



EPS, PJCC speech teams compete at NVC meet
See page 7



Wolfpack crush Potter-Dix to earn trip to Lincoln
See page 10

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The Elgin Review

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In Brief

Library awarded internship grants from commission

One of 18 libraries across the state.

The Nebraska Library Commission recently awarded Nebraska Library Internship Grants totaling \$20,000 to eighteen Nebraska public libraries. These internship grants will support public library interns who will contribute to the scope and value of the diverse programs and activities in Nebraska's public libraries.

Student interns will learn about library work as they shadow staff, assist with day-to-day library operations, and implement special projects.

Some of the activities that students will participate in include:

- Summer Reading Programs for youth, teens, and adults
- Various programming: Story hour, movie days, craft days, Lego Club, puzzle contest, preschool story time and STEM activities

- Basic library duties: circulation, cataloging, shelving, and library displays

Elgin Public Library was among the 18 Nebraska public libraries that were awarded 2026 internship grant funding.

Funding for the project is supported and administered by the Nebraska Library Commission, in partnership with the Nebraska Library Systems.

Kaitlyn Dozler joins the Elgin Rescue Service

Cleanup Day to be in April.

The Elgin City Council met Monday night, March 2, at City Hall. Among the items addressed during the meeting was adding a person to the Elgin Rescue service. They approved the addition of Kaitlyn Dozler to the rescue squad.

On a different matter, the council approved having a community cleanup day in April. Depending on the availability of dumpsters, it will either be held on Friday, April 17 or April 24.

City residents will be allowed to bring items to the dumpsters during the day only. More information will be announced at a later date.

Weather

The high temperature last week was 65 degrees recorded on Friday, February 27.

The low temperature during the same period was -2 degrees recorded on Sunday, February 22.

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
Feb 22	22	-2	.00
Feb 23	39	02	.00
Feb 24	52	25	.00
Feb 25	35	25	.00
Feb 26	61	30	.00
Feb 27	65	20	.00
Feb 28	39	14	.00
Total for last week			0.00
Total for February			0.25
Total precipitation 2026			0.39



E-R photo/DMorgan

A celebration months in the making took place near half court Saturday afternoon as Elgin Public-Pope John hoisted their district championship plaque as they earned a berth in next week's Class D2 State Basketball Tournament.

Dream season to continue for Wolfpack at Lincoln

On the 11th day of March, the Elgin Public-Pope John's boys basketball team will begin to write the final chapter of the 2025/2026 season.

Having earned the #1 seed in the Class D2 State Tournament, they will seek to bring the first championship home as the Wolfpack. They and their fans will have to get up early to begin their quest. Their first round game will be played at 9 a.m. at Pinnacle Bank Arena, home of the Nebraska Cornhuskers men's and women's basketball teams. Their opponent has yet to be officially announced by the Nebraska School Activities Association.

"It's gonna be different because we're playing at Pinnacle Bank," Wolfpack Coach Matt Euse said about returning to Lincoln after being there for the first time last year. "We've got a lot of mature guys on our team. They understand the mental preparation it takes, and they'll be ready to go."

If the Wolfpack win their opening round matchup, they will be guaranteed two more games - a semi-final round game Friday at 9 a.m. at Devaney Sports Center; and a championship (at PBA) or third place game (at Lincoln Northeast High School). Saturday's games will also be at 9 a.m.

They will enter the tournament with a 24-3 record, a stellar season. The three losses were to O'Neill St. Mary's who also qualified for the state tournament. The two teams could meet in the championship game as they are in opposite sides of the tournament bracket.

On the court the team has been led by seniors Jarek Erickson and Karson Kallhoff. Erickson has been 'Mr. Everything' for the Wolfpack this season, a scoring threat from any spot on the court.

"It just feels good," Erickson said amidst the celebration after the game. "You know, we put in all that hard work of getting better every day, and we live off of that coming to practice every day. Put-

ting in that hard work for our coach and the whole team works together like that. We'll be back down in Lincoln, hoping to make it farther than last year, that's our goal, and just get better and take care of business."

Kallhoff, one of the fastest players on the court, is a scoring machine from outside the three-point line or slashing his way to the basket.

"It was kind of crazy," Kallhoff said about the start of the game. "It was like, wow, they're actually staying with us. They're a pretty good team. They gave us a pretty good look the first half. But in the third quarter we started running and the shots started going in, and yeah, we finished it off with a win."

Kallhoff said one of the reasons for the team's success this season has been getting more players involved in the offense. "My teammates, they can put the ball in the hoop too," he said. That keeps defenses honest when trying to guard all the Wolfpack players on the floor.

On defense, 6'5" sophomore Max Henn anchors the middle. He is one of the team leaders in scoring and rebounding.

Junior Michael Selting has stepped up when needed to help with the scoring load while sophomore Evin Pelster is one of the faster players on defense and has a knack for being in the right place at the right time to score.

In the last few games, first off the bench has been freshman Jayvin Erickson. Since coming back from an ankle injury, Erickson has been a valuable asset on offense making trey after trey when left open.

Rounding out the team are Christian Preister, Brayden Burenheide, Justice Blecher, Braedon Hinkle, Joseph McNally and Ticen Sparr (injured and unable to play). Head coach is Matt Euse joined by assistants Kellan Hoefler and Andon Olson.

District #18 School Board to meet Tuesday night, March 10

Due to Elgin Public-Pope John's inclusion in the NSAA Boys State Basketball Tournament next week, the District #18 Board of Education will meet on Tuesday, March 10.

The regular monthly meeting is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. in the board meeting room at Elgin High School.

There are four 'action' items listed on the tentative agenda sent out last week.

- They are:
- Approve the resignation of Brian McGill. Hired last year, McGill currently teaches math

- Approve a bus purchase bid
- Approve the cement project bid
- Approve technology purchases for the 2026/2027 school year.

The board is expected to discuss moving the Americanism hearing to next month.

Being proposed is to have the hear-

ing begin at 6:30 p.m. on April 15 immediately prior to the start of the regular meeting at 7 p.m.

Also, there will be monthly reports from Superintendent Mike Brockhaus and K-12 Principal Greg Wemhoff.

The evening meeting is open to the public.

Deadline passes for candidate election filings

#5 Commissioner race has three candidates

The deadline has passed for persons wishing to be elected to public office in Antelope County.

Lisa Payne, Antelope County Clerk/Election Commissioner, said the time has passed for persons to get their name on printed ballots for the primary election in May.

According to Payne, Diane Landers filed Monday for the Ward Two seat on the Elgin City Council. Councilman Mike Dvorak chose not to file for re-election.

In another race of note, District #5 County Commissioner Casey Dittrich will be challenged by two Elgin area residents. Both Eric Meis and Duane Miller will seek to be elected to a four-year term.

Antelope County Sheriff Robert Moore will be challenged by Aubrey Miller. She filed on February 25.

A complete list of candidates who have filed for election in Antelope County includes:

Weed Board — Robert Lewis and Rachel A. Shradler
Airport Authority — Maurice Soper, Brian Whitesel and Joe McNally
County Attorney — Joseph M. Smith
County Commissioner — Neil Williby (District 1), Regina L. Krebs (District 3), Eric Meis (District 5), Duane Miller (District 5) and Casey Dittrich (District 5)

County Assessor — Kelly Mueller-Oltjenbruns
County Clerk — Lisa Payne
County Treasurer — Deb Branstiter
County Sheriff — Robert Moore and Aubrey Miller
Clerk of the District Court — Angela F. Mortensen
Elgin City Council — Leigh Kluthe (Ward 1) and Diane Landers (Ward 2)

Elgin Mayor — Mike Schmitt
Neligh Mayor — Tyler Pedersen and Ray Connot
Neligh City Council — Ted Hughes and Stephanie Lundgren

Elgin Public School Board #18 — Lisa Welding, Kimberly Young and Kyle Heithoff
Neligh-Oakdale School Board #9 — Kenny Reinke, Ginny Garzon, Toni Arehart and Mary Oakes
Summerland School Board #115 — Scott Thiele, Austin Twibell and Jeremy Wagner
Brunswick Village Board — Todd Buck and Craig Forbes

Warnke pleads guilty to amended charge

During a Feb. 9 Antelope County District Court hearing covering pretrial motions in a case involving Thomas Warnke, 22, of Beatrice, the Honorable Michael Long was notified that a plea agreement, with amended information, was reached.

Earlier that morning, Antelope County Attorney Joseph Smith requested to consolidate two cases against Warnke for the purpose of the hearing. Long granted the motion.

Defense attorney Dustin Garrison made a motion to sequester witnesses. Smith did not object but requested the two lead witnesses remain in the courtroom. Long agreed with both requests.

See COURT, Page XXX ▶



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Sunday morning

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Grady Erickson to run for State Board of Education

District #6 includes Antelope, Wheeler, Boone and 14 other counties

Grady C. Erickson, a lifelong Grand Island resident, attorney, and community leader, on Friday announced his candidacy for the Nebraska State Board of Education, District 6. Erickson brings a deep-rooted commitment to public education, a decade of legal experience, and a lifetime of firsthand exposure to the challenges and opportunities facing Nebraska schools.

A proud graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and Vermont Law School, Erickson comes from a family with generations of dedication to public education. His grandmother served for many years as an elementary teacher and principal in Plainview, Meadow Grove, and Grand Island. Both of his parents were special education teachers in the Grand Island Public

Schools, with his father retiring after a career as a high school math teacher. His wife, Laura, is a former teacher who works as a school counselor.

"Public education has been a core principle in my family for generations," Erickson said. "I have seen firsthand the dedication, hard work, and integrity that go into being an educator. I firmly believe that every child deserves access to the highest quality education."

For the past 10 years, Erickson has practiced law, where his work has required careful examination of both sides of complex issues before making informed decisions. If elected, he pledges to apply his legal training and courtroom experience to ensure fair, balanced, and independent decision-making on the State Board of Education.

"As an attorney, it is imperative that I look at both sides of any issue," Erickson said. "I evaluate the facts, listen carefully, and focus on doing what is right, especially when it comes to children." Erickson finds particular fulfillment in serving as a Guardian ad Litem for juveniles.

His work has brought him into close collaboration with juveniles, probation officers, and

Department of Health and Human Services case-workers and as such his experiences have provided him with a deep understanding of the needs and challenges facing families.

District 6 includes the following counties: Adams, Antelope, Boone, Buffalo, Cedar, Dakota, Dixon, Greeley, Hall, Howard, Knox, Merrick, Nance, Pierce, Thurston, Wayne, and Wheeler.

Courthouse fire suppression system not fixed

By Greg Tharnish
Special to The Elgin Review
A third phone system upgrade was presented to the Antelope County Commissioners (ACC) yesterday.

A representative from Applied Connective of Albion gave a presentation to the ACC for two different options for phone upgrades. One consisted of a web-based system and the other a more traditional "in-house" system. The ACC looked the options over, considering service, pricing and reliability.

At next week's meeting, County Clerk Lisa Payne will be requesting all three companies that made upgrade proposals (Stealth Broadband, Great Plains Communications and Applied Connective) to attend. A Q&A session will take place before a decision is made.

The courthouses' fire suppression system is still having issues. The main issue is with

the air compressor or a leak in the system. This Friday, March 6, Viking Fire Protection Company is scheduled to be at the courthouse to fix this ongoing problem.

County Engineer Brian McDonald reported to the ACC that a 13-mile stretch of road in the Orchard/Summerland school area is in need of work. McDonald recommended using asphalt as a longer lasting fix then the current micro-surfacing plan.

After a lengthy discussion, the ACC will talk more on this recommendation at next week's meeting.

Road Superintendent Leigh Kluthe gave a report to the ACC including:

- Approval of 20 oversize permits, 4 access permits, 3 underground permits and 1 temporary road use agreement.
- Update on trucks and equipment needing to be replaced.

• Road supplies being prepared for upcoming road work.

Superintendent Kluthe and the ACC held a lengthy discussion on purchases of a semi-tractor and dump truck. The ACC will research and discuss the issue more at next week's meeting.

Kluthe then presented the ACC with a proposal on decking to repair a bridge five miles east and a quarter mile south of Elgin. The cost for the repair is \$37,000. The proposal was unanimously agreed to by the ACC.

Finally, landowner Jim Fehringer asked the ACC for permission to minimize flood issues that he and his wife have on ground they own west of Elgin.

Before any agreement on the matter, County Engineer Brian McDonald asked to see the land firsthand before any recommendation. More to come at next week's meeting.

From JoAnn Baum's Kitchen

Chicken Alfredo Sauce



Happy Lenten Season, If you're not a fish eater, but still need something to serve during the lenten season, maybe

this week's recipe idea is something you can make. I have made it with shrimp and it's my favorite way to serve it. If you don't want to have any meats or seafood in it, it's just as good plain. Just make it and serve to your liking! (It just might be better than that fried egg sandwich!)

Yummy!

JoAnn

CHICKEN ALFREDO SAUCE

- 1 pkg. penne pasta
- Cook according to the directions on pkg.
- 1 stick butter (real)
- 1 clove minced garlic or 1 tsp. fresh garlic from the jar
- 1 pint (2 cups) heavy cream

- 1 cup fresh or grated parmesan cheese
- 2 tbs. cream cheese
- 1/2 tsp pepper

Cook butter and garlic 2 mins - slowly.

Add the cream and cream cheese, heat it very slowly until the cream cheese is melted and mixed in. DO NOT LET IT BOIL.

When the cream cheese is melted, stir in the parmesan cheese and salt and pepper.

Stir until the cheese is melted, cooking on low.

Add the cooked and drained pasta.

Hint: We dice up grilled chocked breast or shrimp. Add whatever you like for topping.

Delicious!

March is colorectal cancer awareness month

By Dr. Josh Thoendel
Antelope Memorial Hospital
March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Colorectal cancer is the 3rd most common cancer in both men and women and is very preventable.

The most common form of colorectal cancer starts out as small abnormal growths, called polyps, that can grow and mutate over time to transform into cancer.

If these polyps are removed when they are small, they never get the chance to evolve into cancer. These polyps grow slowly so screening doesn't need to be an annual event. Intervals depend on several factors and most people wait years between screenings.

Polyps are more likely in people with certain genetic risk factors, tobacco use, alcohol use, and poor diet, but colorectal cancer is so common that even people without any risk factors should be proactive and get screened.

Colonoscopies are the gold standard for screening. A camera is used to look at the inside of the colon along its entire length and any polyps that are seen are removed.

The procedure is done under sedation which makes it much more comfortable for the patient.

A laxative prep is required the night before to remove stool from the colon. If no polyps are seen and there are no increased risks of cancer, it can be up to 10 years before the procedure needs repeated.

Stool-based tests analyze a small sample of stool and look for blood or DNA associated with cancer.

These tests are less invasive because there is no prep involved; however, any positive

tests will require a colonoscopy. Stool-based tests are also less accurate than a colonoscopy and need to be repeated more frequently.

The United States Preventative Services Task Force recommends all people between the ages of 45 and 75 be screened for Colorectal Cancer.

Previously, screenings were for ages 50 to 75 but the age was lowered due to many cases of

advanced cancer being found during the initial screen at age 50.

If you have a strong family history, you may need screening at an earlier age or more frequent intervals. Talk to your AMH care provider about this necessary service or call AMH Family Practice Clinic at 402-887-5440 to schedule your screening.

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Interested individuals should submit an application to the **City of Elgin, PO Box 240, Elgin, NE 68636** or drop off at City Hall, 104 Pine Street, Elgin, NE. Applications can be found on the City of Elgin website www.elginnebraska.org, or by stopping at City Hall during open business hours. Position open until filled. EOE.

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The Elgin Review

Finding fulfillment outside of work

It was a momentary feeling of dread, that fear of being lost while driving. Like when it's too dark to see landmarks or dense fog takes away orientation. Depth cues disappear. Uncertainty. Anxiety.

There was no electronic navigation!

It happened recently when I jumped in the pick-up truck headed home from Lincoln, by myself, on a sunny, frigid afternoon. Certainly, day trips to Lincoln aren't new to me. I should know the route, though this time the meeting location was in a different spot, and I wanted to avoid the dense semi-truck traffic on I-80.

The plan -- crank up an audible book saved on my cell phone to keep me company.

Link the maps program on my cell phone to the truck console screen. Savor the terrain and vastness of northeast Nebraska. Home in a couple hours plus. No problem.

And then, absolutely nothing on my cell phone, not even the option of an outgoing phone call. Our internet provider was experiencing an outage without a quick fix. Apple Maps or Google Maps weren't available. Period.

Must confess -- this human is totally dependent these days on 'nav' for maneuvering the roads and highways around our great state.

Thankfully, we always keep our trusty paper road atlas in the vehicle just in case. Old school, maybe, though handy

if you're trying to get a general sense of location. Wanting to get home before dark, skipped studying the map, and chose an adventure instead -- just head north and west. Eventually, out of the 530 incorporated municipalities in Nebraska, there'd be road signs to towns familiar to me.

North out of Lincoln on 14th Street until it turned into a gravel road, west on Lancaster County Road A, then Highway 92, a sign for Albion, and home sweet home. Made me think how important maps are to understanding the world in which we live.

In addition to navigation, maps identify boundaries such as with land ownership. Maps simplify complex data such as with the weather. Maps apply in agriculture repeatedly, especially in precision farming and guidance systems on farm equipment.

A mapmaker is known as a cartographer. Our caver son, Philip, sketches cave maps while exploring, later rendering them in a three-dimensional electronic format. This allows him to retrace his steps and share cave terrain and passage details with others.

A friend who's into theater often references the play *Off the Map* written by Joan Ackerman. It's a study of a family who literally lives off the grid (map) in a remote location and finds resilience and love amongst constant adversity.

Ever listen to someone's proposal for a project and think, "that's all over the map." Unorganized, scattered thinking seldom sells an idea. On a positive note, having the opportunity to meet people living all over the map definitely broadens one's perspective about the world in which we live.

There's getting blown off the map, such as when high winds obliterate a community. Sometimes TV sitcoms fall off the map, meaning to lose popularity over time. Some examples of those still on the map (Rick and I watch them on occasion) are *Seinfeld* and *Everybody Loves Raymond*, both 30-something years running.

Definitely not an engineer though friends of that persuasion often reference Gantt and PERT (Program Evaluation Review Techniques) charts and other mapping devices for projects. These are used to set timelines for tasks, identify critical paths, and name potential risks to project completion and management. Basically, they're mapping out a project, similar to what farmers do this time of year to plan for planting season. Good planning, linked with exemplary performance, can put you on the map as a student, an employer or employee, a farmer, a family member.

Once you're off the map, it's hard to get back on. Well, this column certainly has been all over the map, though there's one thing for certain -- redundancies are important in some instances. Maybe put that road map back in your vehicle or download offline maps on your phone. Though largely dependable, losing 'nav' can happen and a back-up could

Say What?



Elgin Columnist Jane Schuchardt

Looking Back

Sixty Years Ago

March 10, 1966

An intersection collision around 8:30 Tuesday morning resulted in considerable damage to autos driven by Mrs. Ken Peters and John Flaherty. The mishap occurred at the intersection east of the Elgin Livestock Market. Mrs. Peters and two children were traveling north and Mr. Flaherty was driving east.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Nielsen will observe their 25th wedding anniversary, Sunday, March 13th. Their children will honor them at an "open house" at their home from 2 to 4:30 p.m. They invite all friends and relatives to attend this occasion.

The Elgin Cub Scouts will deliver Good Will clothing bags for Good Will Industries, Saturday, March 19th. Repairable toys, electrical appliances, and clothing are urgently needed. Bags delivered to homes will be picked up by Boy Scouts Saturday, March 26th.

Theresa Ann Verplank was selected Tuesday to represent Elgin at Girls State in June by American Legion Post 229 Auxiliary, sponsors of the trip. Lois Ann Edwards is the post's alternate candidate. Theresa is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Verplank, and Lois is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Edwards. Both are Elgin Public School juniors.

Elgin High's freshman-sophomore basketball team won championship honors in the Sandhills Gateway Tournament by beating Clearwater in the finals here Saturday night, 64-49. The game had been postponed Friday night due to the blizzard. Earlier, they had defeated Orchard 66-49 to advance to the finals.

Fifty Years Ago

March 3, 1976

The Village Board of Trustees announced this week that Elgin's fluoride equipment had been installed last Friday night at the pump house. A pump was installed in the town's well system at the pump house.

Born Feb. 26, 1976, a son, Christopher William, weighing 7 pounds, 6 ounces at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Norfolk to Mr. and Mrs. William Eischeid. She is the former Carol Totten.

The engagement of Julie Ann Shavlik to Mark Dwyer, son of Paul Dwyer and the late Ione Dwyer of Bartlett, has been announced by Mr. and Mrs. Clarence V. Shavlik of Ewing, parents of the bride-elect.

The Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District will award \$50 scholarships to teachers in the District who attend and complete Conservation Workshops this year.

Mrs. Charles Schmidt, a 1972 graduate of Neligh High School, has received a bachelor of science in education degree from Concordia Teachers College at Seward. Mrs. Schmidt is the former Brenda Pollock, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Pollock of Neligh.

Thirty Years Ago

March 6, 1996

Students at Pope John Central Catholic High School will present "Annie" as their spring musical on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, March 22, 23, and 24, at St. Boniface Auditorium in Elgin. "Annie" features a cast of 47 students, and is directed by Nancy Evans and Terry Sweem. Assistant director is Sara Getzfred; stage manager is John Stuhr, and technical director is Craig Lordemann.

Pope John wrestling statistics for the 1995-96 season were announced this week by head coach Mark Koch. The Crusaders placed first in two invitational tournaments this year. They were second in three tournaments, third in three tournaments, and fourth in one tournament.

Elgin received small amounts of snow and temperatures turned colder during the past week. A 1 1/2 inch snowfall was measured Saturday and Sunday, March 2 and 3. The high for the week was 35 degrees and the low was 0 degrees.

Petersburg's boys basketball team overcame a case of "tournament nerves" and a halftime deficit to win the district final Tuesday night, Feb. 27, at Burwell. The win qualified the Pirates for this week's D2 State Tournament. Wobach finished its season at 13-9.

Nebraska Public Power District this week announced payments that it is making to area communities under agreements leasing their electric distribution systems to NPPD.

Twenty Years Ago

March 1, 2006

After a 52-34 victory over North Loup-Scotia in last Friday night's D1-4 District Final, the Pope John Central Catholic girls basketball team is headed to state. The Lady Crusaders are seeded eighth in the D1 State Basketball Tournament this Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, March 2-4, in Lincoln.

Elgin Community Center menus

Monday, March 9: Goulash, peas, lettuce salad, peaches/strawberry mix, garlic stick, milk.

Tuesday, March 10: Taco soup, lettuce salad/tomatoes, carrots/celery, cottage cheese, pineapple, garlic stick, milk.

Wednesday, March 11: Chicken cordon bleu, rice pilaf, green beans, fruit cocktail, bread & butter, milk.

Thursday, March 12: Ham balls, au gratin potatoes, peas/carrots, mandarin orange cake, bread & butter, milk.

Friday, March 13: Potato soup, ham or cheese sandwich, cottage cheese, peaches, relish cup, 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.

Please call 843-5757 by 9:30 a.m. to reserve a meal for that day.

For a great meal, come to the community center!

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- Dr. Roger Rudloff
- Dr. Kelli Osborn
- Dr. Josh Thoendel
- Ashley Niewohner, APRN
- Angela Sucha, PA-C
- Anita Murphy, PA-C
- Kimberly Wiese, APRN

Clearwater Clinic: 402.485.2277

- Dr. Troy Dawson
- Dr. Roger Rudloff
- Dr. Josh Thoendel
- Angela Sucha, PA-C

Elgin Clinic: 402.843.5444

- Dr. Troy Dawson
- Dr. Roger Rudloff
- Ashley Niewohner, APRN

Orchard Clinic: 402.893.5155

- Dr. Troy Dawson
- Angela Sucha, PA-C

Tilden Clinic: 402.368.5520

- Dr. Roger Rudloff
- Dr. Kelli Osborn
- Anita Murphy, PA-C

*This notice is provided to inform patients of primary care services & location.



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Opinion

READ, REFLECT, RESPOND.

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

Edward R. Murrow

Working families tax cuts are now in place

It's officially tax season. Most Americans hate filling out their taxes. But I've got good news. Nebraskans are likely to see more money in their pockets this year. That's because of the Working Families Tax Cuts.

Here are a few ways you might see a bigger tax return this year:

CBS News reports that the average tax refund will increase by about \$1,000 per filer. That means more money for your groceries, toward a house, or for your savings.

The Working Families Tax Cuts prevented a \$2,443 tax increase on the average Nebraska family.

Instead of a tax hike, Senate Republicans cut the taxes of hardworking Nebraskans.

Nebraskans no longer have to pay federal income taxes on their tips. The first \$25,000 of tips each year are tax free. Similarly, we eliminated federal income taxes on overtime—\$12,500 of overtime pay is tax free.

We made the doubled Standard Deduction permanent. 90% of taxpayers claim the standard deduction, including nearly 1 million Nebraskans. For the first time ever, Nebraskans claiming the standard deduction can also get a write-off for charitable giving. Nebraskans are charitable, giving people.

This will help us continue to support our favorite charities.

The Working Families Tax Cuts invests in the next generation. Senate Republicans expanded the child tax credit for nearly 250,000 Nebraska families. This expansion will provide a \$2,200 tax deduction for each child.

We increased the child and dependent care tax credit. We increased the maximum credit rate from 25% to 50%. The dependent care assistance program was also increased. This allows Nebraskans to exclude up to \$7,500 of dependent care assistance expenses from their income. That's more money that Nebraska families can put toward groceries and everyday expenses.

Senate Republicans are also rewarding Nebraska seniors for a lifetime of hard work. We created a \$6,000 tax deduction for seniors. When I was governor, I signed into a law an elimination of state income taxes on Social Security.

The Working Families Tax Cuts takes this proven Nebraska solution and makes tax relief available for all American seniors. Now, about 265,000 Nebraska seniors won't have to pay federal income taxes on their Social Security benefits.

Senate Republicans also permanently raised the death tax exemption. On a recent Tele-Town Hall, a constituent called in worried about the back-and-forth on death taxes in recent years. She wanted to make sure that her children and grandchildren could live on the family land and run their operations.

I was happy to share that the Death Tax exemption is now permanent and will increase with future inflation. In Nebraska, over 80% of farms are family owned. They should stay that way.

These changes make it easier for Nebraska businesses to reinvest in their operations and pass them on to the next generation. This helps everyone, from farmers and ranchers to manufacturers and restaurant owners. Even decades down the road, Nebraskans' hard work can now be passed on to the next generation.

Nebraskans work hard. This tax season, Nebraskans will have more money in their pockets. They deserve it. The Working Families Tax Cuts delivers for Nebraska.

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-

Environmental Trust funds sought to help solve governor's budget woes

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

There are ways to change state policies, and there are other ways to change state policies.

Which brings us to the "death by a thousand cuts" of the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

The Trust was created back in 1992, when Nebraska voters decided to join a growing number of states launched state lotteries to generate extra revenue.

(That seems like centuries ago, before casinos were in every big city, and before you could lose a paycheck in an afternoon at a "skill game" in your local tavern. It was also long before we could bet on random stuff like whether President Trump mentions "the Supreme Court" in a speech or if the government will admit that aliens exist.)

Anyway, the goal was to split the Nebraska Lottery proceeds between education and the environment, providing extra funds for projects and programs that state agencies could not normally afford.

The Environment Trust handed out funds for environmental and conservation projects, things like dredging out a silted-in lake, reducing nitrates in groundwater, improving wildlife habitat, and helping local recycling projects.

Over the years, the Trust has awarded more than \$425 million in grants, grants that have gone to every county in the state via a competitive process.

But things started coming off the rails in 2020, after the Environmental Trust board of directors, in a controversial move, decided to take away grants to some habitat projects, and instead award that money to install ethanol blender pumps and storage tanks at gas stations across the state.

The swap sparked a successful lawsuit, which claimed, among other things, that the ethanol grant violated the Trust's rules about providing private financial gain.

But the kerfuffle also inspired some big changes at the Trust. For one, the then-governor, Pete Ricketts, who couldn't directly order which grants should be approved, began appointing new members to the Trust board



ALL THINGS NEBRASKA



State Correspondent Paul Hammel

aligned with his desires.

The Trust's director, deemed too friendly with wildlife conservation groups, was forced out, and a new director, handpicked by the new board members, led efforts to radically change how grant applications were screened and approved.

In 2022, that resulted in nearly one-third of the grant applications being deemed "ineligible" for funds, including several groups that had regularly been awarded Trust grants. The next year, nearly half were deemed ineligible.

Some state senators and former Trust board members criticized the much, much higher number of grants being ruled out. One woman cried at a board meeting when describing the financial disaster the decision meant for her city's recycling program.

A former state senator described the changes this way to the Trust board – "If your intent is to confuse, frustrate and prohibit small grants, ... you're

going to have a huge success."

The mass declarations of ineligibility and a pile of new rules led many groups to quit applying for grants, figuring it was a waste of time and their applications weren't welcome.

Conveniently, it also resulted in the Trust awarding much less (up to nearly half less) than the \$20 million-a-year it gets from the lottery for environmental and conservation grants.

That, again conveniently, led to the amassing of a huge surplus of funds at the Trust, of which Gov. Pillen wants to plunder this year to resolve his budget problems.

Pillen wanted \$33 million in Trust funds to build a marina and boat docks, which some state senators rightly saw as probably unconstitutional because Trust funds aren't intended for recreation. So the Legislature's budget committee trimmed back that take to about \$5 million, which will be spent on improving fish habitat and dredging out the lake -- things the Trust can

finance.

We all want government agencies to function and achieve their goals. For years, the Environmental Trust did that, handing out its yearly allotment of Nebraska Lottery funds for worthy environmental and conservation projects.

Now, the Trust is subject to almost yearly raids of its funds to solve state budget problems.

It has left environmental, wildlife and recycling groups -- who used to apply and get grants regularly -- wondering if there will be any grant money left for them.

Paul Hammel has covered the Nebraska state government and the state for decades. Prior to his retirement, he was senior contributor with the Nebraska Examiner.

He was previously with the Omaha World-Herald, Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha Sun. A native of Ralston, Nebraska, he loves traveling and

The State of Our Union is strong under Republican leadership

On Tuesday, February 24, President Trump addressed the nation from the U.S. Capitol to highlight the progress since Republicans won control of the House, Senate, and White House.

This progress stands in stark contrast to the bleak state of our country under the Biden administration. Those four years were rough. We felt it every time we filled up our gas tank, pushed a cart through the grocery store, or opened our utility bill. Prices went up, but paychecks didn't keep up. That was the Biden economy. Republicans promised to fix it, and we are making good on that promise.

One of the most important things we've done is put money back in your pocket. The Working Families Tax Cuts, which I voted for, are helping working families in America keep more of what they earn. We made the Child Tax Credit bigger and perma-

nent, so parents can count on that relief year after year. We also created new savings accounts for newborns, giving kids a financial headstart at saving for college or retirement.

I'm especially proud that we made my Paid Medical and Family Leave Tax Credit permanent. I successfully enacted this policy back in 2017. Instead of a government mandate, it gives businesses a tax incentive to voluntarily offer paid leave -- so workers don't have to choose between their paycheck and bringing home a new baby or caring for a sick parent. Making it permanent means employers can now offer this benefit to employees with confidence.

Republicans have delivered on border security too. The situation at the southern border was a mess under Biden. Illegal crossings are now at their lowest point since 1970. For nine

straight months, zero illegal immigrants have been released into the country. Laws like the Laken Riley Act are helping remove criminals from our communities. And under Biden, more than 500,000 children crossed the border alone without a parent. More than 62,000 of those missing kids have now been found.

A safer border has gone hand in hand with safer streets. Homicides in major cities dropped by 21% over the past year, representing 922 fewer of these violent offenses. Violent crime fell across the board, and deaths among on-duty police officers hit an 80-year low. To combat the devastating opioid crisis, President Trump designated fentanyl as a Weapon of Mass Destruction and went after the cartels pushing it across our border. It's working. Drug deaths have fallen every single month since he took office

again.

There's still work to do, but the progress we've made together gives me hope for the road ahead. Every family that gets to keep a little more of their paycheck, every parent who doesn't have to choose between their job and taking care of their baby, every community that feels a little safer -- that's what this work is all about. I look forward to building on this momentum and delivering an even brighter future for our great state and our nation.

WASHINGTON REPORT



U.S. Senator Deb Fischer

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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Deadline passes for designation of priority bills

Thursday, February 20th marked the last day for senators and committees to designate their priority bills for the year. A total of 107 bills and resolutions were prioritized.

With the Unicameral now in the latter half of this short 60-day legislative session, the majority of the bills that will be debated from this point on will be priority bills and the budget.

My personal priority for this session is LR283CA. Currently, the Nebraska Constitution specifies that every citizen of the United States shall be eligible to vote in Nebraska. LR283CA proposes an amendment to Article VI, Section 1 of the Nebraska Constitution to specify that only a United States citizen shall be an elector in Nebraska. Else-

where in the nation, municipalities in California, Maryland, and Vermont, as well as Washington D.C., permit noncitizens to vote in local elections. It is necessary to

proactively clarify and reaffirm, in the state's constitution, that only citizens may lawfully register and vote in Nebraska now that there is a patchwork of laws nationwide.

Three other bills of mine were also prioritized. As I mentioned last week, Senator Dorn prioritized LB1187 to address brand inspection fees.

Senator Moser prioritized LB1261 to create a carefully defined pathway for a large load customer to come into the state, pay for their own generation, and interconnect with public power while preserving the state's unique public power model.

Additionally, Speaker Arch

designated LB826 as a Speaker priority. LB826 would establish a late-filing window for disabled veterans or their spouses seeking a veteran homestead exemption. The purpose of this bill is to address cases where paperwork from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs gets delayed and arrives after the June 30th deadline to apply for a homestead exemption. I would like to thank these three senators for prioritizing these bills.

Other bills that were prioritized include:

LB468 by Senator Clements to further reduce the state's inheritance tax;

LB512 by Senator Holdcroft to adopt additional screening requirements before a physician can provide an abortion-inducing drug;

LB525 by Senator Jacobson to adopt the Agricultural Data Privacy Act, a law intended to protect the data privacy of agricultural producers in Nebraska;

LB762 by Senator Dungan to require insurance providers to cover the treatment of the pediatric autoimmune disorder commonly known as PANS or PANDAS;

LB803 and LB901 by the Revenue Committee which are placeholder bills intended to be vehicles for future property and sales tax legislation;

LB997 by Senator Andersen to require state agency directors to provide copies of no-bid emergency contracts to the State Auditor's office;

LB1032 by Senator DeBoer to recognize tribal customary adoptions in state law; and

LB1219 by Senator Brandt to limit the amount of property taxes that may be levied by a political subdivision to two percent plus real growth;

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

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 Lewis (1713-1803) was born in Wales but orphaned by the time he was 5. Aunts and Uncles raised him between Wales and England. After schooling at Westminster, he apprenticed with a London merchant. His experience went extremely well and by age 21, he had sufficient money along with some inheritance to venture on a voyage to America.

He started his own merchant company with a partner, Mr. Annesly, whose sister, Francis married. They had seven children: only 3 living past infancy. Much of his business days were spent traveling the world to facilitate his international trade company. Twice he experienced shipwreck off the coast of Ireland. During the French and Indian War, he assisted British Colonel Mercer at Oswego, NY. Mercer was killed and Mr. Lewis was taken captive, even shipped in a box to France.

The trauma of that experience at age 44 later proved to show up as determination in the fight for independence. Through a prisoner exchange, he was set free. Francis continued his merchant business until age 52, retiring as one of the wealthiest men of New York. It was in his retired days that he was involved with politics, rather than living a life of leisure.

Mr. Lewis soon became a member of the Sons of Liberty, being a spokesman for the independence movement. Appropriately, he was elected to the Second Continental Congress, willingly pledging his life, fortune, and sacred honor to the cause of American Independence.

According to Rev. Charles Goodrich, also a historian, influencing education for 3 early decades, stated this about Francis: "Of the subsequent life of Mr. Lewis, we have little to record. His latter days were spent in comparative poverty, his independent fortune having in a great measure been sacrificed on the altar of patriotism."

Blevins granted continuance

A continuance was granted in a case involving 63-year-old Denise Blevins of Norfolk, during a Feb. 11 Antelope District Court session.

She is charged with one count of possession of a controlled substance, a Class IV felony.

Martin Klein, representing Blevins, made the request to the Honorable Mark Johnson. Antelope County Attorney Joe Smith did not object and Johnson granted the motion.

The judge continued bond at \$1,500 personal recognizance, with all previously ordered conditions still in effect.

Blevins was ordered to appear March 25 for a hearing. A jury trial remains scheduled for April 20.

Blevins was arrested June 17, during a traffic stop, when An-

telope County Deputy Keegan Barker pulled over the vehicle, which had a headlight out.

According to the probable cause affidavit, an unidentified driver was arrested for operating the motor vehicle without a valid driver's license. The driver told Barker that Blevins had consumed "a few alcoholic beverages" earlier that evening, so he was driving since she was "not in any shape to be driving."

According to Barker, he performed an inventory of the vehicle before it was towed and found a small baggie containing a white powdery substance on the passenger side of the vehicle. Barker administered a field test on the substance, which turned purple, testing positive for methamphetamine.

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Exodus 17:1-7 John 4:5-42 Psalm 95

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 JULY 20 - 23 - CCC-COLUMBUS - Boys & Girls-Overnight & Commuter
 JULY 27 - 29 - GICC CAMP - Boys & Girls-Commuter Only



Pope John speech team places fourth at NVC tournament

This year's Niobrara Valley Conference speech tournament was held on Monday, March 2 at Pope John Central Catholic. Eleven teams were in attendance.

Coach Amy Klein said the tournament was very successful, with the Crusaders placing fourth as a team. The NVC champion was Chambers, runner-up was St. Mary's and coming in as the third place team was Stuart. "An interesting note is that these four teams were in the top six teams last year at the State competition. This is very telling of the talent that our conference has," Klein noted.

Pope John had nine events go to finals. These medal winners include the following:

Earning second place was Aiden Klein in entertainment speaking and the duet of Aiden Klein and Brooke Kinney.

The OID of Aiden Klein, Camry Kittelson, Tessa Barlow, Brooke Kinney and Matthew Kerkman received third place. Also placing third was Reese Stuhr in serious prose and Lillian Moser in poetry.

Jovie Borer was fourth place winner in both persuasive speaking and POI.

Kinley Druke won fifth place in humorous prose. Also coming in fifth was the duet of

Matthew Kerkman and Christian Preister.

Earning superior scores were as follows: Raaf Klein in serious prose, Harlie Tyler in informative speaking and poetry, Tessa Barlow in entertainment

speaking, Christian Preister in humorous prose, and Lillian Moser in informative speaking. Receiving an excellent rating was Reese Stuhr in extemporaneous speaking.

The Crusader team will be

competing this Saturday, March 7 at Creighton, and again on Monday, March 9 at Riverside.

They will be holding their Community Speech Night this Sunday, March 8th, at 6 p.m. in the Pope John library.



E-R photo/DMorgan

Pope John speech team members, shown with their fourth place plaque, are (front row, l-r): Coach Amy Klein, Brooke Kinney, Reese Stuhr, Aiden Klein, Tessa Barlow, Camry Kittelson, Jovie Borer and Harlie Tyler. Back row: Matthew Kerkman, Raaf Klein, Christian Preister, Lillian Moser, Kinley Druke and Coach Chris Grundmayer.

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*One scholarship will be granted to a 2026 graduating senior and the second will be given to a graduate who is in his/her second or subsequent year of post-secondary education. Each scholarship is valued at \$5,000; preference will be given to students pursuing studies in agriculture or related fields.

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The EPS speech team placed fifth at Monday's NVC Speech Tournament. Team members holding their medals are (front row, l-r): Kierstyn Eisenhauer, Gentry Zwingman, Dannyka Smidt, Kayton Zwingman and Zoey Buechter. Back row: Kyla Donaldson, Braedon Hinkle, Sophia Burke, Kynlee Tillis, Sydney Niewohner, Kyndal Busted and John Zwingman.

Elgin High speech team awarded 12 medals at NVC Speech Tournament Monday

The EPS Speech Team had a terrific showing at the NVC Meet hosted by Pope John on Monday.

The team placed fifth overall. Seven events qualified for finals, earning them a total of

twelve medals.

Bringing home top honors was Sophia Burke, who was conference runner-up in Humorous Prose.

Kyndal Busted earned two medals, placing third in both Informative and Persuasive Speaking.

The OID of Kayton Zwingman, Kierstyn Eisenhauer, Danny Smidt, Kyla Donaldson and Gentry Zwingman placed fourth, as did Zoey Buechter in Serious Prose.

The OID of Burke, Kynlee Tillis, Sydney Niewohner, John Zwingman and Braedon Hinkle placed fifth.

Niewohner also placed fifth in Poetry.

Earning Superior Ratings on the day were Hinkle in Humorous Prose and Donaldson and Smidt in Duet.

Gemma Miller received an Excellent Rating in Extemporaneous Speaking.

See SPEECH, Page 8 ►

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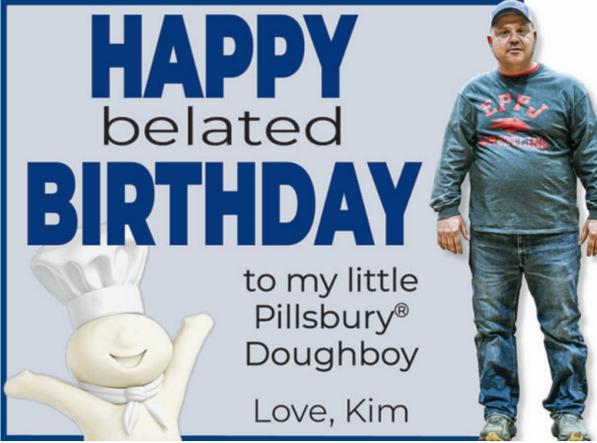
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Photo submitted

Kyla Donaldson (l) and Dannyka Smidt placed sixth in duet last week at the LHNE speech meet.

Donaldson, Smidt lead EPS speech team at LHNE

The Elgin Speech team had a big day, competing at the Lutheran High Northeast speech meet last week.

According to Speech Coach Stacy Shumake-Henn, Dannyka Smidt and Kyla Donaldson placed sixth in Duet.

Earning Superior Ratings on the day were the following: OID - Smidt, Donaldson, Kayton Zwingman, Kierstyn Eisenhauer, Gentry Zwingman; OID - Sydney Niewohner, Sophia Burke, Kynlee Tillis, Braedon Hinkle, John Zwingman; Poetry - Niewohner; Humorous - Burke and Hinkle; Informative and Persuasive - Kyndal Busted; Serious - Zoey Buechter; Ex-temp-Gemma Miller.

Coaches for the team are

Stacy Shumake Henn and Jessie Reestman.

Speech

◀ FROM Page 7

Coaches Jessie Reestman and Stacy Shumake-Henn were thrilled with the improvement. "We've really been battling in some big meets, so it was nice to see those efforts pay off. We have a lot of inexperienced team members who are new to speech, but they are learning and growing with every outing. They really did some great things today."

The team will compete at the Riverside Meet on Monday and will then travel to Wayne for districts the following week.

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Court

◀ FROM Page 1

Following testimony from three witnesses, along with introduction of exhibits, the court recessed for lunch at approximately 11:51 a.m. During the break, court officials were told of a plea agreement. Court reconvened at approximately 2:25 p.m., with details of the plea outlined. Per the attorneys, if Warnke pleaded guilty, in nature of an Alford plea, the State will not file additional charges in either case.

An amended charge of Count 1, child abuse, a Class IIIA felony, was filed. Warnke waived the one-day notice, reading of the amended information and the right to a preliminary hearing on the amended charge.

Long said if convicted of Count 1, Warnke would be required to register as required by the Nebraska Sex Offender Registration Act for 25 years.

Warnke pleaded guilty to the amended charge.

Long ordered a presentence

investigation report to be completed by the probation office, and ordered Warnke to meet with the probation officer by April 15.

Sentencing will take place on April 29. Long told Warnke that the State could charge him with failure to appear, a Class IV felony, if he fails to appear on that date.

Bond, set at \$50,000-10%, with previously ordered conditions, was continued.

Courtesy of SAM

Spinning Tales

EPPJ run has only just begun

ELGIN — Three games in five days and the season continues. Elgin Public-Pope John's postseason run has only just begun.

The week had just about everything. First, defeating a stubborn Chambers/Wheeler Central team in the opening round of subdistrict play. It marked the third time this season the Wolfpack have defeated the Renegades. Kudos to our friends to the west, they fought the good fight. They matched up

#5 seed game. St. Mary's is in the other half of the bracket and will have the tougher semi-final round game.

Two other notes ...

• One of the most astounding statistics of the season is that in 27 games, no Wolfpack player has fouled out of a game. That's a sign of playing smart, no matter the circumstances.

• To win a championship, EPPJ will have to play all three games starting at 9 a.m. Games any other time of the day are easier to adjust to. Starting at 9 a.m. means getting up early, have breakfast, go to the arena, get dressed and play and be done at 10:30-11 a.m. with the rest of the day to burn off. Teams do it every year, it's not hard but it's different. Then, thanks to the Nebraska School

Activities Association, we play Wednesday and win, come home and go back to school Thursday, then head back to Lincoln for the weekend. I miss the days when they spread the games around Pinnacle, Devaney and Lincoln high schools so it was three games in three days. If the NSAA was committed to making the fans experience the best it can be, the tournament would start Thursday and end Saturday with none of the Wednesday nonsense. Yes, I'm ranting here, but that's the way it was done for decades. The four-day format is just a way for restaurants and motels to make some extra money for fans from schools who are too far away to drive home and come back. Rant over. Good luck Wolfpack, make us proud!

SPINNING TALES



Publisher
Dennis Morgan

Having just six days earlier handed the Wolfpack their worst loss in recent memory, having won on their home court and on a neutral court, the Cardinals not only faced a formidable foe (the Wolfpack), they also faced a student body cheering and screaming for a different outcome. Led by senior Trey Rittscher, the student section was the best it's been all season.

The game itself was everything it was billed to be. St. Mary's fell behind early, then owned the middle two quarters only to see EPPJ fight back and tie the score forcing overtime. They made two treys and the Wolfpack failed to answer, giving the Cardinals a six-point victory in overtime.

And, for all the sweat and energy expended, it didn't mean anything except for bragging rights. EPPJ had more power points and would get the #1 seed win or lose. Win or lose, St. Mary's would get the third seed. Based on NSAA rules, power points determine who gets the home game in the district final. EPPJ had the most and got the top seed and a game against the 16th seed (Potter-Dix).

The Coyotes played a good game Saturday and, for a half, they played tough. But, they were no match in the second half. Maybe it was the long (five-hour) bus ride, maybe it was the lack of fan support (a good guesstimate was 50-60 fans who made the long trip) or maybe it was the lack of depth on the bench. They faded in the second half and we surged, riding a crest of neon momentum which would not let them lose on this day.

The Wolfpack are now three games away from a state championship. As the top seed they have the easiest path to championship Saturday, beat the #8 seed and the winner of the #4-

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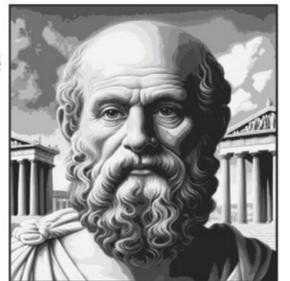
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A taste of the Philippines

PICC junior class enjoys sights, flavors of the Philippine culture

The students at Pope John have not only had the opportunity to expand their knowledge in math this school year with Mr. Fernandez, but they have also been able to explore a new culture. Mr. Fernandez joined the staff at Pope John this past fall from the Philippines.

Last week, Mr. Fernandez made an authentic meal for the junior class while wearing a barong tagalog. The barong tagalog is formal attire worn by men in the Philippines for their weddings, funerals and special occasions, and made of pineapple fiber. The students were eager to taste-test, and it did not disappoint!

Along with white rice, the students tried caldereta, adobo,



and pancit guisado. Caldereta is a hearty stew, adobo is a tangy dish, and pancit guisado is a noodle dish, similar to stir fry.

While eating, Mr. Fernandez showed the students videos of the island where he lived in the Philippines and answered questions about the scenery, animals, and hobbies.



Photos submitted

Enjoying the flavors of the Philippines were, l-r: Cameron Kallhoff, Brayden Burenheide, Gavin Kallhoff, Michael Selting, Mr. Fernandez, Brooke Kinney, Samantha Stuhr, Elizabeth Moser and Aubrie Parks.

Postpartum and lactation nutrition

IT'S ALL ABOUT BEEF



Beef Systems Asst. Ext. Educator Ben Beckman

Spring calving cows are entering one of the most critical periods of their year from a nutritional standpoint right now. How we handle it can have big implications for breed back and fertility success next year.

Beef cows must recover from the nutrient and physical demands of calving and lactation and will have 80 to 85 days to return to estrus after calving to potentially maintain a yearly calving interval. Failure to successfully manage the postpartum interval (PPI) is one of the major causes of reproductive loss, especially in young cows.

After calving, cows go through postpartum anestrus, a period in which cows do not experience estrous cycles. During this period, the uterus is trying to return to non-pregnant size, shape and position, and repair to support another pregnancy. This process (uterine involution) is completed in approximately

20 to 40 days following calving if no complications arise.

During the first ovulation postpartum, sometimes we see shorter estrous cycles and decreased fertility in those females. Therefore, we need cows to initiate estrous cycles prior to the start of the breeding season to become pregnant. If cows do not exhibit estrous or are still in anestrus, the chances for those females to cycle or get bred early in the breeding season decreases. So how can we manage cows that calve late or potentially are not cycling early enough postpartum?

Managing nutrient intake and body condition score (BCS) before and after calving contributes to improved reproductive efficiency within a herd. For reproductive success, BCS (on a 9-point scale) should target a 5 to 5.5 for mature females and 5.5 to 6 for first calf heifers by the breeding season. Ideally, the last trimester is

the optimal time to add condition to cows that may be on the thinner side. Studies have also shown that animals that gain a Body Condition Score during the last trimester tend to have shorter postpartum intervals than those that maintain condition. Unfortunately, we sometimes have to play catch up.

Sometimes producers make the mistake of assuming that increasing the protein supplementation previously fed during gestation will meet the needs of the now lactating cow.

If a 1300 pound lactating cow is fed 30 pounds (as is basis) of medium quality hay (52% TDN) and provided a protein lick tub with limited consumption of 1 pound (as is) per day, then this cow will fall short of both protein and energy required for lactation. Feeding 30 pounds (as is basis) of that same hay with 5 pounds (as is) of a 30% protein cube would meet the protein requirement, but fall just short of the energy requirement. This will likely result in some loss of body condition prior to turning out on green grass. For a cow in a body condition score (BCS) 6 (1-9 scale), this will likely not have a major impact on her abil-

ity to rebreed within 83 days of calving. It can be detrimental for a cow in a BCS 4.

Producers will want to keep an especially watchful eye on the BCS of first calf heifers as they have a smaller rumen than a mature cow, and therefore cannot eat as much and likely will need a more nutrient dense diet. Additionally, they have a requirement for growth on top of lactation, which can make rebreeding a challenge. Having heifers in a BCS 6 at calving can help alleviate some of the challenges associated with lactation.

Right now is a good time to assess BCS of the cows in spring calving herds and send feed samples to a commercial laboratory for nutrient analysis. This will help producers be better prepared to feed a diet during calving that will prevent BCS loss in cows that may not have excess BCS to give this year.

- 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



Fish fries reel in the eaters

Holy Mackerel - area fish fries keeping busy

Northeast Nebraska residents love their fish fries and the Lenten season is anticipated here every year as it brings some of the best fish eating you can find. In Petersburg, the Legion holds one every Friday of Lent (except Good Friday), Clearwater and Neligh both hosted fish fries on Ash Wednesday as has Oakdale and the St. John's - Deloit super seafood "splash" will be held on March 20th. Pictured left: Leigh Kluthe gives Sue Vanis and her grandkids a good serving size of mac & cheese to go with the fried fish, potatoes, assortment of salads and desserts at the Elgin Knights of Columbus fish fry last Friday. Elgin's next fish fry is reported to be Friday, March 27th. Come out, enjoy the good food and great fellowship at any/all of these gatherings. E-R photo/LMorgan

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Shopping locally not only means getting to see the same friendly faces each time you patronize a nearby business, it also means keeping money in your community. A 2018 study from American Express, the company that founded Small Business Saturday (which is celebrated the day after Black Friday), and the National Federation of Independent Business found that roughly two-thirds of every dollar spent at a small business ultimately stays in the local community. That boils down to 67 cents out of every dollar. The American Independent Business Alliance also references the "local multiplier" regarding local spending. This occurs when people spend at a locally owned and independent business instead of chain stores or mega online retailers. Although the exact amount of dollars recirculated by locally owned businesses varies due to certain unique criteria, retail studies conducted by Civic Economics has found a person's dollars at these locally owned businesses recirculate through the local economy two to four times more than money spent at non-local companies. This money helps generate more local wealth, charitable contributions and jobs.

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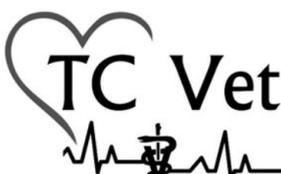


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Wolfpack Sports



EPPJ heads to State!

#1 seed hammers P-D Coyotes 77 to 54

ELGIN — The dream became a reality Saturday afternoon.

For the Wolfpack, all season long they have eyed returning to the Boys State Basketball Tournament. On Saturday, the dream came true as Elgin Public-Pope John destroyed Potter-Dix 77 to 54 in the D2-1 District Final.

The Coyotes drove five hours to play a game which was essentially over at halftime. Leading 37 to 26 to start the third quarter, the Wolfpack outscored their opponent 40 to 28 to secure the #1 seed at the state tour-

namment next week. Their first game will be March 11.

The Coyotes put up a fight in the first half as they used the three-point shot to stay close early, trailing by just two, 16 to 14 after one quarter.

With point guard Karson Kallhoff finding the open man, EPPJ pulled away with a 21-point second quarter. After freshman Jayvin Erickson drilled a trey, starters Jarek Erickson and Max Henn scored nine of the team's final 11 points of the half.

"They were six for 10 (from

three point range) going into halftime," Wolfpack Coach Matt Euse said. "They had some guys hit some shots. I told our guys they didn't drive five and a half hours to get here and just lay down. We knew they were gonna play hard."

Then, in the second half, the Wolfpack repeatedly beat the Coyotes down the court to set up easy baskets. "It took them (the players) a while to realize coach wants us to run," Euse said about play in the second half and we just wore them down."

Kallhoff had five points, Henn and Ja. Erickson each had four spread out over the first three minutes of the third quarter as the lead grew to 16 points. The trio took turns attacking the basket as the lead grew to 63 to 40 with one quarter left to play.

With the game well in hand, Coach Euse cleared the bench midway through the fourth quarter as all who suited up got to play.

Ja. Erickson led EPPJ with 28 points, Henn added 20 and Kallhoff scored 19. Ja. Erickson finished with a double-double as he pulled down 11 rebounds. Kallhoff had a team-high eight assists.

With the victory, EPPJ's record improved to 24-3. Potter-Dix ended the season 14-12.

EPPJ 77, Potter-Dix 54

Coyotes.....14 12 14 14 — 54
 Wolfpack.....16 21 26 14 — 77
 Wolfpack — Michael Selting 1-5 1-2 3, Joseph McNally 0-1 0-0 0, Karson Kallhoff 6-13 2-2 19, Evin Pelster 1-1 0-0 2, Brayden Burenheide 1-3 0-0 2, Jarek Erickson 9-18 8-8 28, Max Henn 9-11 1-2 20, Braedon Hinkle 0-2 0-0 0, Christian Preister 0-0 0-0 0, Justice Blecher 0-1 0-2 0, Jayvin Erickson 1-6 0-0 3. Team totals: 28-61 12-14 77. Three-point shots — Wolfpack 9-24 (Kallhoff 5, Ja. Erickson 2, Henn 1). Potter-Dix team totals: 19-47 6-13 54. Three-point shots — Coyotes 10-23. Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 38 (Ja. Erickson 11, Henn 8), Coyotes 22. Assists — Wolfpack 19 (Kallhoff 8). Steals — Wolfpack 9 (Ja. Erickson 3). Turnovers — Wolfpack 5, Coyotes 12.



Potter-Dix had no answer for Blake Henn near the basket. The sophomore made nine of 11 shots and finished with 20 points.

Wolfpack take Cardinals to OT, come up short 56 to 50

ELGIN — Tied at the end of four quarters, Elgin Public-Pope John and O'Neil St. Mary's went to overtime before the Cardinals flew away with a 56 to 50 victory.

The D2-5 subdistrict final for the Wolfpack featured a quick start and a stirring comeback late. Then, in overtime, EPPJ fell behind and let victory slip through their hands as the Cardinals scored just enough at the right time to claim the victory, their third in the last month against the Wolfpack.

Both teams knew the game would not affect their postseason as each was assured a spot in the district finals. Yet, on the court, they game 110 percent and it showed time and time again.

"We played really good defense," Coach Matt Euse said about the loss. "We didn't allow them to go on a 15-zero run like they did the first time we played them. We forced them to take tough shots, and that was our goal. We didn't play scared, we were the aggressor and went at

them. I thought we felt like we put pressure on them."

Tied 45-all to start overtime, Wolfpack sophomore Max Henn made one of two free throws to give EPPJ the early lead. It didn't last long. St. Mary's came down the floor and got the ball to Logan Brabec who nailed a trey to lead 48 to 46. James Eby followed with another trey and St. Mary's was up by five 51 to 46.

Jarek Erickson scored inside, then Henn scored again and EPPJ was down one, 51 to 50 with 1:55 left in the game.

Then, more than a minute ticked off the clock with neither team scoring. Eby connected for 2 with 37 seconds left, then Brabec closed out the game by making three of four free throws. In contrast, during overtime EPPJ made just one of five free throws.

EPPJ started the game strong, bolting out to

See **CARDINALS**, Page 11 ▶



E-R photos/DMorgan

Against Potter-Dix, Jarek Erickson recorded a double-double with 28 points and 11 rebounds.

GOOD LUCK!

JAREK ERICKSON
#21

It's been so much fun watching you and everything you have accomplished in your high school career. Let's finish this fun ride!!

Good luck at State!!!

Love, Mom, Aaron, Rhyson, & Ridge

GOOD LUCK!

KARSON KALLHOFF
#4

Congratulations on your district title Karson! We are so proud of your hard work this season and wish you and the Wolfpack the best of luck at state! Bring home some hardware!

Love, Mom and Dad

GOOD LUCK!

MAX HENN
#24

Best of Luck to you and the Pack, Pete. So proud of you and your team. Time to finish what you've started, boys!

Love, Mom, Dad, Blake and Chloe

GOOD LUCK!

MICHAEL SELTING
#2

Good Luck at State, Michael, Coaches and Team! We are so proud of you! Play Big and make those dreams come true!

Love, Mom, Dad, Ally, Liz, Collin and Ady

GOOD LUCK!

EVIN PELSTER
#12

We are so proud of you! Give it all you got and keep working hard!

Good luck Evin #12 and team!!

Love - Mom, Dad, Logann and Brycen

GOOD LUCK!

JAYVIN ERICKSON
#44

Good luck at State!! Keep shooting and play hard!!! Keep those recipes going!!!

Love, Mom, Aaron, Rhyson, & Ridge



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GOOD LUCK!



BRAEDON HINKLE
#30

Congratulations on making it to State Basketball! You've worked hard, stayed committed and have been a great teammate.

GO WOLFPACK!!

Love,
Mom and Dad

GOOD LUCK!



JUSTICE BLECHER
#34

Proud of Justice and the Wolfpack team!

Good luck — have fun, make great memories, and enjoy every moment!

GOOD LUCK!



TICEN SPARR
#0

Ticen, We are so proud of you.

Good luck at State!

Love Dad, Lizz, Braxton and Kellan

GOOD LUCK!



JOSEPH MCNALLY
#3

Good luck and have fun!

Love, Dad

Wolfpack trio combine for 62 points in subdistrict win over Renegades

ELGIN — “A senior and a sophomore shall lead the way.” The Wolfpack’s march to Lincoln and the boys state basketball tournament began Tuesday night with a 71 to 58 victory over Chambers/Wheeler Central in the opening round of the D2-5 Subdistrict Tournament.

Senior Jarek Erickson scored 29 points and sophomore Max Henn added 21 as the Wolfpack jumped out to an early double-digit lead and on to victory. It marked the third victory this season over the Renegades and it followed a familiar script - EPPJ starting fast in the first quarter, then the Renegades fighting back before EPPJ sealing the game late.

Falling behind 17 to six after one quarter, CWC fought back behind the shooting of Trey Blackmore and Michael Jesse

to trail by just eight, 39 to 31 at the half.

For much of the second half the two teams traded baskets as EPPJ maintained their lead. Over the final two quarters, EPPJ outscored the Renegades 32 to 27.

Erickson finished with a double-double as he pulled down 10 rebounds. Henn also had a double-double as he led the team with 13 rebounds.

With those two scoring the majority of points, Wolfpack senior Karson Kallhoff took on the roll of playmaker. While scoring 12 points, Kallhoff dished out a team-high eight assists.

Backcourt mate Evin Pelster had six points on three-for-three shooting, Michael Selting had three.

The Renegades were led in

scoring by Blackmore with 18 points, Jesse had 13.

EPPJ 71, CWC 58
 Renegades.....6 25 12 15 — 58
 Wolfpack.....17 22 13 19 — 71
 Wolfpack — Michael Selting 1-5 1-2 3, Karson Kallhoff 5-11 1-1 12, Evin Pelster 3-3 0-2 6, Jarek Erickson 8-11 9-12 29, Max Henn 9-10 3-5 21, Jayvin Erickson 0-2 0-0 0. Team totals: 26-42 14-22 71. Three-point shots — Wolfpack 5-15 (Ja. Erickson 4, Kallhoff 1), CWC — Jackson Wright 6, Carter

Metschke 2, M. McManigal (4) 2, M. McManigal (11) 8, Trey Blackmore 18, Daniel Kliver 6, Michael Jesse 13, Hayes Pokorny 3. CWC team totals: 23-50 5-9 58. Three-point shots — CWC 7-18 (Wright 2, Blackmore 3).

Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 27 (Henn 12, Ja. Erickson 10), CWC 15 (M. McManigal (4) 4. Assists — Wolfpack 19 (Kallhoff 8), CWC 10 (M. McManigal (4) 4. Steals — Wolfpack 2, CWC 4. Turnovers — Wolfpack 8, CWC 7.



E-R photos/DMorgan

Basketball isn't easy, just ask Evin Pelster on this play. He got the offense going in the first quarter with some quick baskets.



Senior playmaker Karson Kallhoff sliced through the Renegades defense often, finishing with 12 points.

Cardinals

◀ FROM Page 10

an 8 to 0 lead. St. Mary's didn't get on the scoreboard til five seconds left in the quarter when Lane Bybee



Michael Selting finished with 10 points against the Cardinals Thursday night.

scored inside.

Over the middle two quarters, St. Mary's outscored EPPJ 34 to 21.

The Cardinals took a nine-point lead early in the fourth quarter and held it until just under six minutes to play when Erickson went to work. He scored six straight points around a Cardinals' trey, to make it a six-point game (43 to 37) with 3:08 left on the clock.

EPPJ cut St. Mary's lead to two points, 45 to 43 with 51 seconds left.

After Gage Hedstrom missed

two free throws which could have iced the game, EPPJ again got the ball to Erickson who was fouled. He swished two free throws to tie the score at 45-45 with 19 seconds left, setting the stage for overtime.

Erickson led the Wolfpack with 26 points

St. Mary's improved to 24-2 with the victory. The Wolfpack's record fell to 22-3 with the loss. All three losses have been to St. Mary's.

St. Mary's 56, EPPJ 50 OT
 Cardinals.....2 21 13 9 11 — 56
 Wolfpack.....8 12 9 16 5 — 50

Wolfpack — Michael Selting 4-12 0-0 10, Karson Kallhoff 3-7 0-0 7, Evin Pelster 0-1 0-2 0, Jarek Erickson 8-15 10-16 26, Max Henn 2-8 3-6 7, Jayvin Erickson 0-1 0-0 0. Team totals: 17-44 13-24 50. Three-point shots — 3-21 (Selting 2, Kallhoff 1). St. Mary's team totals: 20-55 7-12 56. Three-point shots — Cardinals 9-32.

Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 27 (Henn 11, Ja. Erickson 9), Cardinals 31. Assists — Wolfpack 12 (Ja. Erickson 4, Henn 3, Kallhoff 3). Steals — Wolfpack 2. Turnovers — Wolfpack 11, Cardinals 10.



E-R photos/DMorgan

Trey Rittscher (on the floor with his legs up in the air) kept the Wolfpack student section active throughout the game cheering on the Wolfpack.

GOOD LUCK!



CHRISTIAN PREISTER
#33

Good luck Christian & the Wolfpack team!

Love, Mom & Dad

GOOD LUCK!



BRAYDEN BURENHEIDE
#15

Brayden, team & coaches, We are proud of you and your hard work this season. Keep it rollin'! Good luck in Lincoln!

Go 'Pack!

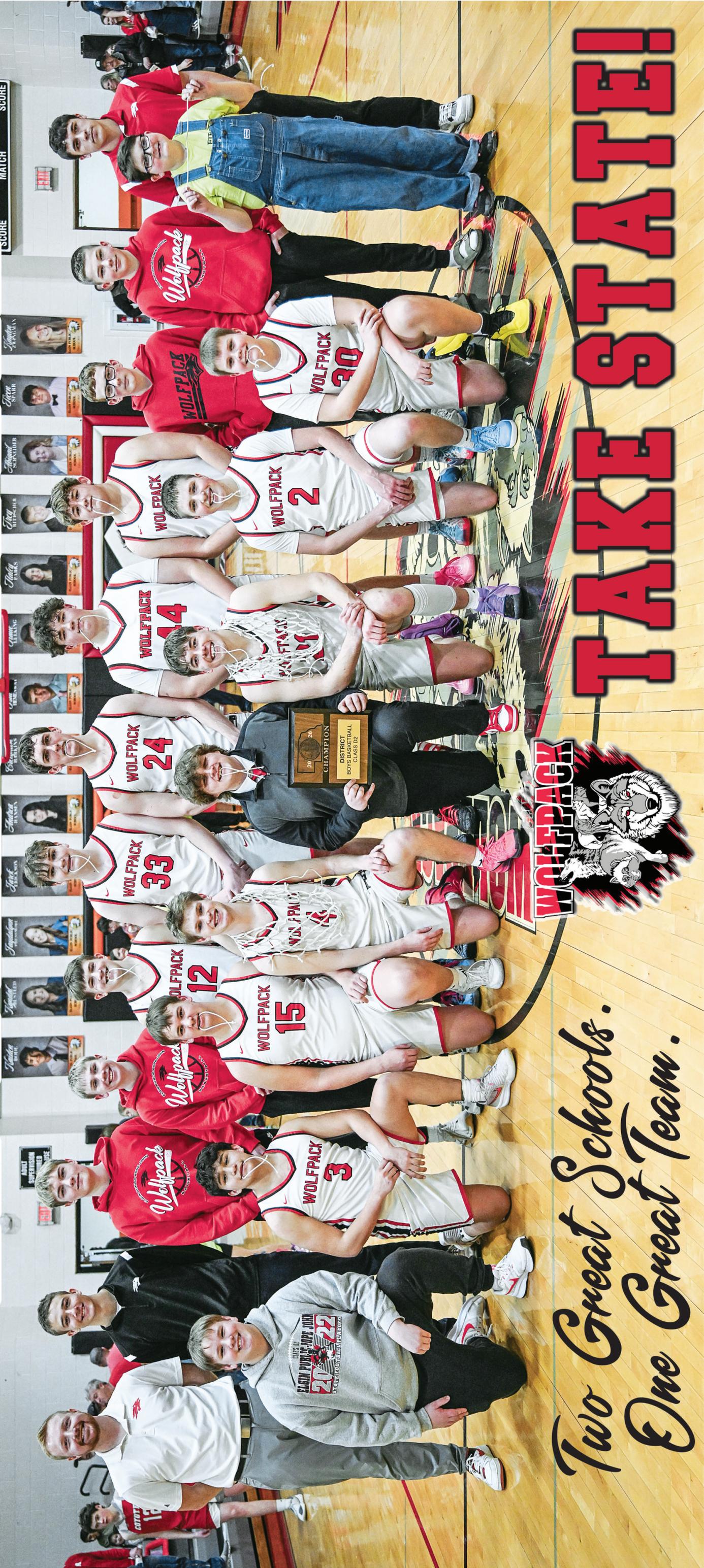
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