.

The Life Chain was held on the west side of the St. Boniface Catholic Church. The people who participated stood in prayerful silence, holding signs, asking for the public to support the right of life.

The EPS Marching Band participated in the Wayne State Band Day Parade. They were directed under Eric Heithoff and earned top marks from the judges.

The PJCC choir performed under the instruction of Lowgaen Schmitt at the St. Boniface Cabaret.

November The EPS and PJCC choirs performed at the Elkhorn Valley Junior High Choral Clinic in Tilden.

Students from Elgin Public and Pope John schools listened to a presentation that was held at the Elgin Public Gym. This presentation was sponsored by the North Central District Health Department and featured Coleridge mother Carol Wolfe. Wolfe talked about the dangers of the opioid crisis in Nebraska.

The Wolfpack finished third in the Class D1 State Volleyball Tournament.

The Veterans Day Program was held in the Elgin Public Gym with Lieutenant Colonel Clyde Stuhr giving the Veterans Day Address.

EPS students Shania Buschow and Sofia Schmitz performed in the Children's All-State Choir in Lincoln with 300 other students from around the state.

St. Boniface's annual Thanksgiving Bazaar was held and fed approximately 1,000 people.

December The EPS Christmas program was held at the Elgin Public Gym.

Pope John's one-act "All by Myself" tied for third at the Class D2 State Once-Act Play Competition held at the Johnny Carson Theatre in Norfolk.

The Elgin FFA's penny "war" raised over \$1,800 for St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

A check for the ambulance fund was presented at Dean's Market. Kathy Dinslage and Kimberly Young, representing the Elgin Young N' Lively organization, donated \$2,500 to the fund drive to purchase a new ambulance and equipment. EMTs Jessica Niewohner, Viki Miller, Dean Schrage and Duane Miller accepted the donation on behalf of the Elgin Rescue Squad.

Held earlier in the month, the vendor extravaganza 'Shop The North Pole' made a large donation of close to \$2,000 to be used to assist needy families at Christmas time.

Pride of the WOLFPACK PACK

A sophomore, Jarek used his height at the Madison Holiday Tourney. He averaged 16.5 points & 10 rebounds in the two games.

A senior, Keyera averaged 14.5 points per game in the Riverside and Madison BIG wins at the Madison Holiday Tourney.

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E-R photo/DMorgan

Elgin firefighters this summer conducted a practice burn.

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The Elgin Review

# THE BACK PAGE

Front page news from our 2023 issues.



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# The Elgin Review

Here's to a new year filled with GOOD news for Elgin!