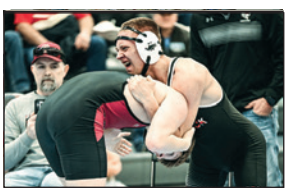




**2026 New Year's Baby
born at BCHC**
See page 2



**Wolfpack wrestlers medal
at Summerland invites**
See page 10-11

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

The Elgin Review

Wednesday
January 14, 2026

Volume 143, Number 17

1 Section, 12 Pages

USPS Number 172-8220

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In Brief

Tickets remain on sale for 'Evening With Friends' gala

To be held on Sunday, January 25.
Tickets remain on sale for the 2026 Evening With Friends gala. The Elgin Knights of Columbus Hall will be the site for this annual event. It will be held on Sunday evening, January 25. The theme for this year's gala is "Grace." Social hour and auction viewing will begin at 5 p.m. that night with dinner to follow at 6:15 p.m. Tickets are \$100 per person. See the ad on Page Two.

Change in mail pickup times official

Post office to be closed January 19.
Beginning on Monday, January 12, the Elgin Post Office announced the following changes:
The outside & inside drop box times displayed are now correct. Mondays-Fridays, mail will be collected from each of those at 3:15 pm and Saturdays at 8:45 am.
The postal truck will bring mail in the morning as usual but at the same time it will be leaving with outgoing mail that was collected the previous day.
Also, the post office will be closed Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Public Notices

Public notices in this week's newspaper include:
Notice — Estate of Stacy Charf
Notice of Organization — NA Family Farms, LLC
Proceedings — The Antelope County Board of Commissioners
Proceedings — The Elgin City Council
Ordinances (2) — The Elgin City Council

The Elgin Review is the official legal newspaper for Antelope County, Antelope County Historical Society, Village of Bartlett, Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District, the State of Nebraska, the City of Elgin and Elgin School District #18.

Weather

The high temperature last week was 63 degrees recorded on Wednesday, January 7.
The low temperature during the same period was 13 degrees recorded on Saturday, January 10.
No precipitation was recorded last week.
Following are the high and low temperatures, and precipitation amounts, as recorded by Elgin weather observer Leonard Orlowski.

Date	High	Low	Prec
Jan 4	54	28	.00
Jan 5	55	30	.00
Jan 6	56	30	.00
Jan 7	63	34	.00
Jan 8	39	16	.00
Jan 9	39	17	.00
Jan 10	32	13	.00
Total for last week			0.00
Total for January			0.04
Total precipitation 2026			0.04

City approves 25-year agreement with BHE

Twenty-five years seems like a long time. But, when it comes to franchise agreements between utility companies and municipalities like the City of Elgin, it's par for the course.
Meeting last week, the Elgin City Council wrapped up discussions with Black Hills Energy (BHE) and approved a franchise agreement to serve the two parties for the next 25 years. Waiving the mandatory three readings, all four members of the council (Leigh Kluthe, Dr. Jeremy Young, Craig Niewohner and Mike Dvorak) approved two ordinances.
Ordinance #681, grants BHE the authority to construct, operate, maintain and extend a natural

gas distribution plant and system, and the right to use streets, alleys and other public places within the present or future corporate limits of Elgin.
The second ordinance approved was Ordinance #682 which establishes a franchise fee for energy providers operating in the City of Elgin.
Clay Pelster, representing BHE in this part of the state, said the approved ordinances will help keep natural gas rates consistent in the coming years.
In other news from the meeting, the council and Mayor Mike Schmitt discussed with city employee Don Poulsen, Jr., about the blowing of sirens at random times.

A new system has been installed and the Antelope County Sheriff's Department has been blowing the sirens to test the system. It was stated that since the sheriff's department is doing it, it would be nice to know, in advance, when the sirens will be blown.
On another matter, City Clerk Kristin Childers said work continues on billing utility customers on a monthly basis. The decision was made in 2025 to switch from quarterly billing to monthly billing. She said it's taking time to manually calculate everyone's sewer rate. But once that is completed, the new system being utilized will do the calculations automatically.



Veik claims 100th victory



Wolfpack senior wrestler Landyn Veik (shown recording a pin during his first round match Saturday at Summerland) achieved a career milestone with the match. He recorded his 100th victory as a Wolfpack varsity wrestler. Family and friends in the stands celebrated his victory in the stands with banners and signs recognizing the achievement.

E-R photos/DMorgan

Commissioners approve county wages

After almost three hours of deliberation, the Antelope County Commissioners (ACC) set wages for all elected officials of the county at yesterday's meeting with all commissioners present.
After much discussion, wage/benefit comparisons with other counties and some back-and-forth with elected officials,

the ACC came up with what they feel is a fair compensation package.
Wage increases per year will now be based on CPI-U (Consumer Price Index-Urban) starting in 2028 and running through 2030 with a minimum increase of two percent.
Wages for 2027 are as follows:
• County Clerk, Assessor, Clerk of

District Court and Treasurer: \$78,000
• County Attorney: \$90,000
• County Sheriff: \$88,000 and an additional \$7,500 for jail administration and \$2,500 for emergency management.
• Chairman of the board shall receive \$100 per month, \$1,200 annually.

See COUNTY, Page 3 ▶

District #18 School Board meets tonight

The District #18 Board of Education will hold their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 14 (tonight).
The first meeting of the new year serves as a reorganizational meeting, led by Superintendent Mike Brockhaus.
Board members (Todd Heithoff, Eric Beckman, Ron Bode, Luke Hinkle, Steve Busted and Lisa Welding) will elect officers.
Once the president is elected, he/she will preside over the rest of the meeting. Other positions to be elected are vice president, secretary and treasurer.
Legal designations will be made for bank, newspaper, bus inspector, official financial agent, non discrimination officer, board recorder and attorney. Also to be acted on will be a conflict of interest statement.

The board will then conduct the district's regular monthly business.
Among the items on the 'action' agenda are:
• Approve a transfer of funds into the Wolfpack Account
• Approve on first reading the recommended NASB policies 718.00 Fiscal Management Internal Controls; and 802.07 School Food Procurement
On the agenda for 'discussion' only are:
• 2025/2026 school calendar
• Setting of the date for the annual board retreat
The board is expected to review the board self-evaluation and superintendent evaluation policies.
The meeting, open to the public, is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m.

ECAF donations surpass \$3,000

The annual appeal for donations to the endowment fund for the Elgin Area Community Foundation (EACF) has collected more than \$3,000 so far.
Anne Parks, treasurer of the EACF, on Friday shared donations received so far from the appeal which began in December.
So far, total donations have reached 3,085.
Donating to the fund were:
• The Bank of Elgin
• Kurt & Linda Blair
• Dean's Market
• Lonnie Dinslage
• David & Janice Eischeid
• Todd Heithoff
• Karl & Margaret Hensley
• Linda Kerkman
• Karen & Bob Koenig
• Vicki & Duane Miller
• Joan Monk
• Jerry Mundorf
• Ed & Anne Parks
• Terry & Michele Reicks
• Schulte Family Farms in memory/honor of Ora & Ardyth Carr, Kennedy & Nina Carr Schulte
• Starman Seed & Supply - Peter Starman

Funeral service to be Thursday for Steven Pelster, 71 Former Golden Gloves boxing champion

Funeral services will be held Thursday for Petersburg native Steven V. Pelster, 71. Pelster passed away on Monday, January 5, at his home at LaVista, Nebraska.

A graduate of Pope John XXIII Central Catholic High School, Pelster and his brothers helped put Petersburg and Raeville on the map in terms of Golden Glove Boxing.

A boxer since the age of 10, he was a Midwest Golden Gloves champion while serving in the U.S. Army. After he retired from the ring, he stayed involved in boxing by coaching and directing the Golden Gloves program. Such was his expertise and knowledge regarding boxing that he served for numerous years as president of the Midwest Golden Gloves.

In May 2025 he was inducted into the National Golden Gloves Hall of Fame. His story was featured last summer in *The Elgin Review*. A complete obituary can be found on Page Six of this newspaper.



Steven V. Pelster

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From JoAnn Baum's Kitchen



Good day,
As we are settling into the new year, I sure hope 2026 is good to you all! I found this eggnog pie recipe and made it for my guests at Christmas. It's amazing! Ted and I love eggnog. I have a

Eggnog, Sour Cream Raisin pies

Are you looking for a new dessert? This one is definitely worth a try!
Of course, sour cream raisin is the pie this entire community loves. It's the first to go at any occasion. Enjoy one or both!

JoAnn

recipe for eggnog fudge, and I make it every Christmas. Now, I love this pie recipe, and I will be

SOUR CREAM RAISIN PIE

- 1-1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 cup white sugar
- 3 Tbs cornstarch
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 cup raisins

- 3 egg yolks (no whites)
- 1/4 tsp cinnamon
- Dash of salt

Mix all these ingredients. Cook over medium heat until it thickens. Pour in a pre-baked pie shell (9" pie). Take the egg whites and make your favorite meringue. Cover the pie with the meringue and brown in a 350° oven for 15 minutes or until it's a light brown.

making it again.

EGGNOG PIE

- 3.4 oz box instant vanilla pudding mix
- 1-1/2 cups eggnog

- 1/2 tsp nutmeg
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 9 inch pie crust pre-baked

Whisk the pudding mix, eggnog and nutmeg until the mixture thickens (about 5 min.) In a bowl, whisk the heavy cream on high speed until it forms stiff peaks. Gently fold the whipped cream in the pudding mixture. Pour into the pie crust. Sprinkle with nutmeg, chill for 3 hours. Serve with a dollop of whip topping and a sprinkle of nutmeg. Hint: I use a graham cracker pie crust. I used Cool Whip® in place of the whipped cream.

Durre named to Dean's List at Nebraska College of Technical Ag

The Dean's List and Honor Roll distinction was announced last week at the Nebraska Col-

Area students on UNK honor roll

KEARNEY – The University of Nebraska at Kearney announced students who earned a place on the dean's list for the fall 2025 semester.

Students who are on the dean's list must have completed 12 credit hours or more of classes with a 3.5 grade-point average or better on a 4.0 scale. Students earn a 4.0 for an "A," 3.0 for a "B" and 2.0 for a "C."

Area students were:

Albion — Ashlyn Jo Dodds, Avery Krohn, Harrison Kuta-Jaden Cole Hagemann, Jordan Soto-Stopak, Logan Joseph Spence and Nyla Redler

Elgin — Baylee Busteed and Landon Kallhoff

Kearney — Skyler Ann Meis Petersburg — Jeri Wies and Karlie Wies

lege of Technical Agriculture at Curtis.

This semester, 23 students earned a perfect 4.00 grade point average and were named

Stuhr is District 3 Patriot's Pen Champion; Kielty is Runner Up

State competition to be held later in January

Anna Stuhr, the daughter of Clarissa and Brian Stuhr, of Petersburg was recently notified that her essay in the Patriot's Pen Contest has been selected to compete at the State VFW competition at the end of January 2026.

Anna earned the District 3 Champion status. Chloe Kielty, daughter of Brett and Becky Kielty, of Tilden, was runner up in the contest.

The Patriot's Pen is a national VFW youth essay contest. Grades six through eight are allowed to express their views on a patriotic theme each year. There is up to a million dollars in state and national awards in this annual competition.

This year's theme was "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country." The theme is judged on knowledge, development, and clarity of thought. Anna and Chloe are Eighth grade students at Pope John Central Catholic School in Elgin.

to the Dean's List, and an additional 55 students earned Honor Roll recognition with GPAs between 3.50 and 3.99, for a total of 78 students recognized for ac-

ademic excellence at the college located at Curtis, NE.

Among the students named to the Dean's List (4.00 GPA) was Samantha Durre of Oakdale.



Anna Stuhr (l) took first and Chloe Kielty (r) claimed second in the District 3 Patriot's Pen contest sponsored by the State VFW.



Brent and Amanda Voichahoske with new baby Eleanor Rose.

BCHC welcomes 2026 New Year's Baby

Boone County Health Center is pleased to welcome its 2026 New Year's baby, Eleanor Rose Voichahoske. Eleanor made her arrival on January 6 under the care of Dr. Dodds, weighing five pounds, 10 ounces and measuring 19 inches long.

Proud parents Brent and Amanda Voichahoske of Fullerton welcomed Eleanor as the newest member of their family. She joins older siblings Brayden, 14, and Makenzie, 5, who are excited to welcome their baby sister home. Eleanor's name holds special meaning for the Voichahoske family.

She is named in honor of her father's late grandmother, while her middle name, Rose, comes from her great grandmother and a great aunt—continuing a cherished family tradition.

Eleanor is surrounded by a large and loving extended family. Her paternal grandparents include great-grandfather Bill Rolf, grandparents Bob and Tammy Voichahoske, and Pam Voichahoske. On her maternal side, grandparents and great-grandparents include great-great-grandmother Marie Krohn; great-grandparents Joyce and Larry "Squeak" Erickson; great-grandmother Rosetta Howser; grandfather Kendall Howser; and grandmother Kathy Erickson.

This is the Voichahoske family's third child, with all three welcomed at Boone County Health Center.

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The Committee for the Continuation of Pope John's 26th Annual Evening With Friends, an evening of

Grace

Parmesan Chicken or Prime Rib | Green Beans with Bacon & Almonds | Roasted Baby Potatoes | Dinner Salad | Cheesecake

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Elgin Knights of Columbus Hall

Social Hour and Auction Viewing begins at 5 pm
Dinner is served at 6:15 pm

Meal & Beverages | Games | Prizes
Silent Auction | Live Auction

\$100
(\$50 is tax deductible)
Need not be present to win

Helping children with a death in the family

No matter how old we are or how many times we experience it, losing a loved one never gets easier. Whether it's expected or comes out of the blue, the pain is still real and cuts deep. When you're a parent, you're not only dealing with your own loss, but you also must be there to comfort your children and walk them through their own grief, no matter how big or small. Fortunately, my children

haven't had to deal with a lot of death in their lives. My aunt and uncle passed away, but my children didn't know them or have a relationship with them. They saw that I was upset, but it didn't affect them personally. They have also lost two dogs with whom they were close. Their grandmother's dog was the first real loss. My daughter cried for an hour because she was very close to Duke. My husband's dog, Sawyer, passed away in 2023. That was one of the hardest things we went through as a family. Watching the kids tell him goodbye felt like a knife in the chest. Plus, we were dealing with our own grief when having to say goodbye.

This week, we found out that my husband's grandmother is in her final days. Mawmaw, as she is lovingly called, is someone who always sends a card to our kids for their birthday. We have traveled to Alabama on numerous occasions to visit her and she has made multiple blankets for each of the kids. Although they are not as close to Mawmaw as my husband, I'm afraid this will be the first real loss they have endured and I'm not sure how to help them through it.

My husband isn't the best with emotions. He prefers to bury himself at work and push things deep down instead of facing things head on. However, I think it's ok to let them see our own grief. It's ok to cry in front of them, tell sweet memories of our loved one, and answer whatever questions they may have. We have yet to tell the kids the news we just heard because we're still grappling with things ourselves.

I'm afraid of how they will react and how to help them reconcile the fact that they won't see her again.

I will, of course, emphasize the fact that this is not goodbye forever and that we will see her again in Heaven. She is a strong believer in Jesus, so we have faith that she will be with our Lord and Savior. But even those words don't help the void you feel in the here and now. She has been struggling for many years, and we honestly didn't think she would hang on for as long as she did. Another important aspect will be to emphasize how she is no longer in pain, and that her suffering is over. I hope this will ease the burden they may feel.

I know I can't keep putting off this important news and will be praying for wisdom and discernment as we broach the topic. The best thing I can do is be there for them in whatever way they need me to be. I can answer their questions honestly but tailored to their ages. And I can allow them to handle their grief in their own ways.

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

Tales of a Tired Momma



Elgin Columnist Katherine Cobb

Looking Back

The Elgin Review

Sixty Years Ago

January 20, 1966

Ronald Majerus, 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Majerus of south of Petersburg, died of injuries at an Omaha hospital Sunday Morning. Ronald was helping his father grind feed Saturday morning and accidentally got caught in the feed grinder. Grandparents are Nick Majerus and Mr. and Mrs. John Zwingman of Petersburg.

A ricocheting .22 caliber bullet last Thursday struck Don Bauer in the right leg, above the knee, and penetrated downward and lodged in the back of his leg. He was rushed to Antelope County Memorial Hospital for treatment and was released Tuesday afternoon. The bullet was not removed.

Elgin Speed Wash will hold its Grand Opening this Saturday, Jan. 22 and will serve free coffee and donuts. The business is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Summerer of Ewing and is managed by Mrs. Harold Anderson.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Perry, O'Neill, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Kathryn Elaine, to Jim Connick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Connick, Elgin. A May wedding is being planned.

Warm temperatures Saturday gradually disappeared and replaced by snowfall which amounted to around three inches before stopping Sunday morning. Highways in this area were ice and snow covered Saturday forenoon and remained until beat off by traffic.

Fifty Years Ago

January 14, 1976

Thursday night Spalding came to Elgin with determination and out hustled the local Elgin High squad and ended up the winner in a 40-41 contest.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Weber represented the Antelope County Farm Bureau at the National Convention at St. Louis, MO., January 3-7, traveling with other Nebraskans by charter bus.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Sharkey-Reuss Post 5816 and Auxiliary will entertain the local Voice of Democracy winners and their parents at their regular meeting Monday night. Prizes will be awarded and the winning speeches will be given, and lunch will be served.

Joseph Shetler of Neligh won first place honors in the Senior High division for his essay on "My Own Personal Heritage" in the Antelope County Historical essay contest.

Mrs. Kenneth Miller of Chambers, mother of Mrs. Elvin Hutchinson, underwent surgery on her right leg Friday at Clarkson Hospital in Omaha. She is expected to remain hospitalized for some time.

Thirty Years Ago

January 17, 1996

Weather conditions were dry and mild through most of the past week in the Elgin area. The high temperature for the week was 64 degrees, recorded on Saturday, Jan. 13.

County

◀ FROM Page 1

Commissioner Casey Dittrich, after extensive research and interviews with surrounding county officials, stated that the CPI-U model was the fairest for employees and tax payers.

Commissioner Regina Krebs was also instrumental in gathering data for this important decision.

In final wage action, Commissioner Neil Williby suggested that the ACC not take any wage increase, given the current ag economy. All commissioners agreed to this proposal and the ACC's annual wage will remain at \$20,250 for the next two years.

Road Superintendent Leigh Kluthe reported to the ACC on current equipment upgrades and breakdowns. With the mild weather, work continues on

ditches and road maintenance.

In other matters, Commissioner Charlie Henery was re-elected as Chairman with Commissioner Neil Williby elected as Vice Chair.

The ACC then appointed the following officials for 2026:

- Tom Nelson as Veterans Service Officer
 - Bryan Cornett as Weed Superintendent
 - Megan Wingate as Antelope County Zoning Administrator
 - LaVern Schroeder as County Surveyor
 - Brian McDonald as County Highway Superintendent
- Finally, Commissioner Charlie Henery told everyone that he had a conversation with Sheriff Bob Moore, who is undergoing cancer treatment. Sheriff Moore stated that he is experiencing some pain but otherwise is doing well.

Elgin Community Center menus

Monday, January 19: Chicken & stuffing casserole, cranberries, mixed vegetables, pears, bread/butter, milk.

Tuesday, January 20: Beef & noodle soup, cheese sandwich, cottage cheese, carrots/celery, pineapple, bread/butter, milk.

Wednesday, January 21: Smothered pork cutlets, mashed potatoes & gravy, stewed tomatoes, peaches/strawberry mix, bread/butter, milk.

Thursday, January 22: Liver & onions OR ham, baked potato, winter mix veggies, apricots, bread/butter, milk.

Friday, January 23: Tator tot casserole, lettuce salad, fruit cocktail, bread/butter, milk.

All meals served with bread & butter.

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

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

Under 60 is \$10. Serving starts at approximately 11:45 a.m. and ends around 12:15 p.m.

Meals are served Monday thru Friday. Takeout starts at 11:30 a.m.

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

Edward R. Murrow

State lawmakers have \$471 million budget shortfall to close, expulsion to consider

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

The first time I walked into the State Capitol, I wondered “what is making all these people walk like Olympic racers down these halls?”

I almost got run over by some walkers; the new guy needed to get out of the way.

To be sure, the Capitol hallways extend in a square, making them ideal for a quick walk around the square for exercise or just to clear the brain.

And if you hang around the Capitol long enough, you realize that people who work there – either as staffers or elected officials – need to walk off some steam every once in a while.

You'll probably see a lot of that during this year's session of the Nebraska Legislature. There's plenty on the plate to raise the hackles and blood pressure of the Unicameral's 49 senators, and it's an election year, which always raises the temperature of a place known as the “Hall of Hot Winds.”

What's ahead in the Unicameral's 60-day session in 2026?

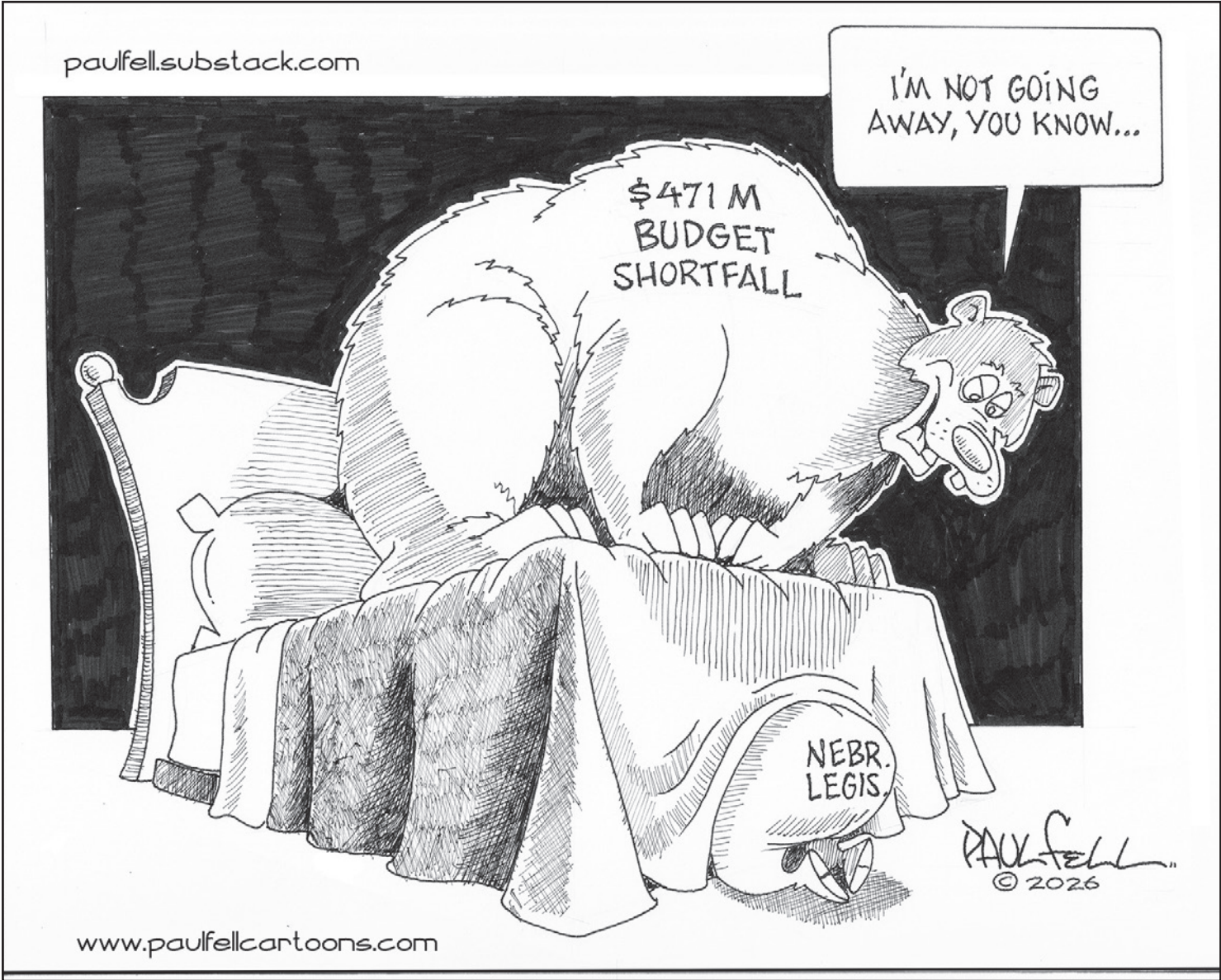
Money, money, money – or the lack of it. The state budget has a \$471 million hole to fill, in large part (in my opinion) because state lawmakers got way too ambitious in cutting state revenue via a gradual, deep reduction in state income taxes adopted in 2023.

Everyone loves a tax cut. But you also have to fund government operations. After digging into the state's cookie jars (reserve funds) last year to solve a \$415 million budget shortfall, can legislators pull a similar rabbit out of the hat in '26? Can more state spending be cut? Or might senators

ALL THINGS NEBRASKA



State Correspondent
Paul Hammel



opt to do what's easiest and makes the most sense, which is to pause the stair-stepped tax cut for a year?

Expel a senator? – Expect a lot of debate over what State Sen. Dan McKeon of Amherst did, allegedly, at a post-2025 session party and whether he should be the first state lawmaker ever to be expelled.

Last month, the Legislature's Ex-

ecutive Board voted unanimously to recommend expulsion for McKeon, for a “pattern” of conduct that included, allegedly, an inappropriate grab of a female staffer's bottom, and an off-color or sexual joke.

McKeon, who was elected in 2024, has vehemently rejected calls to resign, and insists that his poor attempt at humor was misunderstood.

But such conduct isn't taken lightly in the Legislature. This debate could get hot.

Economic development – The unexpected closing of the huge meat-packing plant in Lexington – throwing 3,200 people out of work – and calls by the Omaha Chamber of Commerce to improve state tax incentives due to lackluster growth in the state's biggest cities will get a serious airing.

The University of Nebraska estimates that the economic impact of the Tyson plant closing could be \$3.3 billion. Yikes.

Omaha and Lincoln would have generated 68,000 more jobs over the past five years had they kept pace with peer cities, like Sioux Falls, Des Moines and Fayetteville, according to a report done for the Aksarben Foundation. Double yikes.

Haven't we always been told that income tax cuts generate additional economic activity? Not so much it appears.

Property tax relief – The state's ag economy, due to low crop prices and high input costs, isn't exactly running on all cylinders. So some property tax relief would be welcome.

But given the state's budget problems, will there be any money to increase state tax credits? Might there be a renewed appetite to eliminate more sales tax exemptions to reduce property taxes? It's an election year, so expect some effort here.

The unexpected – There's always an issue or two that bubbles up that no one anticipated, which makes the Legislature interesting.

But the “fasten seat belt” light is on. So is the sign that says “walk” around the State Capitol.

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.

Record results for Nebraskans

The start of a new year invites more than resolutions; it invites reflection. As I look back on 2025, I do so with an eye toward what effective governing should mean at a time when Americans are stretched by costs, uncertainty, and rapid change. For me, the past year was defined by a simple focus: strengthening the foundation for working families, our communities, and the industries that keep our country secure and prosperous. I kept this mission front and center while sitting on six committees and chairing two subcommittees. These leadership roles kept me busy, as I attended nearly 120 hearings and briefings this past year.

One of Congress' most consequential achievements in 2025 was passage of the Working Families Tax Cuts – I was proud to play a role in crafting and voting for its passage. At its core, the law reflects a belief that economic growth starts with families and small businesses – not Washington. The law keeps taxes low, blocks a \$4 trillion tax hike, and saves the average Nebraska family more than \$2,400 a year. It protects the Child Tax Credit for 239,000 Nebraska households, shields 44,000 family-owned farms from a sharply reduced death tax exemption, eliminates taxes on tips and overtime for hourly workers, and lowers energy costs. It also includes historic investments in border security.

Just as importantly, the law made permanent my Paid Family and Medical Leave Tax Credit. Since establishing the nation's first and only nationwide PFML policy, this credit has given employers – large and small – the flexibility to offer paid leave voluntarily. Its permanence gives businesses certainty and gives workers the ability to care for a newborn child or aging parent without risking their job or paycheck.

The law also included my Protecting Rural Seniors' Access to Care Act, which reversed an unrealistic nursing home staffing mandate that threatened to close facilities across rural America. This fix ensures that seniors – especially those outside metropolitan areas – can continue to access safe, quality care close to home.

Beyond this landmark legislation, I introduced 32 bills, resolutions, and provisions in 2025 aimed at positioning Nebraska for long-term success, four of which have already been signed into law. I've cosponsored 136 pieces of legislation, and I'm proud to say 14 of these bills have been enacted.

Agriculture remains the economic engine of our state, and I championed policies to support producers, expand year-round E15, and secure more than \$17.5 million for cutting-edge research. I also reintroduced my Precision Agriculture Package to help farmers adopt innovative tools that improve productivity while reducing resource use.

As a senior member of the Senate Commerce Committee, I worked to modernize vehicle safety standards, improve transparency in transportation oversight, and ensure Nebraska's transportation sector is treated fairly. I was also proud to see the president sign my resolution overturning an electric vehicle mandate that would have imposed nationwide emissions policy by the federal government rather than consumer choice.

Supporting those who served our great nation remains a core responsibility. In 2025, I advanced legislation to improve veterans' access to health

WASHINGTON REPORT



U.S. Senator

Deb Fischer

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.

Francis Hopkinson (1737-1791) was born of English parents, at Philadelphia, in the year 1737. His mother was the daughter of the Bishop of Worcester, and, like her husband, was well educated, and moved in the polite circles of England. They maintained the same standing in Philadelphia, and the

See INDEPENDENCE, Page 8 ►

We should be grateful to live where we do

Every New Year, we have the opportunity to reflect on the last year and plan for the future.

WASHINGTON REPORT



U.S. Senator

Pete Ricketts

safer. We will make 2026 a great year for Nebraskans.

Thanks to the Working Families Tax Cut, Nebraskans will see wages increase this year. We are already entering 2026 with the lowest gas prices in nearly 5 years. In 2025, Senate Republicans cut through record numbers of Biden-era regulations that increased costs. When it comes time to file taxes, Nebraskans will keep more money in their pockets. CBS reports that the average tax refund will increase by about \$1,000 per filer. That's because of the Working Families Tax Cuts.

The Working Families Tax Cuts prevented a \$2,443 tax increase on the average Nebraska family. Instead, Senate Republicans expanded the child tax credit and dependent tax credits. We incentivized businesses to invest in childcare for their workers. We created a \$6,000 tax deduction for seniors.

Now, 88% of seniors won't have to pay federal income taxes on their Social Security benefits. We increased the standard deduction while allowing donations to be itemized. We included no tax on tips and no tax on overtime provisions. We made the Death Tax exemption permanent. Now, Nebraska farming and ranching families can pass their businesses on to the next generation. In the new year, we're going to keep working to lower costs and keep more money in Nebraskans' pockets.

We're also going to fight for affordable health care. Whether veterans or civilians, rural or urban, all Nebraskans deserve a high standard of care. That's why I am fighting to improve veteran care with my CARING for Our Veterans and MIND Our Veterans leg-

islation. We also created a \$50 billion fund for rural health care grants. We closed loopholes that allowed illegal immigrants to receive Medicare and Medicaid. These programs are being saved for those that need them: kids, the elderly, and the disabled.

We delivered wins for farmers and ranchers in 2025. We expanded the 45Z tax credit, strengthening Nebraska biofuel production. I encouraged EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin to increase Renewable Volume Obligations (RVOs) for biofuels and he did. We made the Death Tax exemption permanent. We updated reference pricing and secured \$12 billion in relief for farmers and ranchers. We invested \$285 million annually in agricultural trade promo-

See RICKETTS, Page 6 ►

See FISCHER, Page 6 ►

Numbers to Know

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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OBITUARIES

Frances A. Beelart, 91

November 27, 1934 - January 7, 2026

A lifelong member of St. Boniface Catholic Church, she lived her faith through simplicity, steadiness and service.



Frances A. Beelart, 91, of Elgin, NE passed away Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at Acura Healthcare in Neligh, NE

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Elgin with Rev. Frank Baumert officiating. Interment followed at the parish cemetery. Visitation was one hour prior to the funeral at the church on Tuesday.

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

Frances Ann Beelart, daughter of Michael Alfred and Helen Marie (Winnepenninkx) Beelart, was born on November 27, 1934, fourteen miles west of Elgin during a blizzard. She moved with her family to a home on the edge of Elgin where she attended St. Boniface School through the seventh grade and lived her entire life in the home where she was raised.

Frances worked in many local businesses over the years,

The Elgin Review • January 14, 2026

Change of attorney leads to new hearing, trial dates

A Lincoln man charged with one count of assault-cause bodily injury, a Class I misdemeanor, appeared before Antelope County Judge Donna Taylor, Jan. 7, in Antelope County Court.

During the hearing, the court said that Patrick Carney, who previously represented 24-year-old Dillon Knapp, had requested a continuance and the State did not object.

Michael C. Moyer, who was recently appointed to represent Knapp, requested a 60-day continuance so he had time to review evidence.

Taylor ordered Knapp to appear Feb. 18 for a pretrial hearing. A jury trial is set for Feb. 27.

Bond, set at \$4,000-10%, remains in effect.

Courtesy of SAM

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Judith “Judy” Zegers, 85

November 19, 1940 - January 8, 2026

A St. Boniface High School graduate, she lived a life rooted in faith, family and a deep commitment to serving others.



Judith “Judy” M. Zegers, 85, of Elgin passed away peacefully on

Thursday, January 8, 2026, at Alpine Village in Verdigre, NE. A Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, January 14, 2026 (today), at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Elgin with Rev. Frank Baumert officiating. Interment will take place at the parish cemetery. Visitation was Tuesday at the church, with a 7:00 p.m. wake service. Levander Funeral Home of Elgin is in charge of the arrangements. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.levanderfuneralhome.com.

Judith Margaret Zegers was born on November 19, 1940, in Petersburg, NE, to Harold and Lucille (Stokes) Benda. She was baptized just days later, on November 25, 1940, at St. John the Baptist Church in Petersburg. Judy received her education at St. Boniface School and graduated with the Class of 1958.

On August 22, 1960, Judy was united in marriage to Gayle Zegers at St. Boniface Catholic Church. From this loving union, they were blessed with four children. Together, Judy and Gayle made their home in Elgin, where they built a life rooted in faith, family, and a deep commitment to serving others.

Throughout her life, Judy dedicated herself both to her family and her work. She was employed as a secretary at FCX and later worked at Mr. M’s Catering, the Elgin Sale Barn, and the Antelope County Veterinary Clinic. She also catered for services in the community and devoted much of her life to being a homemaker, a role she truly cherished. Always willing to lend a hand, Judy helped Gayle on the farm when needed, milking cows and doing chores alongside him.

Judy was a longtime and devoted member of St. Boniface Catholic Church. She served as a CCD teacher, was an active member of the Altar Society, and later its president. She was

The Elgin Review • January 14, 2026

Steven V. Pelster, 71

August 28, 1954 - January 5, 2026

A U.S. Army veteran, he started boxing when he was 10 years old and later became a Golden Gloves champion.



Steven Victor Pelster, 71, formerly of Petersburg,

passed away on January 5, 2026 at LaVista, Nebraska. A funeral service for Pelster will be Thursday, January 15, 2026, from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Bethany Funeral Home & Cremation Service in LaVista, Nebraska. Visitation will be Thursday, January 15 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the funeral home.

A graveside service will be held Friday, January 16, at Omaha National Cemetery beginning at 12:30 p.m..

Steven Victor Pelster was born on August 28, 1954 in Neligh, NE to Cyril Albert and Viola Elizabeth (Schrage) Pelster, and he passed away on January 5, 2026.

He was one of 16 children (older sister Anna died at birth) and attended St. Bonaventure grade school in Raeville, Nebraska and Pope John XXIII Central Catholic High School in Elgin, Nebraska, graduating in 1972. He entered the Army shortly after high school and was honorably discharged in 1976.

Following his tour of duty with the Army, Steve worked as a self-employed carpenter/contractor in the Omaha area for a number of years, before becoming a Real Estate Agent with NP Dodge Real Estate, until his retirement.

In retirement, Steve liked to keep up his carpenter skills by doing small remodel jobs, patios, and decks.

Steve married Jeanette Howard Dailey on November 21, 1981, and they lived in Omaha and La Vista since their marriage.

They had 2 children, Victoria (Tori) Morris and Marcus Pelster, and 4 grandchildren,

The Elgin Review • January 14, 2026

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John 1:29-42
Isaiah 49:1-7 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 Psalm 40:1-11
Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts for
Sunday, January 18, 2026
Second Sunday After the Epiphany

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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Weekend Mass: Sunday, 10 am.
cppnebraska.org

St. Bonaventure Catholic Church
Raeville, NE
Fr. John Norman, Pastor
Fr. Frank Baumert, Associate Pastor
Weekend Mass: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday, 8 am.
cppnebraska.org

Park Congregational U.C.C. Church
Elgin, NE
Congregational
Sunday Worship Service: 9:15 am.
Sunday School: 10:15 am.
Communion Sunday: 1st Sunday of each month. Park Women's Fellowship: 2 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the church. Parish Council: 7:30 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the church.

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Petersburg, NE
Fr. John Norman, Pastor
Fr. Frank Baumert, Associate Pastor
Weekend Mass: 2nd & 4th Sunday, 8 am.
cppnebraska.org

Bartlett Church of Faith
Bartlett, NE
Pastor Mark Hoffman
Sunday Worship Service: 9 am.
Sunday School: 10-10:45 am.

Calvary Bible Church
Neligh, NE
Pastor Peter Sample
Sunday School: 9:30 am.
Worship Service: 10:45 am.

Trinity Lutheran Church
Elgin, NE
Vacancy Pastor Brian Bucklew
Sunday Worship Service: 8 am.
Sunday school follows service.
Saturday Evening Service: 6 pm on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Elgin Community Christian Church
Elgin, NE
Pastor Jonathan Braden
605-430-9171
Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 am.
Church Council: 2nd Tuesday of each month.

St. John's Catholic Church
Rural Clearwater, NE
Fr. John Norman, Pastor
Fr. Frank Baumert, Associate Pastor
Weekend Mass: 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturday, 5:30 am.
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St. Paul Lutheran Church
Chambers, NE
Pastor Leif Hasskarl
Sunday Worship: 8:30 am.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:30 am.

Immanuel-Zion Lutheran Church
ELCA
Rural Albion, NE
Pastor Elizabeth Goehring
Worship Service: 9:30 am.
Coffee following services
Sunday School: 10:30 am.
Holy Communion, 1st & 3rd Sundays
(facility is handicap accessible plus Facebook Live and broadcasts on cable channel 65, Tuesday at 10:30 am.)

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

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New year, new insurance? Save yourself time and headaches

A new year often brings fresh starts—and for many patients, new or updated health insurance. Boone County Health Center would like to remind patients that even small insurance changes can have a big impact on how visits are billed and claims are processed.

Taking a few minutes to update your insurance information can help prevent delays, billing errors, and unnecessary stress later on.

Each year, insurance plans, coverage details, and member information may change. This year, however, there have been more changes in the insurance marketplace than usual.

Premiums have increased, and many individuals and families have switched plans or providers. Even if you



Stacey Slaymaker

believe your insurance has stayed the same, details such as group numbers or coverage rules may have changed.

Keeping your insurance information current helps ensure claims are processed correctly and in a timely manner. When outdated or incorrect insurance information is on file, claims may be delayed, denied, or billed incorrectly. This can create extra work and frustration for both patients and staff—and may result in unexpected bills or the need for corrections later.

Simply put, updating your insurance can save you time, stress, and unnecessary headaches.

We strongly encourage patients to bring their current insurance card to every visit, even if you have been here before.

If you have insurance updates or questions, please contact Patient Financial Services at 402-395-3166, stop by the south entrance of the Health Center at 1173 S. 8th Street, or email patientfinancialservices@boonecohealth.org.

By Stacey Slaymaker, CPC, RH-CBS, Revenue Cycle Director

Sentencing announced in 2023 bad check case

A Bennett, Nebraska woman, originally arrested in 2023 for one count of issuing a bad check - \$0-500, a Class II misdemeanor, made an appearance in Antelope County Court, Jan. 7.

Donni Nachtman, 61, appeared for arraignment and entered a no contest plea.

Antelope County Judge Donna Taylor found Nachtman guilty and ordered her to pay a \$100 fine, restitution of \$65 to Royal One Stop, along with court costs and fees, totaling \$51.

Taylor ordered \$20 paid on Jan. 7, and suspended \$151 until Feb. 4. If not paid in full, Nachtman was ordered to appear then for a show-cause hearing.

An arrest warrant was issued for Nachtman on July 7, 2023, and served Dec. 22, 2025 by an official from the Antelope County Sheriff's Office. A \$1,500 personal recognizance bond was set that day.

A 18-year-old Omaha man accepted a plea agreement that led to Antelope County Attorney Joe Smith filing amended charges and recommending probation at sentencing.

Alan L. Rodriguez, originally charged with possession of a controlled substance, a Class IV felony, pleaded guilty to an amended charge of attempt of a Class IV felony, a Class I misdemeanor; amended to possession of marijuana over 1 ounce to 1 pound, a Class III misdemeanor.

A second count, possess marijuana over 1 ounce to 1 pound, a Class III misdemeanor, was dismissed.

Taylor sentenced Rodriguez to pay a \$250 fine. He will also spend six months in probation. Per the order, Rodriguez shall abstain from use of alcoholic beverages, not use or possess controlled substances, and submit to chemical testing of blood, breath, sweat or urine, upon request.

Taylor ordered Rodriguez to seek employment and make a minimum of three applications per week and provide proof to the probation office.

Raymond F. Poli, 47, of Neligh, accepted a plea agreement. In exchange for a guilty plea, the State agreed to recommend a fine at sentencing. Poli was charged with one count of no operator's license/non-waiverable, a Class III misdemeanor.

Taylor pronounced sentencing and ordered Poli to pay a \$275 fine, in addition to \$50 in court costs and fees. During sentencing, Taylor ordered Poli to pay \$100 that day, with the balance due to be paid in full

by Feb. 4. She set a show-cause hearing for Feb. 4 if the balance isn't paid.

Ethan C. Hoback, 19, of Norfolk, will have his license revoked for 60 days, pay a \$500 fine, and install an ignition interlock after being sentenced for an amended count of DUI-alcohol-1st offense, a Class W misdemeanor.

Taylor also sentenced Hoback to a nine month probation term.

Timothy D. Anderson, 79, of Neligh, accepted a plea agreement and pleaded guilty to one count of DUI-alcohol-2nd offense, a Class W misdemeanor. Per the agreement, the State would recommend probation at sentencing.

Taylor sentenced Anderson to pay a \$500 fine and ordered him to serve 10 days in jail, with credit for one day served. He will be spend 12 months in probation, attend AA meetings, have an interlock device installed and have his license revoked for 18 months.

Anderson's bond was released and will be applied to fines. He was remanded to the custody of the Antelope County Sheriff.

Thirty-one-year-old Jeremy D. Odom, of Neligh, appeared for arraignment on one count of no proof of insurance, a Class II misdemeanor; and one count of operate or park unregistered vehicle, a Class III misdemeanor. Odom pleaded guilty to both charges.

Taylor ordered Odom to pay a \$250 fine for count one and a \$75 fine on count two. Odom will appear Feb. 4 for a show cause hearing if the amount due is not paid in full by that time.

Callie J. Kraft, 30, of Neligh, pleaded guilty to an amended charge of drive under suspension/before reinstated-state, a Class III misdemeanor.

The charge stems from a Dec. 2 incident. Kraft was originally charged with a Class II misdemeanor, driving during revocation/impound-1st.

Per the agreement, the State would recommend a fine at sentencing. Taylor ordered Kraft to pay a \$100 fine.

Taten C. Phillips, 24, of Norfolk, appeared for an entry of plea hearing on one count of driving under suspension/before reinstated-state, a Class III misdemeanor. Phillips pleaded guilty to the charge and Taylor sentenced him to a \$100 fine, to be paid in full.

Courtesy of SAM

Fischer

◀ FROM Page 4

care, including making it easier to schedule appointments and enabling communities to help plan and construct VA facilities through my CHIP IN for Veterans Act.

On the Armed Services and Appropriations Committees, I helped secure key defense investments, including more than \$54 million for Offutt Air Force Base, a 3.8% pay raise for service members, and passage of my FACT Act to protect American technology and telecommunications from foreign adversaries.

Throughout it all, Nebraskans' priorities guided my work

— whether expanding broadband access, supporting rural hospitals, modernizing child care, or honoring the legacy of the North Platte Canteen.

Governing is ultimately about showing up and doing the hard work. I participated in over 500 meetings and events with constituents across Nebraska and in Washington, DC. In 2025, we recovered over \$9.8 million in federal casework funds to Nebraskans. My team opened 628 new cases, completed 689 constituent cases, and visited all 93 counties. That work continues. It is an honor to serve Nebraska, and I look forward to building on this foundation in the year ahead.

Ricketts

◀ FROM Page 4

tion programs. We eliminated scholarship rules that penalized ag families sending their kids to college. But farmers and ranchers need long-term certainty. So, I'm working to pass a five-year Farm Bill.

I am also working to make sure Nebraskans stay safe.

In 2025, we passed the HALT Fentanyl Act to help law enforcement combat the spread of fentanyl. Now, with a secure border and enhanced policing tools, the fentanyl crisis is receding. Nebraskans deserve safer streets, so I'm fighting to make sure we don't suffer another drug or illegal immigration crisis.



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Independence

◀ FROM Page 4

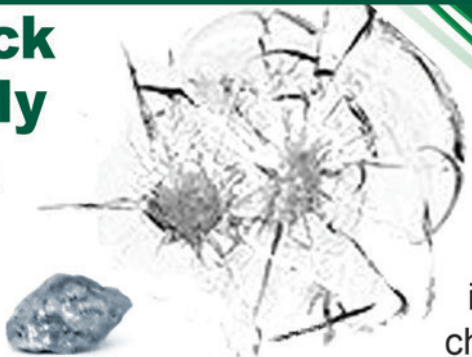
subject of this sketch had every advantage in early life which social position could give him. (Lives of the Signers, B.J.Lossing, Wallbuilder Press)

Unfortunately, at age 14, his father passed away. His mother took the responsibility to educate Francis till he was ready for the College of Philadelphia, a school which his father and Benjamin Franklin helped charter. Upon completion, he began to study law and at age 28, in 1765, was admitted to practice law. He did not immediately enter his field of study but instead visited family in England, studying two years under the Bishop of Worcester, returning in 1768, marrying Ann Borden of Bordentown, New Jersey. Soon he was appointed by the British to a high paying office in the State of New Jersey. When word got out that he was leaning toward republican principles, his job ended.



Caroline Epp

A little rock can quickly become a BIG problem.



Rock damage, a close encounter with deer, racoons or another car?

Don't ignore that chip or crack!

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Elgin, NE 68636

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Jonny Dodge Chrysler Jeep Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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518 S. 2nd Street Elgin, NE 68636

ORDINANCE NO. 681 - NATURAL GAS FRANCHISE FOR BLACK HILLS NEBRASKA GAS, LLC
THE ELGIN CITY COUNCIL

Ordinance No. 681
An Ordinance granting Black Hills Nebraska Gas, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy, a Delaware corporation, its lessees, successors and assigns, a natural gas franchise and the authority to construct, operate, maintain, and extend a natural gas distribution plant and system, and granting the right to use the streets, alleys, and other public places within the present or future corporate limits of the City of Elgin, Nebraska.

Be it ordained by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Elgin, Nebraska, as follows:

FRANCHISE GRANTED

The City of Elgin, Nebraska (hereinafter referred to as "Grantor"), hereby grants a non-exclusive franchise to Black Hills Nebraska Gas, LLC d/b/a Black Hills Energy, a Delaware limited liability corporation (hereinafter called "Grantee"), its lessees, successors and assigns. Grantee is hereby granted the right, privilege, franchise, permission and authority to lay, construct, install, maintain, operate and extend in, along, over or across the present and future streets, alleys, avenues, bridges, public rights-of-way and public easements as are now within the present or future limits of said Grantor, a natural gas distribution system and all facilities necessary for the purpose of supplying natural gas or processed gas and other operations connected therewith or incident thereto for all purposes to the inhabitants of said Grantor and consumers in the vicinity thereof, and for the distribution of natural gas from or through said Grantor to points beyond the limits thereof. Such facilities shall include, but not be limited to, all mains, services, pipes, conduits and all other apparatus and appliances necessary or convenient for transporting, distributing and supplying natural gas for all purposes for which it may be used, and to do all other things necessary and proper in providing natural gas service to the inhabitants of Grantor and in carrying on such business.

TERM

The rights and privileges granted hereunder shall remain in effect for a period of twenty-five (25)

years from the effective date of this Ordinance.

GOVERNING RULES AND REGULATIONS

The franchise granted hereunder is subject to all conditions, limitations and immunities now provided for, or as hereafter amended, and applicable to the operations of a public utility, by state or federal law. The rates to be charged by Grantee for service within the present or future corporate limits of Grantor and the rules and regulations regarding the character, quality and standards of service to be furnished by Grantee, shall be under the jurisdiction and control of such regulatory body or bodies as may, from time to time, be vested by law with authority and jurisdiction over the rates, regulations and quality and standards of service to be supplied by Grantee. Provided however, should any judicial, regulatory or legislative body having proper jurisdiction take any action that precludes Grantee from recovering from its customers any cost associated with services provided hereunder, then Grantee and Grantor shall renegotiate the terms of this Ordinance in accordance with the action taken. In determining the rights and duties of the Grantee, the terms of this Ordinance shall take precedence over any conflicting terms or requirements contained in any other ordinance enacted by the Grantor.

PROVISION FOR INADEQUATE ENERGY SUPPLIES

If an energy supplier is unable to furnish an adequate supply of energy due to an emergency, an order or decision of a public regulatory body, or other acts beyond the control of the Grantee, then the Grantee shall have the right and authority to adopt reasonable rules and regulations limiting, curtailing or allocating extensions of service or supply of energy to any customers or prospective customers, and withholding the supply of energy to new customers, provided that such rules and regulations shall be uniform as applied to each class of customers or prospective customers, and shall be non-discriminatory as between communities receiving service from the Grantee.

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF GRANTEE'S FACILITIES

TIES

Any pavements, sidewalks or curbing taken up and any and all excavations made shall be done in such a manner as to cause only such inconvenience to the inhabitants of Grantor and the general public as is reasonably necessary, and repairs and replacements shall be made promptly by Grantee, leaving such properties in as good as condition as existed immediately prior to excavation.

Grantor agrees that for the term of this franchise, it will use its best efforts to maintain its facilities and equipment in a condition sufficient to meet the current and future energy requirements of Grantor, its inhabitants and industries. While maintaining its facilities and equipment, Grantee shall obtain permits as required by ordinance and will fix its excavations within a commercially reasonable time period, except that in emergency situations Grantee shall take such immediate unilateral actions as it determines are necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare; in which case, Grantee shall notify Grantor as soon as reasonably possible. Within a reasonable time thereafter, Grantee shall request and Grantor shall issue any permits or authorizations required by Grantor for the actions conducted by Grantee during the emergency situation.

Grantor will give Grantee reasonable notice of plans for street improvements where paving or resurfacing of a permanent nature is involved that affects Grantee's facilities. The notice shall contain the nature and character of the improvements, the rights-of-way upon which the improvements are to be made, the extent of the improvements, and the time when the Grantor will start the work, and, if more than one right-of-way is involved, the order in which the work is to proceed. The notice shall be given to the Grantee as soon as practical in advance of the actual commencement of the work, considering seasonable working conditions, to permit the Grantee to make any additions, alterations, or repairs to its facilities.

EXTENSION OF GRANTEE'S FACILITIES

Upon receipt and acceptance

of a valid application for service, Grantee shall, subject to its own economic feasibility criteria as approved by the Nebraska Public Service Commission make reasonable extensions of its distribution facilities to serve customers located within the current or future corporate limits of Grantor.

RELOCATION OF GRANTEE'S FACILITIES

If Grantor elects to change the grade of or otherwise alter any street, alley, avenue, bridge, public right-of-way or public place for a public purpose, unless otherwise reimbursed by federal, state or local legislative act or governmental agency, Grantee, upon reasonable notice from Grantor, shall remove and relocate its facilities or equipment situated in the public rights-of-way, at the cost and expense of Grantee, if such removal is necessary to prevent interference with Grantor's facilities. If Grantor orders or requests Grantee to relocate its facilities or equipment for the primary benefit of a commercial or private project, or as a result of the initial request of a commercial or private developer or other non-public entity, and such removal is necessary to prevent interference with such project, then Grantee shall receive payment for the cost of such relocation as a precondition to relocating its facilities or equipment.

Grantor shall consider reasonable alternatives in designing its public works projects and exercising its authority under this section so as not to arbitrarily cause Grantee unreasonable additional expense. If alternative public right-of-way space is available, Grantor shall also provide a reasonable alternative location for Grantee's facilities. Grantor shall give Grantee written notice of an order or request to vacate a public right-of-way; provided, however, that its receipt of such notice shall not deprive Grantee of its right to operate and maintain its existing facilities in such public right-of way until it (a) if applicable, receives the reasonable cost of relocating the same and (b) obtains a reasonable public right-of-way, dedicated utility easement, or private easement alternative location for such facilities.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Grantor acknowledges that certain information it might request from Grantee pursuant to this Or-

dinance may be of a proprietary and confidential nature, and that such requests may be subject to the Homeland Security Act or other confidentiality protections under state or federal law. If Grantee requests that any information provided by Grantee to Grantor be kept confidential due to its proprietary or commercial value, Grantor and its employees, agents and representatives shall maintain the confidentiality of such information, to the extent allowed by law. If Grantor is requested or required by legal or administrative process to disclose any such proprietary or confidential information, Grantor shall promptly notify Grantee of such request or requirement so that Grantee may seek an appropriate protective order or other relief.

FORCE MAJEURE

It shall not be a breach or default under this Ordinance if either party fails to perform its obligations hereunder due to force majeure. Force majeure shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1) physical events such as acts of God, landslides, lightning, earthquakes, fires, freezing, storms, floods, washouts, explosions, breakage or accident or necessity of repairs to machinery, equipment or distribution or transmission lines; 2) acts of others such as strikes, work-force stoppages, riots, sabotage, insurrections or wars; 3) governmental actions such as necessity for compliance with any court order, law, statute, ordinance, executive order, or regulation promulgated by a governmental authority having jurisdiction; and (4) any other causes, whether of the kind herein enumerated or otherwise not reasonably within the control of the affected party to prevent or overcome. Each party shall make reasonable efforts to avoid force majeure and to resolve such event as promptly as reasonably possible once it occurs in order to resume performance of its obligations hereunder; provided, however, that this provision shall not obligate a party to settle any labor strike.

HOLD HARMLESS

Grantee, during the term of this Ordinance, agrees to save harmless Grantor from and against all claims, demands, losses and expenses arising directly out of the negligence of Grantee, its employees or agents, in constructing, operating, and maintaining its distri-

bution and transmission facilities or equipment; provided, however, that Grantee need not save Grantor or harmless from claims, demands, losses and expenses arising out of the negligence of Grantor, its employees or agents.

SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS

All rights, privileges and authority granted to Grantee hereunder shall inure to the benefit of Grantee's lessees, successors and assigns, subject to the terms, provisions and conditions herein contained, and all obligations imposed upon Grantee hereunder shall be binding upon Grantee's lessees, successors and assigns.

NO THIRD PARTY BENEFICIARIES

This Ordinance constitutes a franchise agreement between the Grantor and Grantee. No provision of this Ordinance shall inure to the benefit of any third person, including the public at large, so as to constitute any such person as a third-party beneficiary of the agreement or of any one or more of the terms hereof, or otherwise give rise to any cause of action for any person not a party hereto.

SEVERABILITY

If any clause, sentence or section of this Ordinance is deemed invalid by any judicial, regulatory or legislative body having proper jurisdiction, the remaining provisions shall not be affected.

NON WAIVER

Any waiver of any obligation or default under this Ordinance shall not be construed as a waiver of any future defaults, whether of like or different character.

REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES

This Ordinance, when accepted by Grantee as provided below, shall constitute the entire agreement between the Grantor and the Grantee relating to the franchise granted by Grantor hereunder, and the same shall supersede all prior ordinances relating thereto, and any terms and conditions of such prior ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed. Ordinance No. 545 of the City of Elgin, Nebraska, is hereby repealed as of the effective date hereof.

EFFECT AND INTERPRETATION OF ORDINANCE

The captions that precede each section of this Ordinance are for convenience and/or reference only and shall not be taken into consideration in the interpretation of any of the provisions of this Ordinance.

EFFECTIVE DATE AND ACCEPTANCE

This Ordinance shall become effective and be a binding contract between the Grantor and Grantee upon its final passage and approval by Grantor, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, and upon Grantee's acceptance by written instrument, within sixty (60) days of passage by the City Council, and filing with the Clerk of the City of Elgin, Nebraska. The Clerk of the City of Elgin, Nebraska shall sign and affix the community seal to acknowledge receipt of such acceptance, and return one copy to Grantee. If Grantee does not, within sixty (60) days following passage of this Ordinance, either express in writing its objections to any terms or provisions contained therein, or reject this Ordinance in its entirety, Grantee shall be deemed to have accepted this Ordinance and all of its terms and conditions.

Passed and approved by the City of Elgin, Nebraska, this 5th day of January, 2026.

MIKE SCHMITT
Mayor, City of Elgin

Attest:
KRISTIN CHILDERS
Clerk of City of Elgin, Nebraska
PUBLISH: January 14, 2026
ZNEZ

Mobile food pantry coming to Neligh on January 20

The mobile food pantry, sponsored by the Neligh Faith Community Church as well as other businesses, churches, and individuals will be dispersing food next week. The food pantry will be at the American Legion Club in Neligh on Tuesday, January 20, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Subscribe to The Elgin Review Today!

ELGIN PUBLIC POPE JOHN

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Our Pride of the Pack

A senior, Jarek led the Wolfpack in scoring in last week's decisive win over Bloomfield. He had 25 pnts, 12 rebounds, 2 assists and 4 steals. The Pack are at 12-0.

A sophomore, Kinley averaged just over 7 pnts per game as the team split two games. Her defensive play has helped the team create turnovers & opportunities for points.

A senior, Landyn reached a goal on Saturday when he got his 100th win in his first matchup at Summerland. He capped the invite by bringing home a 2nd place medal.

JAREK ERICKSON BOYS BASKETBALL

KINLEY D RUEKE GIRLS BASKETBALL

LANDYN VEIK WRESTLING (BOYS)

This week's sponsor:

DEAN'S MARKET OF ELGIN

bank of ELGIN

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FDIC

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Full Time

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Community Calendar

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

Wednesday, January 14
Regular meeting of the District #18 Board of Education @ 7 p.m.

Thursday, January 15
Caregivers Support Group meeting at the Elgin Community Center (1 p.m.) ■ Pope John XXIII Central Catholic National Honor Society Induction.

Monday, January 19
No School at Elgin schools (teacher in-service).

Sunday, January 25
Evening With Friends Gala.

Saturday, January 31
Start of NVC Basketball Tourneys

Monday, February 2
Regular monthly meeting of the Elgin City Council.

Tuesday, February 3
Regular meeting of the Antelope County Board of Commissioners.

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

NOTICE

ESTATE OF STACY CHARF, DECEASED

NOTICE

Estate of **STACY CHARF**, Deceased
Notice is hereby given that on December 30th, 2025, in the County Court of Antelope County, Nebraska, Case No. PR25-43, Danelle Charf, whose mailing address is 802 E. 3rd Street, Neligh, Nebraska 68756, has been appointed as personal representative of this estate. Creditors of this estate must

file their claims with this Court on or before March 9, 2026 or be forever barred. Creditors shall submit their claims to the Antelope County Court, P.O. Box 26, Neligh, Nebraska 68756.

/s/ Martin V. Klein
Martin V. Klein, #22220
Attorney for Applicant
PUBLISH: January 7, 14 & 21, 2026
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION
NA FAMILY FARMS, LLC

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that NA FAMILY FARMS, LLC, a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, is organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska. The registered agent is Nathan Anderson. The street and mailing address of the registered agent and designated office is 51147 842 Rd. Elgin, NE 68636. The general nature of its business is to engage in and to 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; and for all other purposes authorized by law, to the same extent as natural persons might or could do. The limited liability company was filed on December 10, 2025 with an effective date of January 1, 2026, and has perpetual existence. Its affairs shall be conducted by the Members pursuant to the Operating Agreement duly adopted by the Company. PUBLISH: January 7, 14 & 21, 2026
ZNEZ

ORDINANCE NO. 682 - FRANCHISE FEE FOR ENERGY PROVIDERS
THE ELGIN CITY COUNCIL

Ordinance No. 682
An ordinance establishing a franchise fee on Energy Providers operating in The City of Elgin, NE
Be it ordained by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Elgin, Nebraska, as follows:

Section 1. The City of Elgin, Nebraska, (hereinafter referred to as the "Municipality") hereby establishes a franchise fee on every natural gas company and every other person, firm or corporation, their successors and assigns, owning, operating, controlling, leasing or managing a natural gas plant or system and/or generating, manufacturing, selling, distributing or transporting natural gas (hereinafter referred to, collectively, as "Energy Providers," each, individually, an "Energy Provider"). Energy Providers shall collect from their customers located within the corporate limits of the Municipality as depicted on the Map (as defined below) and pay to the Municipality an amount equal to \$0.0088 per therm for natural gas delivered to customers by the Energy Providers within the present or future limits of the Municipality.

Section 2. The amount paid by Energy Providers shall be in lieu of, and Energy Providers shall be exempt from, all other fees, charges, taxes or assessments which the Municipality may impose for the privilege of doing business within the Municipality, including, without limitation, excise taxes, occupation taxes, licensing fees, or right-of-way permit fees, and in the event the Municipality imposes any such fee, charge, tax or assessment, the payment to be made by Energy Providers in accordance with this Ordinance shall be reduced in an amount equal to any such fee, charge, tax or assessment imposed

upon the Energy Providers. A valorem property taxes imposed generally upon all real and personal property within the Municipality shall not be deemed to affect Energy Providers' obligations under this Ordinance.

Section 3. Energy Providers shall report and pay any amount payable under this Ordinance on a calendar basis. Such payment shall be made no more than thirty (30) days following the close of the period for which payment is due. Initial and final payments shall be prorated for the portions of the periods at the beginning and end of any franchise granted by the City of Elgin, Nebraska, to an Energy Provider.

Section 4. Energy Providers shall list the franchise fee collected from customers as a separate item on bills for utility service issued to their customers. If at any time the Public Service Commission or other authority having proper jurisdiction prohibits such recovery, Energy Providers will no longer be obligated to collect and pay the franchise fee until an alternate lawful franchise fee can be negotiated and implemented. In addition, with prior approval of City of Elgin, Nebraska, Energy Providers may reduce the franchise fee payable for natural gas delivered to a specific customer when such reduction is required to attract or retain the business of that customer.

Section 5. Within ten (10) days of the date of this ordinance, the Municipality shall provide the Energy Providers with a map of its corporate limits (the "Map"). The Map along with Grantee's Geographic Information System ("GIS") mapping information shall be of sufficient detail to assist Energy Providers in determining whether their customers reside within the Municipality's corporate limits. The

Map shall serve as the sole basis for determining Energy Provider's obligation hereunder to collect and pay the franchise fee from customers; provided, however, that if the Municipality's corporate limits are changed by annexation or otherwise, it shall be the Municipality's sole responsibility to (a) update the Map so that such changes are included therein, and (b) provide the updated Map to the Energy Providers. An Energy Provider's obligation to collect and pay the franchise fee from customers within an annexed area shall not commence until the later: (a) of sixty (60) days after such Energy Provider's receipt from the Municipality of an updated Map including such annexed area, or (b) such time after such Energy Provider's receipt from the Municipality of an updated Map including such annexed area as is reasonably necessary for such Energy Provider to identify the customers in the annexed area obligated to pay the franchise fee.

OM-252193-1
Section 6. The City shall provide copies of annexation ordinances to Energy Providers on a timely basis to ensure appropriate Franchise fee collection from customers within the corporate limits of the City as set forth in Section 4 above.

Section 7. To the extent permitted by the laws of Nebraska, Municipality shall indemnify Energy Providers from claims of any nature, including attorney fees, arising out of or related to the imposition and collection of the franchise fee. In addition, Energy Providers shall not be liable for paying franchise fees from or to any customer originally or subsequently identified, or incorrectly identified, by Municipality or by Energy Providers, as being subject to the

franchise fee or being subject to a different level of franchise fees or being exempt from the imposition of franchise fees.

Section 8. The Municipality shall have access to and the right to examine, during normal business hours, Energy Provider's books, receipts, files, records and documents as is reasonably necessary to verify the accuracy of payments due hereunder; provided, that the Municipality shall not exercise such right more than twice per calendar year. If it is determined that a mistake was made in the payment of any franchise fee required hereunder, such mistake shall be corrected promptly upon discovery such that any under-payment by an Energy Provider shall be paid within thirty (30) days of recalculation of the amount due, and any overpayment by an Energy Provider shall be deducted from the next payment of such franchise fee due by such Energy Provider to the Municipality; provided, that neither party shall have the obligation to correct a mistake that is discovered more than one (1) year after the occurrence thereof.

Section 9. Any and all Ordinances or portions thereof which are in conflict herewith are hereby repealed, specifically Ordinance 545.

Section 10. This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication according to law.

Section 11. Passed and approved by the City of Elgin, Nebraska, on this 5th day of January, 2025.

MIKE SCHMITT
Mayor, City of Elgin, Nebraska
Attest:
KRISTIN CHILDERS
City Clerk of Elgin, Nebraska
PUBLISH: January 14, 2025
ZNEZ

PROCEEDINGS OF THE JANUARY 5, 2026 MEETING
THE ELGIN CITY COUNCIL

General Checking: U.S. Post Office, postage, 562.80; Black Hills Energy, util, 1,097.06; Prudential Annuities Service, retirement, 383.94; 118 Insurance LLC, ins, 4,902.00; APPEARA, srv, 198.53; Amazon Capital Services, sup, 278.76; Antelope County Sheriff, srv, 2,850.00; Applied Connective Technologies, srv, 100.00; Boyd's Electrical Service, Inc., srv, 815.00; Bud's Sanitary Service LLC, srv, 6,895.15; CORE Development, dues, 200.00; Danko Emergency Equipment, sup, 1,735.00; Dean's Market, sup, 27.76; Eakes Office Solutions, sup, 147.91; Elgin One Stop, fuel & sup, 309.13; Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, util, 3,089.04; Fitzgerald, Vetter, Temple, Bartell & Henderson, srv, 350.00; Great Plains Communications, util, 321.62; Kittelson Welding, srv, 450.00; League of NE Municipalities-Utilities Se, training,

170.00; Mid-American Research Chemical, sup, 668.91; Midwest Laboratories Inc., srv, 140.20; NE Public Health Environmental Lab, srv, 300.00; Nebraska Rural Water Association, training & srv, 745.00; Northeast Nebraska Clerks Association, dues, 20.00; One Call Concepts, Inc., srv, 7.73; Precision Repair, LLC, sup, 459.90; Rutjens Construction Inc., srv, 1,814.75; The Elgin Review, print, 85.75; Verizon Wireless, srv, 125.50; WW Concrete, srv, 1,936.00; Elgin Chamber of Commerce, misc, 400.00; Nebraska Department of Revenue, tax, 535.29; United States Treasury, tax, 4,349.14; American Funds Service Company, retirement, 222.40; Payroll, 18,083.00

Rescue Checking: Elgin One Stop, fuel, 87.00; Bound Tree Medical, LLC, sup, 120.57; Cassie Schrad, misc, 25.00; Echo Group, Inc., sup, 144.33; Kim Young, sup, 39.99; Kurt Hanlin, misc, 25.00; Linda Moser, misc, 200.00; Northeast Community College, travel, 33.60; Peggy Payne, misc, 200.00; Precision Repair, LLC, srv, 77.27; One Billing Solutions, srv, 192.25

• Statutory rule requiring reading Ordinance No. 681 on three different days be suspended
• Ordinance No. 681 passed and adopted
• Statutory rule requiring read-

ing Ordinance No. 682 on three different days be suspended
• Ordinance No. 682 passed and adopted

• \$10,000.00 in sales tax funds be donated to the Elgin Community Club to support the Elgin Vetch Day's carnival and events
• Regular meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

The following agenda items were discussed:

• Public comment: none
• Emergency sirens are all working, Sheriff Dept tested their new system last month to make sure they could still start them
• Cutter at the sewer plant is being replaced this week
• Poulsen retirement set for mid-May 2026

• City hall working on year-end documents and setting up first monthly utility billing cycle
• Next regular meeting will be held on Monday, February 2, 2026

Mayor MIKE SCHMITT
City Clerk KRISTIN CHILDERS
PUBLISH: January 14, 2026
ZNEZ

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Katherine A. Kusek, DDS, PC

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Statewide Impact.



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Source: Nebraska Statewide Study 2025, Coda Ventures

Bartlett News

The Bartlett Lions Club held their January meeting, in conjunction with a late Christmas party, January 11 at 6 p.m. in the old fire hall in Bartlett.



Photo submitted

The **Bartlett** Lions Club held a late Christmas party, Sunday, January 11 at the old fire hall.

A short meeting was held before supper with 18 adults and five children.

A \$50 gift card to help with transportation expenses will

be given to Roy Plugge and Cara Snider who both have had recent surgeries.

It was decided to continue supporting the Lions Screening Unit again next in the schools of Wheeler Central, Spalding Academy and Riverside.
Kay Reineke attended the Lions Zone Meeting at the Hitching Post in Burwell on January 5.

Lions representatives attending the meeting were from the towns of Atkinson, Broken Bow, Burwell, Bartlett and Holdrege.
Lions dues will be going up with a \$2 jump each year for the next five years.

Supper included brisket purchased by the Lions Club and smoked and prepared by Paul Glup, son in-law of Roy and Lu Plugge.

Delicious sides of all kinds

ty Employee Handbook update.
No action on 2027-2030 official wages.

Meeting Adjourned.
Antelope County Board of Commissioners

CHARLIE HENERY
Chairman of County Board
Attest: LISA PAYNE /s/
Antelope County Clerk
PUBLISH: January 14, 2026
ZNEZ

were provided by those attending. A men's and women's gift exchange occurred after the meal.

Twin Loup basketball teams competed against CWC at Bartlett on January 6.

The Wheeler Central pep band performed *The Magnificent Seven*, *Smoke on the Water* and *Hail Varsity*.

The band consisted of 8th grade students Anslee Wright, Denna Skorcz, Corbin Kas-selder, Trey Smith, Dawson Kluver and Mrs. Sherry Tetschner. *Star Spangled Banner* singers included Adynn Smith, Logan Landgren and Emilia Plugge from Wheeler Central and Kadence Metschke, Whitley Landry and Hadley Waldo of Chambers.

Submitted by Sherry Tetschner

CLASSIFIEDS

To place your classified ad, contact us at 402.843.5500 • PO Box 359 • elginreview@yahoo.com

Deadline Tuesday at 10:00 a.m.

FOR SALE

LOT FOR sale in Sterling Heights. Call 402-843-8130. 16-20; 21&23; 25&27p

SERVICES:

PASSPORT PHOTOS: Official U.S. and foreign passport and Visa photos available here. Available in under ten minutes. \$12 plus tax (78¢). Appointments highly recommended. The Elgin Review, 116 South 2nd St, Elgin NE. 402-843-5500. tfn

CARD OF THANKS

The family of Linda C. Schindler would like to thank the community of Elgin for the kindness shown on Saturday at her burial and luncheon. To Deacon John Starman, thank you for a beautiful service. Thank you to everyone who shared a dish or dessert and those who volunteered to serve at the luncheon. We appreciate your generosity. Thank you for the memories and stories, the cards and donations, and joining us to say goodbye to Linda.

Rural Nebraskans are aware of and concerned about the impact of online algorithms

Lincoln, Nebraska, Jan. 12, 2026 — Most rural Nebraskans are aware of the use of algorithms in online media and have some concerns about their use, according to results from the 2025 Nebraska Rural Poll.

Algorithms are a sequence of instructions given to a computer to perform a task or solve a problem. When media users log onto the internet, algorithms use data about the users to personalize the online experiences.

Most rural Nebraskans surveyed are aware that algorithms are used to recommend online media content, that they prioritize certain content above others and that they tailor content to them. At least six in 10 respondents say they are very or completely aware of the following:

> Algorithms are used to tailor certain online media content to them (67%);

> algorithms are used to prioritize certain online content above others (65%); and > algorithms are used to recommend online content to them (63%).

This is especially true of younger respondents, who are more likely than their older counterparts to be aware of algorithm use in online media content. Eighty-six percent of respondents ages 19 to 29 are very or completely aware that algorithms are used to recommend content, compared to just 31% of respondents 65 and older.

“Rural Nebraskans are asking thoughtful questions about their online interactions, and that’s a real strength,” said Becky Vogt, survey manager. “The data show strong awareness — especially among younger residents — about how algorithms shape what we see online, and that awareness creates opportunities for families and communities to learn from one another. Together, these trends suggest rural Nebraskans are well-positioned to navigate digital spaces in ways that reflect their values and support informed decision-making.”

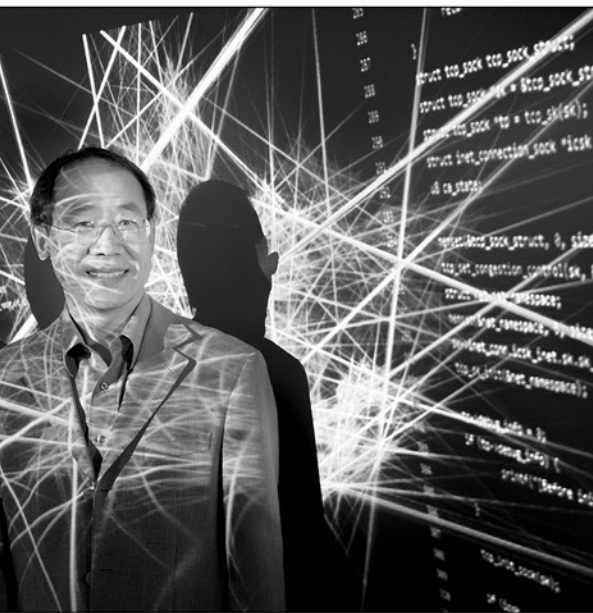
Most rural Nebraskans surveyed have some concerns about algorithms — that they make it harder to distinguish between reliable and unreliable information online, that they might limit the diversity of information users are exposed to online and that they influence the news and information users receive about current events.

At least six in 10 respondents are concerned about algorithms’ impact on online experiences and agree or strongly agree with the following:

> Algorithms are making it harder to distinguish between reliable and unreliable information online (74%);

> algorithms might limit the diversity of information I am exposed to online (69%); and > algorithms influence the news and information I receive online about current events (68%).

When asked about positive impacts of algorithms, respondents have mixed opinions. For these statements, the proportions agreeing are less than one in four:



> Algorithms can make it easier to find information by categorizing and promoting online information that is relevant to me (37%);

> algorithms might help me discover new information or perspectives online that I might not have otherwise encountered (36%); and

> algorithms personalize the information I see online in a way that is beneficial to me (25%).

Few rural Nebraskans surveyed are using algorithm recommender systems to achieve various objectives, such as maintaining consistency with their beliefs and interests or aligning with their personal values. About two in 10 agree with these statements:

> I often consciously train algorithm recommender systems to make the online media content more aligned with my preferences (19%);

> I often consciously train algorithm recommender systems on online media to maintain consistency with my beliefs and interests (22%); and

> I often consciously train algorithm recommender systems to make the online media content more aligned with my personal values (19%).

Respondents have mixed opinions about online communities. Forty-three percent disagree that they feel they belong to an online community on the internet. Meanwhile, 35% disagree that they can find people who share their exact interests more easily on the internet than they can in daily life, compared to just 29% who agree. Thirty-nine percent agree that the internet has allowed them to communicate with all kinds

of interesting people they otherwise would never have interacted with, compared to 25% who disagree.

Online communities seem to appeal more to younger persons, according to the Rural Poll. Younger respondents are more likely than their older counterparts to say they can find people who share their exact interests more easily on

the internet than they can in their daily life. Half of respondents ages 19 to 29 agree with this statement, compared to 15% of those 65 and older. Younger respondents are also more likely to agree that the internet has allowed them to communicate with all kinds of interesting people they otherwise never would have encountered. Sixty-three percent of respondents ages 19 to 29 agree with this statement, compared to 26% of those 65 and older.

“These findings show that rural Nebraskans are approaching the digital world with both caution and independence,” said Heather Akin, associate professor in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Department of Agricultural Leadership, Education and Communication. “Many residents recognize real challenges around information quality and diversity online. However, the data also highlight opportunities — especially across generations — to build skills, share perspectives and use technology more intentionally. Taken together, this suggests rural Nebraskans value thoughtful engagement.”

The “Algorithms” report and its implications for rural Nebraska will be highlighted during a Rural Poll webinar at noon Jan. 15. Akin will lead the discussion with special guests from the university’s School of Computing, College of Journalism and Mass Communications and University Libraries. Register here. The 2025 Nebraska Rural Poll marks the 30th year of tracking rural Nebraskans’ perceptions about policy and quality of life, making it the largest and longest-running poll of its kind. This summer, questionnaires were mailed to more than 6,700 Nebraska households, with 943 households from 86 of the state’s 93 counties responding. The poll carries a margin of error of plus-or-minus 3%. Conducted by Rural Prosperity Nebraska with funding from Nebraska Extension, the Rural Poll provides three decades of data on the voices of rural Nebraskans. Current and past reports are available at <https://ruralpoll.unl.edu>.



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Forage test can prevent over and under feeding

Open winters can mean grazing opportunities, but when animals can’t forage, hay is often the feed of choice to get our animals through. While an invaluable feed resource, the cost of getting a herd through the winter can be substantial.

One of the easiest ways to overspend feeding is by providing animals more than they need. On the flip side, underfeeding can lead to thin cows and down the road calving issues and low conception rates. Neither one is desirable. So how do we make sure to get animals exactly what they need? The first step is getting a forage test.

When we get tests back, I’d wager that there is going to be some differences in the differ-

IT’S ALL ABOUT BEEF



Beef Systems Asst. Ext. Educator Ben Beckman

ent cuttings and types of hay you have on hand. While it might seem minor, even as little of a difference as 2% in crude protein content can have a huge impact.

Let’s take a hay that tests at 9% crude protein and compare it with one at 7%. A 1,300 lb. spring calving cow in her second trimester needs about 1.6 lb. of crude protein on a dry matter basis in her diet daily to meet her nutritional needs. For our 9% protein hay, this cow needs to consume 17.8 lb. dry matter of hay daily. Feeding the 7% protein hay, this jumps to 22.9 lb. While 5 lbs. doesn’t seem like that much, spread that out over a herd of 100 animals and that’s 500 lbs. dry matter daily (555 lb. as fed).

If you take it one step further and drop the hay to 5% crude protein, that same cow now needs to consume 32 lb. of hay

on a dry matter basis daily. That’s now 14 additional lbs. on a dry matter basis needed with a change of just 4% protein. Again spread that out over a 100 cow herd and we need 1,400 additional lbs. of hay on a dry matter basis (1554 lb. as fed).

Given slower digestibility with a low quality feed, it’s probably likely the cow can’t even eat enough hay to meet this requirement. At this point, now we need to begin adding in an additional supplement earlier than we probably planned to keep the cow from losing condition.

To look at this another way, good quality grass hay is going for around \$90 per ton according to the USDA. Even at only a 2% drop in protein from 9 to 7%, the additional hay is going to cost the 100 cow herd an additional \$749.25 each month. That’s a pretty nice chunk of change that could be spent elsewhere, especially when the cost of running a forage sample is usually less than \$20. If you need help figuring out exactly what that diet should look like, bring your feed tests in to any beef systems educator and we’d be happy to help walk through it with you.

So this winter, take some time to look at your feeding plan, especially if the snow starts to fly. Feeding animals what they need can keep the heard happy and healthy and your pocket book full.

- Ben Beckman is a beef systems Extension Educator serving north-east Nebraska. He is based out of the Cedar County Extension office in Hartington. You can reach him by phone: (402) 254-6821 or email: ben.beckman@unl.edu



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Work hours are 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM – 4 days a week. Upon employment, benefit package includes full family health care coverage, 401k retirement and paid holidays. CDL is preferred but not required at the time of hire. Drug tests are mandatory.

Apply in person, on Antelope County Road Department’s Facebook page @AntelopeCountyRoadDepartment, or mail application to: Antelope County Clerk, 501 M. Street, PO Box 26, Neligh, NE 68756.

Applications on file at the Clerk’s Office 90 days prior to notice will be considered.

Antelope County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. This position is subject to a veteran’s preference and may remain open until it is filled.

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- Kester Bros - 65 BLK & BWF Steers, 900-975#
- RB Angus - 50 BLK Angus & BBF RQ Heifers, 700-750#
- KK&S Schumacher - 50 BLK Angus Steers & Heifers, 650-800#
- M Miller - 50 BLK SimX Steers & Heifers, 600-800#
- D&B Pokorny - 40 BLK Angus RQ Heifers, 525-675#
- J Preston - 35 BLK, BWF & RWF Steers & Heifers, 450-750#
- K Oelsigle - 30 BLK Angus Steers, 625-725#
- Pelster Ranch - 25 BLK & BWF Steers, 550-600#
- Clouse Ranch - 15 BLK Angus Steers & Heifers, 350-500#
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WOLFPACK

Wolfpack Sports



Courtesy photo/Rock County Leader

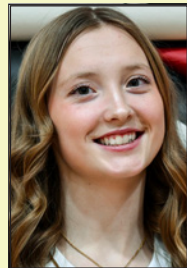
Mady Kurpgeweit (23) had a double-double against St. Mary's with 13 points and 16 rebounds.

EPPJ pulls away late to defeat Cards

O'NEILL — For the longest time, St. Mary's has given the Wolfpack fits on the basketball court.

On Tuesday night, EPPJ pulled away late in the fourth quarter to defeat the Lady Cardinals 43 to 36 in girls basketball action.

Late in the fourth quarter, the Wolfpack put together a seven-point run to close out the game. One of the stand-out moments



Braelyn Martinsen

late in the fourth quarter came when junior playmaker Braelyn Martinsen was fouled shooting from behind the arc. She made all three free

throws to pad the team's lead. Martinsen and Mady Kurpgeweit led the Wolfpack in scoring with 13 points apiece. Kurpgeweit pulled down 16 rebounds for a double-double. She also led the team in assists with three.

The Wolfpack held a big edge in rebounds with 39 compared to 25 for the Cardinals. Also, EPPJ had a 16 to 9 edge in steals in the contest between NVC schools.

St. Mary's was able to stay closed, in large part, due to their three-point shooting. They made five of 23, the majority in the second half. EPPJ was just one of 10 from three-point range.

EPPJ 43, St. Mary's 36
Wolfpack.....9 10 11 13 — 43
Cardinals.....6 9 14 7 — 36
Wolfpack — Kayton Zwingman 3-7 0-0 6, Gentry Zwingman 0-2 0-0 0, Elizabeth Moser 1-2 0-0 2, Kinley Druke 3-9 0-0 7, Braelyn Martinsen 5-14 3-3 13, Kinley Miller 0-0 0-0 0, Jael Lammers 1-4 0-0 2, Kierstyn Eisenhower 0-0 0-0 0, Mady Kurpgeweit 5-13 3-5 13. Team totals: 18-51 6-8 43. Three-point shots — Wolfpack 1-10 (Druke). St. Mary's team totals: 11-45 9-14 36. Three-point shots — St. Mary's 5-23. Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 39 (Kurpgeweit 16, Martinsen 9), Cardinals 25. Assists — Wolfpack 8 (Kurpgeweit 3), Cardinals 6. Steals — Wolfpack 16 (Martinsen 4, Kurpgeweit 4), Cardinals 9. Turnovers — Wolfpack 18, Cardinals 21.

EPPJ girls fall to Queen Bees for just second loss of the season

ELGIN — They may be called the Queen Bees, but they're not. On Saturday afternoon, Bloomfield came to Elgin and 'stole' a victory away from the Wolfpack, 73 to 51.

Steal after steal the Queen Bees made seemed to turn into points as Bloomfield stayed unbeaten (12-0).

The Wolfpack fell behind early, came back to take a one-point lead, 19 to 18, after one quarter.

EPPJ trailed 16 to 5 with 3:39 to go in the first quarter, then outscored Bloomfield 14 to two to close out the quarter. Keying the comeback was junior Braelyn Martinsen who had nine points in the quarter.

"Our girls came back. I can't question that all year," Wolf-

pack Coach Randy Eisenhower said. "They've done a good job coming back and fighting in the second half. Tonight, we didn't have an answer ... we just didn't get things going our way."

Behind Kennedy and Madison Mlady, Bloomfield pulled away. They broke the game wide-open in the third quarter. The duo combined for 48 points in the game (Kennedy had 30, Madison had 18).

The Wolfpack were outscored 19 to three at the start of the third quarter and try as they might, EPPJ was never able to close the gap the rest of the way.

Bloomfield went on to out-score EPPJ 25 to seven to take a 56 to 36 lead into the fourth quarter.

Eisenhower said the Wolfpack

gave up too many offensive rebounds. "It's tough to win any game (when that happens)."

"Their (Bloomfield's) speed kind of got to us a little bit that second half," Eisenhower said. Calling the game a 'learning experience' Eisenhower said they will learn from the loss and be better because of it.

Statistics tell the story. Bloomfield had 19 steals to EPPJ's 10. Also, EPPJ had 27 turnovers compared to 15 for the Queen Bees.

Martinsen led the Wolfpack in scoring with 20 points. She was the only player to score in double figures.

Next up for the Wolfpack (11-2) will be on Friday night when they go on the road to play Stuart.

Bloomfield 73, EPPJ 51
Queen Bees.....18 13 25 17 — 73
Wolfpack.....19 8 7 17 — 51
Wolfpack — Kayton Zwingman 1-2 0-0 2, Gentry Zwingman 2-5 0-2 4, Elizabeth Moser 3-4 0-0 7, Kinley Druke 2-7 3-4 8, Braelyn Martinsen 7-15 4-6 20, Lillian Moser 0-1 0-0 0, Kinley Miller 1-3 0-4 2, Jael Lammers 1-3 0-0 2, Kierstyn Eisenhower 0-2 1-2 1, Mady Kurpgeweit 1-4 3-4 5. Team totals: 18-46 11-22

51. Three-point shots — Wolfpack 4-18 (Martinsen 2, Moser 1, Druke 1). Bloomfield team totals: 25-70 18-22 73. Three-point shots — Bloomfield 5-22.

Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 32 (E. Moser 6), Bloomfield 33. Assists — Wolfpack 11 (Kurpgeweit 4), Bloomfield 14. Steals — Wolfpack 10 (Martinsen 3), Bloomfield 19. Turnovers — Wolfpack 27, Bloomfield 15.



E-R photo/DMorgan

Elizabeth Moser (3) connected on three of four shots to finish with seven points.

Veik, Druke earn 'silver' at Bobcat Invite

SUMMERLAND — Two Wolfpack wrestlers worked their way to the championship round at the Summerland Wrestling Invite held Saturday.

Fourteen schools sent their best wrestlers to compete, Elgin Public-Pope John among them. And two of the four-member Wolfpack team made it to the championship round.

Landyn Veik made the tournament one to remember.

In his first match of the day, he achieved a career-defining moment. With a third period pin over Wyatt Wroblewski, Veik won his 100th career match. Family and friends in the stands, the moment the referee signaled the end of the match, waved signs and banners recognizing the achievement.

After the match, Veik shared the importance of the moment. He told *The Elgin Review* reach-

ing the milestone victory was something he has had as a goal every since he got started in the sport years ago.

Veik recorded a pin in his semi-final match to advance to the finals where he faced Ruben Vega. Tied 0-0 entering the third period, Vega got a take-down for the only points of the match, handing Veik a rare loss to finish second.

Competing at 157 pounds, Druke marched to the finals with victories over Battle Creek's Cael Ganseborn and Pender's Owen Larsen. In the finals, Druke faced Ravenna's Logan Spotanski. Using a third period takedown, Spotanski won the match three to zero.

John Zwingman and Ethan Hansen also competed for the Wolfpack but did not advance to the medal rounds.

Ravenna won the team title with a score of 155. EPPJ was 11th with 42 points.

Individual results were:
165 pounds — Landyn Veik (EPPJ) pinned Wyatt Wroblewski (RAVE) in 5:35; Veik pinned Jordan Dodds (RIVE) in 5:48; Veik was defeated by Ruben Vega (WAKE) 3 to 0

165 — John Zwingman (EPPJ) was defeated by Wyatt Wroblewski (RAVE) 4 to 2; Zwingman was defeated by Myles Smith (Full) 4 to 2

157 — Grady Druke (EPPJ) pinned Cael Ganseborn (BC) in 1:02; Druke defeated Owen Larsen (PEND) 12 to 5; Druke was pinned by Logan Spotanski (RAVE) in 1:16

138 — Ethan Hansen (EPPJ) was pinned by Konner McCrumb (WAPA) in 40 seconds; Hansen won by medical forfeit over Dillon Brabec (HODO); Hansen was pinned by Christopher Allen (RIVE) in 3:23

Prochaska (EABU) in 3:21

165 — Landyn Veik (EPPJ) pinned Trace Kaupp (NC) in 1:35; Veik pinned Briggs Doane (WOOD) in 3:22; Veik lost to Trentin Brown (BURW) by the score of 7 to 5; Veik pinned Wyatt Wroblewski (RAV) in 4:59; Veik defeated Oran Grint (TWLO) 13 to 8



E-R photos/DMorgan

Karson Kallhoff (4) sliced through the Bees' defense to score 16 points Saturday.

Wolfpack take the 'sting' out of Bloomfield Bees

Erickson and Kallhoff combine for 41 points

ELGIN — The final score read Wolfpack boys 59, Bloomfield 45. It wasn't that close.

On a Saturday afternoon when it appeared the Bees had no answer on how to stop Wolfpack senior Jarek Erickson & Co., the Wolfpack remained unbeaten at 12-0.

Leading all Class D2 schools in power points by a wide margin, at this point in the season (behind them are St. Mary's and GACC) the Wolfpack is looking for an opponent who can give them a four-quarter game.

EPPJ started the game strong, building an 11-point lead in the first quarter. Jarek Erickson had eight points in the quarter, Max Henn added four. EPPJ got treys from Karson Kallhoff and Michael Selting as well. From that point on, the Wolfpack matched the Bees basket for basket. Only in the third quarter did the Bees outscore EPPJ, 11 to eight.

EPPJ's lead grew to as many as 15 points in the fourth

quarter before late baskets by Keaten Gilsdorf made the score more respectable.

EPPJ was led in scoring by Erickson with 25 points. Kallhoff had 16 and Henn chipped in with eight points. EPPJ faced Fullerton Tuesday night (too late for press time), then head to Stuart Friday night for a match-up against the Broncos.

EPPJ 59, Bloomfield 45
Bees.....12 9 11 13 — 45
Wolfpack.....23 11 8 17 — 59
Wolfpack — Michael Selting 3-11 0-0 7, Karson Kallhoff 6-11 2-2 16, Evin Pelster 1-5 0-0 3, Jarek Erickson 9-13 7-7 25, Max Henn 3-9 2-7 8, Justice Blecher 0-0 0-0 0. Team totals: 22-50 11-16 59. Three-point shots — Wolfpack 4-14 (Kallhoff 2, Selting 1, Pelster 1). Bloomfield team totals: 19-37 2-4 45. Three-point shots — Bloomfield 5-10. Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 24 (Erickson 12), Bloomfield 23. Assists — Wolfpack 4 (Erickson 2). Steals — Wolfpack 7 (Erickson 4). Turnovers — Wolfpack 6, Bloomfield 14.



Evin Pelster (12) rises high above the Bees defender to launch a shot during first half action.

Wolfpack wrestlers take down opponents at Burwell

BURWELL — The Wolfpack brought home just one medal Friday from the Burwell Wrestling Invite. Twenty-two teams saw action.

For the Wolfpack, senior Landyn Veik was the lone medal winner, placing third in the 165-pound division.

Burwell won the team title

with 187.5 points, EPPJ finished 16th.

Individual results were:
138 pounds — Ethan Hansen (EPPJ) was pinned by Robinson LaDeaux (CREI) in 2:52; Hansen pinned Kaleb Aguilar (ANSL) in 53 seconds;
157 — Grady Druke (EPPJ) pinned Jacob King (SOLP) in 1:13;

Druke was pinned by Brek Wiese (WOOD) in 34 seconds; Druke defeated Austin Conner (A/LC) 21 to 5 TF; Druke lost to Logan Spotanski (RAV) 15 to 0 TF

165 — John Zwingman (EPPJ) was pinned by Chaz Boeder (NECH) in 3:05; Zwingman pinned Jackson May (RAV) in 27 seconds; Zwingman was pinned by Devon



Anna Dworak wrestled five times, winning four matches at Summerland.

Evans takes 4th at Mandstedt Invite

COLUMBUS — The competition was fierce Thursday as the Wolfpack girls wrestling team competed at the Norm Manstedt Invitational. EPPJ brought home just one medal from the event. Junior Libby Evans, competing in the 170-pound division, placed fourth. She wrestled five times, winning three matches (two by pin). Also competing at the tournament were Wolfpack wrestlers Anna Dworak and Jayda Chessmore. Dworak won one match and Chessmore dropped both of her matches. Individual results in the 'B' division were: 100 pounds — Anna Dworak (EPPJ) was

pinned by Mikaela Vieth (STPA) in 3:41; Dworak pinned by Erika Lewis (ELKV) in 37 seconds; Dworak was pinned by Alexa Rogers (ADMC) in 2:13 130 — Jayda Chessmore (EPPJ) was pinned by Addison Burbach (CECI) in 1:48; Chessmore was pinned by Delaney Jennings (STPA) in 3:50 170 — Libby Evans (EPPJ) pinned Lillyan Kent (RCBH) in 57 seconds; Evans pinned Nevaeha Sorensen (ADMC) in 5:51; Evans was pinned by Rylee Kursave (A/LC) in 4:24; Evans defeated Elizabeth DeRoos (CG) by a 2 to 1 score; Evans was pinned by Isabelle Kuehler (PRCE) in 1:51

Evans, Dworak medal at Summerland

SUMMERLAND — Libby Evans and Anna Dworak took two different routes to the medal stand Monday at the Summerland Girls Invite. Wrestling at 170 pounds, Evans just needed three matches to earn the second place medal at the tournament. She pinned her first opponent, won a second match by decision before losing in the finals to ALC's Rylee Kursave. Dworak took the 'long' route to the medal stand. She dropped her opening match, then pinned the next four opponents to finish third in the 100-pound weight class. In the finals, she recorded one of the fastest pins at the tournament, taking just 25 seconds to defeat TCNE's Jenni Olson. Jayda Chessmore had one pin in three matches, defeating Kira Centurion of Wakefield in 1:31. Individual results were: 170 pounds — Libby Evans (EPPJ) pinned Maddy Aulner (RG) in 56 seconds; Evans won 5 to 1 over Alexandria Ziska (WAYN); Evans lost 11 to 0 to

Rylee Kursave (ALC) 130 — Jayda Chessmore (EPPJ) was pinned by Payton Becker (BCEN) in 4:53; Chessmore pinned Kira Centurion (WAKE) in 1:31; Chessmore was pinned by Jada Hall (LDNE) in 3:00 100 — Anna Dworak (EPPJ)

was pinned McKenna Hernandez (ORD) in 2:59; Dworak pinned Avery Brummels (WINS) in 2:54; Dworak pinned Claire Christensen (NOCA) in 2:29; Dworak pinned Jerzey Ramirez (AXTL) in 3:46; Dworak pinned Jenni Olson (TCNE) in 25 seconds



In her first round match, Libby Evans pinned RG's Maddy Aulner in 56 seconds. E-R photos/LMorgan

BOYS WRESTLING

Jan. 16...@ *Sumner-Eddyville-Miller.....12:00

Jan. 17...@ Sandhills-Thedford (Dunning) ..10:00

Jan. 24...@ *Neligh-Oakdale.....9:00

Jan. 30...@ Central Valley (Greeley).....10:00

GIRLS WRESTLING

Jan. 15...@ Ord.....1:00

Jan. 19...@ Battle Creek.....11:00

Jan. 19...@ Battle Creek.....11:00

Jan. 23...@ *Neligh-Oakdale.....3:30

GIRLS JH WRESTLING

Jan. 17...@ Plainview.....10:00

Jan. 23...@ Summerland.....4:00

BOYS & GIRLS VARSITY BASKETBALL

Jan. 16...@ Stuart.....4:00

Jan. 20...vs O'Neill (EPS).....4:00

Jan. 27...@ Central Valley (Greeley).....4:00

Jan. 29...vs Humphrey-Lindsay (EPS).....4:00

BOYS & GIRLS JH BASKETBALL

Jan. 20...@ Riverside.....3:00

Jan. 22...@ Randolph.....3:00

Jan. 24...@ Bloomfield, Round Robin (B).....3:00

Jan. 26...vs Plainview (B, EPS).....4:00

WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE

Where Only The Strong Tribes Survive.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Jan. 12-Feb. 6.....PJCC STAR testing

Jan. 14.....FFA District LDE @ West Holt • EPS school board meeting

Jan. 15.....PJCC NHS Induction

Jan. 16.....PJCC K-6 only - NO SCHOOL

Jan. 17.....Pierce Speech Meet

Jan. 19.....All Schools - NO SCHOOL

Jan. 20.....PJCC Student Council

Jan. 23.....EPS-CyberPatriots Semi Finals

Jan. 24.....PJCC — speech meet TBD

Jan. 26.....EPS-designated day for Honor Day

Jan. 27.....PJCC Speaker DeMoine Adams

Jan. 28.....Howells-Dodge Speech Meet • EPS, no school for Prek-6

Elgin Public-Pope John

WOLFPACK

WEEKLY SCHEDULES BROUGHT TO YOU BY THESE ELGIN - POPE JOHN SCHOOL BOOSTERS

The Willows
402-887-9059

TC Vet Clinic
402-843-5756

Jeff Temme - Ag Land Realty LLC
402-843-8440

Switzer Welding/Iron Creations Country Crafts
Tom, Brenda & Brian
402-750--7749, 402-750-7748 & 402-841-8184

Stealth Broadband
402-347-1010

Starman Seed & Supply, Inc.
402-843-8393

Schindler Ag Services
Jake Schindler 402-843-8812

Sands Truck Service & Repair
402-843-1010

Ruterbories Construction
Paul Ruterbories 402-649-5827

River Mill Coffee Company
402-929-2425

Precision Repair
402-843-2181

Petersburg Building & Supply
Monty & Teri Reicks 402-386-5207

118 Insurance
Megan, Marla & Jeslynn 402-843-5741

Levander Funeral Home of Elgin
402-843-5400

Koinzan Enterprises Inc.
402-843-5800

Kittelson's Home Repair
Jim Kittelson 402-843-5833

Jonny Dodge CJ
402-887-4182 or 800-510-1303

Invenergy Wind Energy, LLC

Insurance Mart
Janet-Tracey 402-843-2410

Keith Hemmer, CPA, P.C.
Certified Public Accountant 402-843-2380

Heithoff Irrigation
402-843-2307

Great Plains State Bank
402-386-5297

Elgin Veterans' Medical Clinic
an outpatient clinic of Boone Co. Medical Center 402-843-5910

The Elgin Review
402-843-5500

Elgin Pharmacy and Gift
402-843-5555

Elgin One Stop & Sleepin Inn
402-843-2100

Elgin Livestock Sales, Inc.
402-843-2275

Elgin Body & Glass
402-843-2418

Dwyer Manufacturing
402-843-6167

Klein PC, Attny at Law
402-887-4910

Dean's Market
402-843-5300

Central Valley Ag
402-843-2416

Beckman Lumber Inc.
402-843-2131

Baum Seed Service, LLC
402-843-5802 or 402-843-8282

Bar U Farms
402-843-8921

Bank of Elgin
402-843-2228

Antelope Memorial Hospital
402-887-4151 Elgin Clinic 402-843-5444



UPPER ELKHORN NRD NEW NITRATE TREATMENT

Cost Share Program

The Upper Elkhorn NRD has allocated funding for a new Nitrate Treatment Cost Share Program! Landowners with a private drinking water well that tests over the Federal Health Standard of 10 parts per million for nitrate may be eligible for 90% cost share up to \$2,000 for a water treatment system to remove the nitrate. Water sample collection by NRD staff is required to be eligible. Guidelines for this program are available by contacting the Upper Elkhorn NRD office at 402-336-3867 or by visiting our website at www.uenrd.org.



NITRATE AWARENESS
What is in Your Water?



WHAT IS NITRATE?



Nitrate occurs naturally as part of the nitrogen cycle, but it also is generated through human activity, often times through agricultural practices. Nitrogen fertilizers can break down into nitrate and then seep into our groundwater. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandates that public water systems keep nitrate contamination levels under 10 mg/L due to its associated health risks.



PROCESSED MEATS

Nitrate can be found in highly processed meats such as bacon, ham and sausage. It is often used as a preservative and can improve the color of the raw meat. A diet high in processed meats can lead to high nitrate consumption, and put you at risk for certain health effects.



DRINKING WATER

A common way you might consume nitrate is through drinking water, as nitrate can infiltrate the groundwater we rely on for drinking. While public water is tested and treated for nitrate contamination, private well owners are responsible to test their water and make sure it is safe.



INFANTS

Consuming too much nitrate can interfere with the ability of blood to carry oxygen. The result in infants is methemoglobinemia, also called blue baby syndrome. Bottle-fed babies under six months old are at the highest risk of getting methemoglobinemia. This illness can cause the skin to turn a bluish color from a lack of oxygen, and result in serious illness or death.

PREGNANT WOMEN



During pregnancy, it is common for a woman's methemoglobin levels to be higher than normal. Therefore, pregnant women are particularly susceptible to methemoglobinemia. Additionally, pregnant women exposed to high nitrate concentrations in their drinking water are at greater risk of pre-term births, birth defects, and miscarriages.



WHAT ARE THE HEALTH IMPACTS?

There are certain populations that are more susceptible to negative health outcomes. These include pregnant women, infants, children, and individuals with oxygen transport issues. Scientific research, including studies carried out at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, is ongoing regarding the health effects of nitrate consumption. These studies include research on the effects of nitrate consumption on thyroid disease and cancer, specifically colorectal, bladder, ovarian, and kidney cancers. Further research is needed to fully understand these potential health impacts.



WHAT CAN YOU DO?



First and foremost, know what you're consuming. Check labels for nitrate preservatives and TEST YOUR WATER. Nitrate is odorless, tasteless and colorless. If you find high nitrate concentrations in your water (over 10 mg/L), you need to immediately switch to a safe source of drinking water, such as bottled water. Next, take the necessary steps to ensure your home has clean water. This may include installing a reverse osmosis system or digging a new well.

WANT TO LEARN MORE?



Talk to your doctor if you have questions or concerns about the health impacts related to consuming nitrate. Additionally, visit the University of Nebraska's website on this topic for more information.

<https://water.unl.edu/category/water-and-health>



To find out guidelines, contact the Upper Elkhorn NRD office at 402-336-3867 or visit their website at www.uenrd.org.

