

The Elgin Review

Wednesday
March 5, 2025

Volume 142, Number 24

1 Section, 12 Pages

USPS Number 172-8220

\$1.00

In Brief

Benefit for Janna Schruk is this Saturday

From 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at KC Hall.

A benefit for rural Elgin resident Janna Schruk will be held this Saturday, March 8, at the Elgin KC Hall.

Free will donations will be accepted during an evening which will feature a meal and a silent auction.

The meal will consist of pulled pork sandwiches. Take out will be available that evening AND the KC's will have the bar open.

As part of the evening's festivities, there will be items to bid on as part of a silent auction.

The meal will be served from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Janna is currently going through treatments twice a week for multiple myeloma.

In April or May she will be going to the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha to have a stem cell transplant.

After she returns home, she will be off work for a number of weeks while she recovers.

The public is invited!

Elgin Community Christian Church brunch is Sunday

From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at fellowship hall.

Members of the Elgin Community Christian Church are preparing for a brunch open to the public this Sunday, March 9.

For two hours, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., parishioners will be serving a brunch which will feature pancakes, sausage, biscuits and gravy along with pie and desserts.

Free will donations will be accepted for the brunch which will be served in the fellowship hall of the church located at 110 North 4th Street in Elgin.



E-R photo/DMorgan

Pure jubilation could be seen on the faces of the Wolfpack boys basketball team as they accepted the district championship plaque, assuring them a spot in next week's NSAA Boys State Basketball Tournament.

EPPJ headed to State!

Wolfpack continue impressive play with district finals win over Kenesaw

ELGIN — One month ago the Wolfpack boys basketball season was on the brink. A five-game losing streak had made doubters of some.

Those doubters have joined the legion of believers as the team has earned a spot in the Class D2 State Basketball Tournament in Lincoln next week.

This will be the first time in three years that the Wolfpack have earned a trip to the state tournament. The last time was in 2022 when they lost in the opening round to Burwell 65 to 58.

"It's incredible," Coach Matt Euse said about earning a state tournament berth. "This might be the funnest group I've ever been a part of. They're all just so selfless. They care about each other and I love every moment I get to spend with them."

The team overcame adversity, suffering through a five-game losing streak, then turned the season around with the Niobrara Valley Conference Tournament.

Junior Karson Kallhoff, one of the team's leading scorers said he felt the season began to turn around for the Wolfpack after they came off that five-game losing streak, then reached the NVC Championship game. "We came to practice and we had, like, a little session where we just said, 'what do we need to do better?' I think that session helped us come together better as a team and just collect ourselves. Then, we started going on runs and we've just been having fun ever since that."

Leading the team to Lincoln will be seniors Dylan Kolm, Taylor Beckman and Kellan Hoefler. Underclassmen on the team are, in addition to Kallhoff, Jarek Erickson, Max Henn, Michael Selting, Ticen Sparr, Joseph McNally, Evin Pelster, Brayden Burenheide and Trey Rittscher. Assistant coaches are Paiton Hoefler and Kyle Kallhoff.

It's a sweet ride when a team turns their season around and starts playing together as a team. When

that happens, anything is possible.

One thing is for certain - they know who they have to beat to bring home a championship trophy. As it stands right now, O'Neill St. Mary's would likely be the top-seed at the state tournament. EPPJ has played the Cardinals three times. Losing in overtime of the conference tournament played at Niobrara, winning at home in the last regular season game, then dropping the subdistrict title game played at St. Mary's.

So far, EPPJ, Stuart, Silver Lake, St. Mary's and Wynot have punched their ticket to state. Three more teams qualified Tuesday night (too late for press time). This we know for sure, Wolfpack fans will make the trek to Lincoln to Pinnacle Bank Arena OR the Devaney Sports Center on Thursday, March 13, for the first round game. Semi-finals will be played Friday and the championship and third place games will be played on Saturday.

Public Notices

Public notices in this week's newspaper include:

Notice of Organization — Schrader Enterprises, L.L.C.

Notice to Bidders — Antelope County (Culverts)

Notice of Dissolution — GEF Partnership, L.L.C.

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 62 degrees recorded on February 24-25.

The low temperature during the same period was 21 degrees recorded on February 28.

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. 23	61	33	.00
Feb. 24	62	28	.00
Feb. 25	62	33	.00
Feb. 26	55	33	.00
Feb. 27	59	33	.00
Feb. 28	58	21	.00
Mar. 01	39	22	.00
Total for last week			0.00
Total for February			0.30
Total precipitation 2025			0.40

Fluoride to be removed from city water in May

First discussed in January, the Elgin City Council Monday night approved a plan to remove fluoride from the city's water supply.

Scheduled to begin in May, fluoride will no longer be added to the water which residents drink and use for a

variety of means.

The council approved the plan on a 4-0 vote.

Before the vote, Mayor Mike Schmitt said he was surprised by an informal survey which showed a number of towns in Antelope County that did not

add fluoride.

The impetus for the council's decision began in January when Mark Tharnish asked the council to consider the action. He said some studies have shown fluoride may hinder child development.

The plan is to go without fluoride for the summer months and see what residents think about the decision.

In other action: Sheriff's report — During the month of January, Antelope County law enforcement officers provided 87 hours of patrol in Elgin and responded to nine '911' calls.

Addition — Nicole Moore was approved as an addition to the Elgin Rescue Squad.

Summer hire — Also approved during the meeting was the hiring of college student Baylee Busted as a summer office assistant.

Camper pads — Midwest Armor Coat has been hired to lay liquid road on the eight camper pads at Elgin City Park. Designed as a maintenance project, the cost for doing the work comes to \$1,200.

Sister Pat Hoffman leaving Elgin

Farewell reception to be held March 23

A farewell reception is being planned for former Pope John XXIII Central Catholic teacher Sister Pat Hoffman.

The reception will be held Sunday, March 23, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Boniface Church basement and all are invited to attend.

Having retired from the school several years ago, Sister Pat will be moving to St. Joseph Convent in Milwaukee, Wisconsin at the end of the month.

She has been a part of the Elgin community, St. Boniface Parish and the school for almost 53 years.

With Sister Pat's departure, the School Sisters of St. Francis will now leave our community.

According to former PJCC Principal Betty Getzfred, "We have been blessed to have the Sisters of St. Francis as part of our community since January 1909 with the opening of St. Boniface School."

If you are unable to attend, cards may be sent to: Sister Pat Hoffman, PO Box 219, Elgin, NE 68636.

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DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS THIS WEEKEND

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ONE HOUR

EPS speech team places third at NVC; competes well at Lutheran High

On Monday the EPS Speech Team captured the third place plaque at the NVC Tournament in Bartlett.

Chloe Henn was the Conference Champion in Entertainment Speaking. Henn and Callie Heithoff also won the gold medal in Duet Acting.

Kyndal Busted was the Runner-up in Informative and placed third in Persuasive, while Zoey Buechter was Runner-up in Serious.

The OID of Henn, Heithoff, Kayton Zwingman, Braelyn Martinsen and Kierstyn Eisenhauer brought home the third place medals.

Kyla Donaldson placed fourth in Extemporaneous, and Gemma Miller placed fifth.

Superior Ratings were earned by Heithoff in Informative, Donaldson in Humorous, Miller in Poetry, and Ruby Durre in Serious.

Callie Heithoff actually

See **EHS, Page 8** ▶



Photo submitted

The EHS speech team placed Third Monday at the NVC Speech Meet. Team members competing were (front row, l-r): Callie Heithoff and Chloe Henn. Back row: Ruby Durre, Zoey Buechter, Braelyn Martinsen, Kyndal Busted, Kayton Zwingman, Gemma Miller, Kierstyn Eisenhauer and Kyla Donaldson.

Crusaders finish fifth at NVC; Klein wins informative speaking



Photo submitted

Pope John brought home a slew of medals from the NVC Speech Meet held at Wheeler Central High School Monday. Competing were (front row, l-r): Brooke Kinney, Olivia Klein, Reese Stuhr and Kinley Druke. Back row: Juliana McNally, Tessa Barlow, Camry Kittelson, Aiden Klein, Christian Preister, Matthew Kerkman, Jovie Borer and Harlie Tyler.

The Crusaders placed 5th in team sweepstakes Monday at the NVC Speech Tournament held at Wheeler Central High School.

Olivia Klein is the conference champion in informative speaking.

Aiden Klein and Brooke Kinney earned the second-place medal with their duet.

Fourth place in program of oral interpretation (POI) was Jovie Borer. She also brought home a fourth place medal in persuasive speaking.

The oral interpretation of drama (OID) group of Aiden Klein, Camry Kittelson, Tessa Barlow, Brooke Kinney and Matthew Kerkman placed fourth.

Tessa Barlow placed fifth in oral interpretation of serious prose. The duet of Olivia Klein and Juliana McNally came in sixth.

Earning superior ratings were:

See **PJCC, Page 8** ▶

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POSTPONED

Due to the Boys State Basketball Tournament, the **St. Boniface Spring Benefit Auction** has been postponed to **SATURDAY, MARCH 29TH**.

Mark Your Calendar!

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ELGIN Young N Lively 50th Anniversary

OPEN HOUSE / REUNION
Sunday, **March 30th**
2:00 - 4:00 pm at the Elgin Community Center

Former Members of the Elgin Young N Lively club are invited to join current members in celebrating this milestone! Other ladies interested in joining the club are also invited.

Please **R.S.V.P.** to Michele Reicks
402-843-8707

March brings with it so many things

Welcome March, that glorious transition month between winter and spring. We revel at the first crocus popping its colorful bloom, a blade of green, green grass, and the promise that snow and cold will soon be a memory.

The saying "in like a lion, out like a lamb" refers to the hope that spring will spring right on time, March 20 this year. Whatever the weather, we march on to a new day.

Some people are known to march to a different drummer. Growing up, our youngest son

Philip, often seemed to see the world differently. One good example is 5th grade when the assignment was to make an atom out of pipe cleaners and Styrofoam balls.

The expected standard was to make a free-standing, desktop structure.

Instead, he chose to go to school like a titanium atom wearing a cap with the required protons, neutrons, and electrons atop.

The cap hangs near my desk today to remind me that marching just like all the others isn't

always necessary.

Super proud of our great niece Jenna who spent four years in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln marching band.

Hearing her stories of early morning practices in freezing weather, performing in the rain, and enduring long bus trips makes one realize that to march in the Pride of All Nebraska takes grit.

Military units march. Quick time is 120 steps per minute, 180 for double time. Singing a cadence is common while marching, generally a call and response format, designed to keep troops in step. My dad, a WWII vet, often sang Army cadences when fixing fence or engaging in some other repetitive farm chore.

Military bands are known for playing marches, which is a type of music with a steady strong beat in 2/2 or 4/4 time and a tempo of about 130 beats per minute. John Philip Sousa wrote more than 100 marches with the most famous being Stars and Stripes Forever often played for patriotic holidays.

Those pining right now for a chance to march into the Bob Devaney Sports Center for a Husker volleyball game or into Memorial Stadium for some Husker football can turn their sights to March Madness™. Selection Sunday is March 16. Sixty-eight teams will play in this basketball tournament

with hopes of achieving that coveted final four opportunity.

The day before March Madness™ team selections, March 15, is the Ides of March. This day, which falls on a Saturday in 2025, is associated with doom and gloom according to the Romans who commemorated this day of Julius Caesar's assassination in 44 BC.

Interesting how time marches on regardless of what happens. We have a choice of marching in step or marching out of step. The Covid vaccination is a good example. Some believe the science and march in step with the Center for Disease Control's recommendation to get an annual inoculation. Others refuse. Remember in grade school when you had to march (or walk, not run) in single file to the lunchroom. Maybe you got to be the line leader a few times a year.

My last name then started with an M, so it took forever for me to march up to the front of the line, it seemed. It's said that good health is associated with walking with purposeful steps as fast as you can. Pick up your step. Think of it as your march into the new, refreshing life of spring.

Comments welcome at jane.schuchardt@gmail.com.

Say What?



Elgin Columnist Jane Schuchardt

Looking Back

The Elgin Review

Sixty Years Ago

March 4, 1965

The second annual St. Boniface "Mardi Gras" was concluded Sunday with the crowning of the king and queen in the persons of Dave Pelster and Diane Schrage.

The St. Boniface Knights won the District 10 Class D Tournament, defeating Elgin High 21 to 13. Terry Henn led the victors with 12 points while Leonard Iburg had 11 points for EHS.

Ross Martin was presented a diamond ring last week for 25 years of employment with the Banker Life of Nebraska Insurance Company in Lincoln.

The Hoe and Hose Garden Club will meet with Mrs. Schrage on Wednesday evening, March 10.

The Elgin Chamber of Commerce will sponsor a bathing beauty contest with the winner to compete in the second annual Weigant Resort and Marina "Family Fun Day" to be held in June. A contestant must be at least a senior in high school, but no older than 22 years of age. Candidates must wear high heels and bathing suit during time of judging.

Fifty Years Ago

February 27, 1975

Last week the Elgin Village Board of Trustees completed the required pre-application for Federal assistance authorized for communities seeking grants for development projects.

Several council members, wives and children from Knights of Columbus Council 2411 entertained residents at Keahaven Rest Home in Neligh Tuesday night with bingo.

Jane Schindler, a junior at Kearney State College, was named to the Dean's List. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Max Schindler.

Weekend visitors in the Vernon Bustedee home were Mr. and Mrs. Gary Bustedee and their two children of Columbus. Sunday dinner guests included those from Columbus, Mrs. Carl Hemenway of Neligh and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Musser.

Richard Schuchardt of Elgin is one of 14 University of Nebraska-Lincoln students who qualified to teach vocational agriculture this semester in a student teaching program. He is the 22-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. William Schuchardt. He holds a dual major in ag education and ag economics. He will student teach in Waverly.

Thirty Years Ago

March 1, 1995

After defeating Coleridge 77 to 52 in the D2-4 District Playoff at Plainview Monday night, the Elgin High School boys basketball team is preparing for its third consecutive trip to the State Boys Basketball Tournament. The Eagles will play Arcadia in their first game in Lincoln.

Reigning as king and queen at the annual Pope John Central Catholic Sweetheart Dance were Kayla Zegers and Jesse Borer.

A one-vehicle accident involving a truck hauling automotive batteries caused some environmental concerns for Antelope County officials on Monday. A 1994 International truck owned by Rollins Leasing Corp. of Omaha went into the ditch and rolled 4.7 miles south of Oakdale on an asphalt-surfaced county road. About 260 batteries were damaged and were strewn throughout the accident scene.

A wind-whipped prairie fire burned more than 2,000 acres of grassland in northeast Wheeler County. Seven area fire departments battled the blaze.

Construction is being completed on a new office building for the Central Valley Co-op Fertilizer Division north of Elgin. Interior finish work is underway on the building which is located just south of the cooperative's fertilizer plant.

Twenty Years Ago

March 2, 2005

Pope John students inducted into the National Honor Society recently were Kristin Sund, Andrew Childers, Luke Beckman, Carlotia Tharnish, Justine Beckman, Melissa Schindler, Jessica Henn, Matthew Dwyer and Clayton Pelster.

Interior improvements on the Elgin KC Hall have been continuing at a fast pace over the past several weeks. A suspended ceiling was installed over the older portion of the KC Hall. Two large roll-up doors have been installed between the main building and the addition. Workers are now finishing drywall in the addition.

Gary Arehart has joined the Bank of Elgin staff as a vice president and loan officer. "I'm glad to be here," Gary said about his new position. "I look forward to renewing friendships and working with our bank customers."

A total of 75 units of blood were collected by the Red Cross Bloodmobile during their visit to Elgin last week. Reaching the six-gallon plateau was Joan Schindler.

Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Travis A. Reich, son of Kim Reich of Elgin and David Reich of Bartlett was recently promoted to his current rank while serving with Headquarters Squadron at the Marine Corps Air Station in Iwakuni, Japan.

Nebraska Life magazine is featuring Elgin residents Kyle and Deb Warren and the Plantation House Bed and Breakfast in the March/April 2005 issue.

Receiving 50-year membership awards were American Legion members Leonard Beckman, Robert Schrage, Wilfred Arehart and Dean Henn. Also recognized, but unable to attend the ceremony were Don Bergstrom Douglas Sharkey, Jack Blair, Delbert Heithoff and 60-year member Clarence Johns.

Shop At Home!

Elgin Community Center Menus

Monday, March 10: Polish dog with sauerkraut, au gratin potatoes, corn, pears, bread/butter, milk.

Tuesday, March 11: Cheeseburger soup, cottage cheese, carrots/celery, cheese/crackers, peaches, bread/butter, milk.

Wednesday, March 12: Fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, peas, strawberry/peach mix, bread/butter, milk.

Thursday, March 13: Cream chicken over biscuits, mixed vegetables, mandarin oranges, bread/butter, milk.

Friday, March 14: Baked potato bar with all the toppings,

apricots, 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 \$10.00.** Serving starts at 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.

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Community Calendar

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

Wednesday, March 5
Ash Wednesday, Lent begins.

Friday, March 7
Elgin Knights of Columbus Fish Fry @ KC Hall*.

Saturday, March 8
Benefit for Janna Schrunck at the Elgin KC Hall*.

Sunday, March 9
Elgin Community Christian Church brunch at the fellowship hall.*

Tuesday, March 11
Regular meeting of the Antelope County Board of Commissioners @ the courthouse in Neligh • EHS Speech Night @ 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria*.

Wednesday, March 12
Regular meeting of the District #18 Board of Education @ EHS.

Thursday thru Saturday, March 13-15
Boys State Basketball Tournament*

Events listing courtesy of

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The Elgin Review

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

Bill to protect rural nursing homes

Across America, 1.3 million people live in nursing homes—including almost 10,000 of our fellow Nebraskans. Many of us have parents, grandparents, or other loved ones who rely on these homes for care and community in their golden years. We understand just how vital nursing homes are, in urban, suburban, and rural areas alike, to help seniors around our country thrive.

But unfortunately, a federal rule that is still in place from the Biden era is putting many of America's nursing homes in jeopardy—especially those in rural communities. Last year, under President Biden, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) finalized a rule that imposed strict, unrealistic regulations on nursing homes.

The rule requires a registered nurse (RN) to be present 24/7 in these homes and requires three and a half daily hours of dedicated nursing care for each resident. If this rule is not stopped, the regulations will be imposed on every nursing home in America over the next few years.

It may sound nice to have a nurse on hand in nursing homes every moment of the day or night. But the reality is that these homes are already facing historic staffing shortages. Across the country, according to federal labor statistics, nursing homes lost more than 200,000 workers from 2020 to 2022.

Staffing shortages have already caused many nursing homes to close down. Since 2015, 44 nursing homes and 35 assisted living facilities have shut their doors in Nebraska alone. Those closures deprived Nebraskans of over 3,000 beds and hurt seniors who

WASHINGTON REPORT



U.S. Senator Deb Fischer

wanted to stay in their home community, close to family and friends. The CMS rule will worsen this crisis—according to the agency itself, 75 percent of America's nursing homes will have to increase staffing to comply with its regulations.

Under the Biden administration's rule, nursing homes now have to scramble to find staff in the midst of overwhelming shortages. If they fail, they'll have to shut their doors, depriving seniors of care and housing.

This month, I plan to reintroduce my legislation to stop this Biden-era rule in its tracks. My Protecting Rural Seniors' Access to Care Act will prevent the rule's misguided requirements from going into full effect. It will also establish an advisory panel on the nursing home workforce representing various stakeholders, including members from rural and underserved areas. This will ensure that the government hears voices outside the big cities on the coasts.

Nursing homes are few and far between in rural areas of our country. Fifteen of Nebraska's counties have no nursing home. If one facility closes, the next closest one could be many miles or even hours away. Just one closure could be detrimental to seniors in some of our communities.

But if our nursing homes stay open, seniors won't have to face upheaval in their final years. They won't have to leave family and loved ones behind to find a new home.

They won't have to experience the loneliness, uncertainty, and depression that can come along with moving to an unfamiliar place.

My bill advocates for these seniors, their care, and their families. It fights for our rural communities and for nursing homes in Nebraska. I'll keep pushing for this legislation until the president signs it into law—to protect seniors from a rule that would only harm them, their families, and their caretakers.

A new pitch for increasing pay for legislators: appoint a commission to consider it

The old joke around the State Capitol is that legislators get paid "\$12,000 a year and all you can eat and drink."

That is a reference to all the free meals – and, OK, maybe a drink or two – dispensed at the almost daily events hosted by lobbying groups during legislative sessions.

But in reality, it's no laughing matter that state senators in Nebraska get paid so little for representing us.

George Norris, the founder of the one-house Unicameral Legislature in our state, argued that such a system would save the state money. To be sure, reducing the number of state lawmakers in Nebraska from the 133 in the state's two houses (Senate and House of Representatives) to the 43 originally in the one-house Unicameral saved money.

But Norris felt that the members of the new Unicameral should be paid well. He advocated for a \$2,400 yearly salary back in 1934 for state senators.

Today, if you considered inflation, that pay would be nearly \$58,000, according to calculations by the group, Civic Nebraska.

As they say down on the farm (and in urban backyards), that ain't chicken feed.

But chicken feed is what state legislators (now up to 49) get today. They are paid \$12,000-a-year, a salary that hasn't changed in 37 years.

OK, I hear ya, those gol-darned politicians shouldn't get paid more. They always seem to fall short when cutting property taxes? They should know what the job pays when they run.

But when it comes to finding people willing to run for an office that pays squat, well, it sort of narrows the field. Mostly retirees, the semi-retired and the independently wealthy who don't need a paycheck can afford to run.

Remember State Sen. Amanda McGill when she was in office? She worked a part-time job at Target to make ends meet, allowing her to represent her Millard-area district.

"Nebraska makes it very difficult for people working normal jobs to be able to represent their communities as a state senator," said State Sen. Ben

ALL THINGS NEBRASKA



State Correspondent Paul Hammel



Hansen of Blair.

Efforts to get Nebraska voters (who must approve any pay raise) to increase legislative salaries have failed over the years. Politicians aren't popular folks these days, and the repeated "no" votes on pay raises tends to bear that out.

But now state lawmakers appear to be embracing a new strategy, one that would create an independent committee to determine what is fair pay for state senators.

At least 22 states, including neighboring Kansas and Missouri, have such commissions.

These panels have no members who are current or former state senators, spouses of legislators, or even lobbyists or past/present workers for the Legislature, thus removing the common (and justifiable) gripe that politicians

are giving themselves a raise. This would allow an independent committee to decide what's fair. One suggestion was \$30,000 a year.

Recall the howls that echoed across Omaha a few years back when county commissioners there voted themselves a 4% annual raise. Douglas County commissioners now get about \$60,000 a year.

So I hear you say that "state legislators are part time, right? So they don't warrant full-time pay."

It's my experience, however, that most state senators work full-time hours and more during sessions, and close to it when out of session.

This isn't easy work – issues like state aid to schools, social services and tax policy are complicated, and require lots of research and consideration. One study suggested that Nebraska

lawmakers work an average of about 30 hours a week overall.

The proposal in the Legislature would put the issue of an independent legislative pay commission before voters in 2026.

It's pretty clear that you get what you pay for in this world. Maybe it's time to consider that when it comes to paying state senators.

Paul Hammel has covered the Nebraska state government and the state for decades. He retired in April as senior contributor with the Nebraska Examiner. He was previously with the Omaha World-Herald, Lincoln Journal Star and Omaha Sun.

A native of Ralston, Nebraska, he loves traveling and writing about the state.

Why would anyone want to live in a small town?

Dear Editor,

I remember the small town of Raeville and the caring things people did for my mom. There was still school in Raeville and school kids would go to her mailbox and bring the mail into her. That was also a good way to check and make sure she was okay. She did not drive. Friends would take her to appointments and pick up her weekly groceries. I knew if something was wrong, someone would call me. I felt good knowing she had neighbors that cared. Eventually my family moved to the small town of Bartlett.

People would ask, "why would you want to live there?" There is no grocery store, no drug store, no farm store. Maybe not, but through the 45 years that I have lived here, I know the answer. It is because of the neighbors who care. I was reminded of this today. I received a call from my Neighborhood Watch friends telling me to close all my doors and get my cats into the house because there was a skunk in my neighbors yard.

Pauline Marker

One big, beautiful budget resolution

Just over a month into President Donald Trump's second term, his administration is off to an aggressive start. Commissioned with a mandate from the people to restore American prosperity, the president has moved without delay to reassert common sense in the Executive Branch, rein in government overreach, and demonstrate international leadership. House Republicans are matching his stride, and this week, I supported House passage of legislation to set the stage to fulfill his agenda for historic growth and opportunity.

This resolution initiates a legislative mechanism referred to as reconciliation to provide a budgetary framework for enacting fiscal policy. As a first step in the reconciliation process, the budget resolution makes no changes to current law and is not signed by the president. Instead, it instructs congressional committees to propose legislation under guidelines related to federal spending, revenue, and debt. This will empower Congress to deliver on the promises Republicans and President Trump have made to minimize the tax burdens for Americans across the income spectrum, secure our borders, end the previous administration's war on affordable energy, and unleash economic growth.

Over the last four years, open border policies have eroded the rule of law, energy costs have skyrocketed, and our economy has suffered due to the extreme government spending levels ushered in by President Biden. According to the Joint Economic Committee, across the four years from January 2021 to December 2024, the average Nebraskan household cumulatively paid \$34,353 more in living expenses due to inflation.

The resolution passed by the House would allow us to extend and expand the tax relief I supported and which President Trump signed into law in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA). TCJA policies to nearly double the standard deduction, increase the child tax credit, and increase the thresholds for Section 179 expensing and bonus depreciation were enormously effective, allowing families to keep more of their paychecks and supercharging growth for small businesses.

If these tax cuts are allowed to expire, it would be the most severe tax hike in American history. The average American worker would pay thousands more in taxes, and family farms, ranches, and small businesses would suffer from immediate and sharp rate increases. While simultaneously serving to avert this economic disaster,

the House budget would reduce the debt-to-GDP ratio by eight percentage points and secure the most mandatory savings ever enacted—beating the record by 400 percent. It also includes 800 billion dollars in savings on discretionary spending. In the same way tax revenues under TJCA outpaced projections, the economic growth fueled by extending these tax cuts will serve to expand revenues needed to reduce the federal deficit.

The framework passed by the House would make it possible to enact President Trump's entire agenda, including securing our borders and encouraging American energy abundance. Biden-Harris policies allowed record numbers of illegal immigrants to flow into our country unchecked and inflated energy prices through burdensome regulations and Green New Scam spending. Our budget

FROM THE HILL



Congressman Adrian Smith

See SMITH, Page 5 ▶

Numbers to Know

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Volume 142, Wednesday, March 5, 2025 Number 24

Published weekly on Wednesday at Elgin, NE 68636 Entered at the Elgin Post Office and Periodicals Postage Paid at Elgin, NE 68636 Telephone: (402) 843-5500



ER Publishing LLC Dennis L. & Lynell M. Morgan Publishers and Editors

Annual Subscription Rates by Mail

Antelope, Boone, Wheeler counties (except Ewing and Tilden)\$45 Elsewhere in NE\$48 Out Of State\$53

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Legislature continues with public hearings on bills

This past week, senators gave first-round approval to two bills advanced to the floor by the Agriculture Committee: LB7 and LB372. My bill LB7 would make a number of technical updates to the Foreign-owned Real Estate National Security Act. This Act was created last year by my priority bill, LB1301. More specifically, LB7, as amended, would do three main things: (1) clarify that Native American tribes are not considered "foreign governments" under the Act, (2) update federal regulations in Nebraska statute which clarify that the Chinese Special Administrative Region of Macau is a restricted entity, and (3) add a requirement that the Legislature be notified of a

successful divestment action by the court. LB372 by Senator McKeon is a bill brought on behalf of the Department of Agriculture that would repeal several laws that have never been used, implemented, or enforced. At the public hearing, Director of Agriculture Sherry Vinton testified that LB372 would lessen the number of unnecessary regulations overseen by the Department of Agriculture. Both LB7 and LB372 were advanced unanimously by the Legislature to Select File. Meanwhile, the Legislature continued to hold public hearings. The Revenue Committee heard LB81 introduced by Senator Hardin. This legislation is

intended to address the potential gap year for the Property Tax Credit Fund that was created by LB34 during last year's special session. The legislation would allow all Nebraskans to claim a credit on any property taxes paid in 2024 when they file their tax returns this spring. The intent of LB81 is to make whole the people who missed out on claiming an income tax credit for property taxes assessed in December 2023. According to estimates by the Legislative Fiscal Office, LB81 would cost an estimated \$637 million to implement. Following the conclusion of last year's special session, I have been contacted by numerous Nebraskans in my district and across the state who either did not have an opportunity to plan ahead prior to the passage of LB34 or pay their property taxes in arrears. I believe a majority of Nebraskans would like to know what happened and see LB81 considered. If LB81 is advanced to the floor by the Revenue Committee, I would be open to supporting this legislation based on the information I have now. Ultimately, though, my decision will come down to what all ends up being said during floor debate. Additionally, the Government, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee heard public testimony on three pieces of legislation relating to a Convention of the States. LR14 would serve as Nebraska's permanent application for a convention of the states authorized under Article V of the U.S. Constitution, to limit the power of the federal government, impose fiscal restraints, and enact term limits for members of Congress.

Nebraska's current application passed in 2022 is set to expire on February 1, 2027. LR21 would serve as Nebraska's application for an Article V Convention of the States for the sole purpose of enacting term limits on Congress. LB259 would adopt the Faithful Delegate to Federal Article V Convention Act to provide the rules and procedures necessary to create and guide Nebraska's delegation to an Article V convention and provide legislative direction relating to the election or recall of a delegate. In the next two weeks, senators and committees will begin selecting their priority bills for the year. In accordance with legislative rules, Speaker Arch has set the deadline for senators and committees to pick their priority bills by March 14th. Once priority bills begin to be designated, the Legislature will begin debating those bills ahead of the bills without such designations. As bills are heard and debated, I would appreciate your input. Call my Capitol office telephone number at (402) 471-2801 or send email to bdekay@leg.ne.gov. My mailing address is: Senator Barry DeKay, District #40, P.O. Box 94604, State Capitol, Lincoln, NE 68509.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



District 40 Senator Barry DeKay

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'In like a lamb, out like a lion'

I don't believe in astrology or horoscopes. In fact, I flatly reject them. But I do believe that God speaks to us through the circumstances of our lives. Just last weekend at Mass a priest spoke about the Book of Sirach and other wisdom literature in the Bible, summing it up by saying "that if you're paying attention in life, there's always a lesson to be learned." At the start of March, my birth month, I'm reminded of the saying that March comes "in like a lion and out like a lamb." I think that saying in a particular way reflects my circumstances and my calling. But perhaps March has a lesson for all of us. In my particular case, I seemed to be born like a lion. I arrived into the world face first, and my entire face was a bruise, my mother later told me. She said I looked like a prize fighter. Growing up, I was terribly shy and may have seemed lamblike. But by the time I reached middle school, I had a defiant streak, especially with my parents. Basically, I liked to argue. My mom told me that I personally made her blood pressure rise. There was no winning an argument with my dad, who was equally stubborn. "Why can't you just let him win?" my mom would ask. In high school a religion teacher called me "a rebel without a cause" because I liked to ask questions and challenge her. Mostly, though, I think I was honestly looking for answers. By the time I was a senior in high school, my argumentative nature had begun to subside. I appreciated my parents, even if I didn't understand them and even though I underestimated them. I had a wild side in high school and college, but I was starting to have a religious conversion, too. Marriage didn't necessarily tame me, but having and raising children did. My religious conversion continued, and I began to see that I needed to become lamblike, to resemble a certain Lamb, before I

Faith



Elgin Columnist Susan Szalewski

Smith

invests \$90 billion in border security and embraces an all-of-the-above approach to energy production. While advancing the budget resolution is just one step in the reconciliation process, it is a major step forward to working with the Senate to advance policies the president will sign. The American people deserve a safe and prosperous future for themselves and their families. Contrary to the insecure border, failed economic policies, and unaffordable energy we saw under the previous presidential administration, House Republicans have come together to advance President Trump's agenda and put us back on the path to freedom and opportunity.

FROM Page 4

See FAITH, Page 8

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In a world that doesn't always make sense, find answers in faith!
Attending church on a regular basis is an integral part of faith communities and adds to an individual's sense of a faith family. If it's been a while since you've attended a service/Mass, come back. You are always welcome.

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Deuteronomy 26:1-11

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Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13 Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
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Romans 11:36

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Wolfpack Sports

Big 3's crush Kenesaw; send EPPJ to State

ELGIN — With their season on the line and just eight minutes left on the clock, Karson Kallhoff and his teammates 'shot down' Kenesaw 43 to 36 Saturday evening.

The victory, in the district final, gave EPPJ one of eight coveted berths in the Class D2 State Tournament to be played next week in Lincoln.

It was a four-point game, the outcome could go either way yet, when Kallhoff arched the first of his two treys in the quarter to give the Wolfpack the upper hand.

"I made some big three's and that's why we came out here with the 'W.'" Kallhoff said. "It was a fun environment. I don't think it was anything any of us had experienced before ... Once we settled down and got the nerves out, we just came together as a team and stayed together. That's our M.O. the whole year - stay together."

Then, on the team's next possession, Kallhoff did it again, this time giving the Wolfpack a 35 to 28 lead.

Freshman Max Henn then contributed two big baskets over a minute span. The first came at the 3:31 mark to give EPPJ a nine-point margin.

From that point on, the Blue Devils' fate was sealed. Although, they made it interesting in the final minute of the game.

Two free throws by Maddox Wagoner cut the Wolfpack's lead to 40 to 36. The Wolfpack answered with free throws from Jarek Erickson and Kallhoff to seal the victory.

"They (Kenesaw) played really good defense," Coach Matt Euse said about the low-scoring game. "They were packing the paint. They made everything tough on Jarek. Early on the hoop was pretty small and then Karson took the lid off with a big basket ... He had a couple of big ones tonight."

The Wolfpack's dominant play in the second half was in stark contrast to the first quarter when Kenesaw held the upper hand. Four different Blue Devils scored in the opening quarter as they took a 10 to four lead. Kallhoff scored off a steal in the final minute to cut the lead to four points.

At the start of the second quarter, Kallhoff hit a trey before Kellan Hoefer gave the Wolfpack their first lead of the game with a two-pointer at the 4:43 mark.

Dylan Kolm's basket with 2:44 to go to halftime gave EPPJ their biggest lead of the half.

Kenesaw got back-to-back baskets from Wagoner and Evan Rodriguez to regain the lead.

Jarek Erickson closed out the half with five points, the last on a basket plus one to give the Wolfpack the lead at halftime, 21 to 19.

"I think it's the first time these nets have been taken down here," Hoefer said about the post-game celebration in the gym.

Kallhoff made just five of 15 shots, four being treys, to finish with 16 points to lead all scorers, Hoefer had 11.

After being out-rebounded in the first half, EPPJ rebounded well in the second half to have a 35 to 25 edge. Erickson led the way with 13 rebounds.

EPPJ 43, Kenesaw 36

Blue Devils.....	10	9	5	12	—	36
Wolfpack.....	6	15	8	14	—	43

Wolfpack — Ticen Sparr 0-0 0-0 0, Kellan Hoefer 4-10 3-3 11, Michael Selting 0-0 0-0 0, Joseph McNally 0-0 0-0 0, Karson Kallhoff 5-15 2-4 16, Evin Pelster 0-0 0-0 0, Brayden Burenheide 0-0 0-0 0, Jarek Erickson 2-5 4-5 8, Taylor Beckman 0-0 0-0 0, Max Henn 2-11 0-0 4, Dylan Kolm 2-7 0-0 4, Trey Rittscher 0-0 0-0 0. Team totals: 15-48 9-12 43. Three-point shots — Wolfpack 4-19 (Kallhoff 4). Kenesaw team totals: 12-45 9-13 36. Three-point shots — Kenesaw 3-16. Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 35 (Erickson 13, Henn 8, Kallhoff 7), Kenesaw 25. Assists — Wolfpack 10 (Kolm 3, Erickson 3). Steals — Wolfpack 4. Turnovers — Wolfpack 11, Kenesaw 11.



Jarek Erickson pulled down 13 rebounds, dished out three assists and scored five points against the Blue Devils.



Whether it be slicing into the lane or shooting from behind the arc, Wolfpack junior Karson Kallhoff scored 16 points Saturday to help lead the Wolfpack to a berth in the boys state tournament next week.

E-R photos/DMorgan

Rim 'shrinks' for EPPJ in loss to St. Mary's

O'NEILL — Trailing by just six points at halftime, EPPJ couldn't keep pace with top-ranked O'Neill St. Mary's Thursday night, dropping the district final 44 to 28.

The shots just wouldn't fall against the Cardinals in the second half as Gage Hedstrom & Co. put the defensive clamps down on EPPJ. EPPJ managed just seven points in the third quarter and six in the fourth quarter as the Cardinals pulled away for the victory.

Back-to-back baskets by Logan Brabec gave the Cards a 10-point lead before Dylan Kolm scored EPPJ's first points of the second half.

St. Mary's outscored EPPJ 10 to five the remainder of the third quarter to lead 35 to 22.

The fourth quarter saw the Wolfpack continue to struggle shooting and, seemingly with every missed shot, St. Mary's found a way to score at the other end of the court.

Jarek Erickson accounted for four of the Wolfpack's six points in the quarter, Max Henn had the other two.

"It was a physical game both ways," Coach Euse said about the matchup against the Cardinals. "That rim got real small for us ... Some of the shots we usually make we weren't even close. Lucky for us, we live to see another game."

At the start of the game it looked like neither team was going to have a

good shooting night. EPPJ jumped out to a 4-0 lead, but then was held scoreless for more than four minutes before Kallhoff hit a two-pointer just before the buzzer sounded to end the first quarter.

Hoefer drained a trey to start the second quarter, then EPPJ went scoreless for more than two minutes

before Max Henn got a trey at the 5:14 mark. The Wolfpack's last points of the quarter came on a basket & one from Erickson with 2:44 left in the half to cut the Cards' lead to 17 to 15. St. Mary's scored the final four points of the half, but were held scoreless for the final 1:41.

Such was St. Mary's defensive effort,

no Wolfpack player scored in double figures. Erickson led EPPJ with nine points, Max Henn had eight. Erickson pulled down 15 rebounds.

St. Mary's 44, EPPJ 28

Wolfpack.....	6	9	7	6	—	28
Cardinals.....	6	15	14	9	—	44

See ST. MARY'S, Page 11 ▶



Senior Taylor Beckman readies to set a screen during Tuesday's game against Stuart. Beckman and his teammates defeated the Broncos 55 to 44.

E-R photos/DMorgan

EPPJ crushes Stuart to start postseason run

O'NEILL — And then the rain came. A downpour of three-point baskets in the second half propelled the Wolfpack to a 55 to 44 victory over Stuart in the opening round of the subdistrict basketball tournament.

"When we shoot with confidence, we play with confidence," Coach Matt Euse said about beating Stuart. "Defensively, I thought we played a great game all around."

Leading 31 to 29 late in the third quarter, Elgin Public-Pope John put the Broncos to bed with a scoring barrage unlike anything before in postseason play.

Having been blown out in their own gym the last time the two teams played, Stuart kept it close for nearly three quarters.

They trailed by just two points, 31 to 29, with 1:45 left in the third quarter and appeared to have momentum on



Freshman Max Henn scored eight points against the Cardinals.



St. Mary's physical presence at both ends of the floor left the Wolfpack looking for answers. Senior Kellan Hoefer got clobbered on his way to the basket. Hoefer had five points and a team-high three assists in the loss.

E-R photos/DMorgan

See STUART, Page 11 ▶

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an outpatient clinic of Boone Co. Medical Center 402-843-5910

The Elgin Review

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Elgin Body & Glass

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Beckman Lumber Inc.

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402-929-2425

Faith

◀ FROM Page 5

die. I'm still a lion in transformation, though. I have a ways to go in learning how to humbly, graciously and even thankfully accept the crosses in my life. I still resist. I'm still defiant. But thanks be to God for His patience with me! He's slowly teaching me how to surrender all to Him. A big help has been the Surrender Novena, a short set of prayers written by Servant of God Don Dolindo Ruotolo, a friend of St. Padre Pio. The novena prayers helped produce a miracle in my life. I had been struggling with a work situation and wanted so much to take matters into my own hands. But through the Surrender Novena, Jesus was telling me to let it go, to be silent, and He would take care of it. And He certainly did – way beyond my expectations. We all have to “go out like a Lamb,” to become one with our Lord before we die. Complete surrender and docility to God is radical and defiant – even lionlike – to the ways of the world.

EHS

◀ FROM Page 2

should have medaled in Informative Speaking. However, due to a judging/ballot error that wasn't discovered until later, she did not make finals, even though she did actually qualify. EPS Coaches Jessie Reestman and Stacy Shumake-Henn applauded their team's efforts. “We've got some very busy kids, but they've been great about coming in to put in the work. They want to do well, so it's paying off. We've seen a lot of improvement.” On Friday, the EPS Speech Team competed at the Eagle Classic hosted by Lutheran High Northeast. Chloe Henn captured the runners-up medal in Entertainment Speaking. The OID of Henn, Callie Heithoff, Kayton Zwingman, Braelyn Martinsen and Kiertyn Eisenhauer brought home fifth place medals in OID. Henn and Heithoff's duet narrowly missed finals and earned a Superior Rating. The following also received Superior Ratings: Kyndal Busteed-Informative and Persuasive Speaking, Callie Heithoff-Informative Speaking, and Kyla Donaldson-Humorous Prose. Donaldson also earned an Excellent Rating in Extemporaneous Speaking, and Gemma Miller earned Excellent Ratings in Extemporaneous Speaking and Poetry. Their coaches were pleased with their performances. “We've started out the season with some fairly competitive meets, so we're thrilled to be bringing home some medals. It's also great practice to get us ready for a tough district on down the road.” The team was moved up to class D1 this season and will compete for bids to state in Wausa on March 17. EPS Speech will also compete at the Riverside Meet on Monday, March 10. On Tuesday, March 11, they will hold their public performance at 6:30 in the lunch room. Friends, family and community members are invited to attend to help us prepare for districts.

Courthouse News

All fines in addition to \$49 court costs. *Denotes an amendment of original charge(s).

Clinton Harding, Omaha, NE 12/23/24 Possess marijuana 1 oz or less-1st off, fined \$300.00 - Lawson.

Dorian T Petersen, Carroll, NE 1/3/25 No valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, fined \$25.00 - Bestenlehner.

Itsel Madrigal, Sioux Falls, SD 1/5/25 Possess marijuana 1 oz or less-1st off, fined \$300.0 - Hartley.

Aaron C Schmoltdt, Norfolk, NE 1/4/25 speeding 75/65 mph, fined \$25.00 - Mohr.

Lacie C Nelson, Grand Island, NE 1/1/25 speeding 70/55 mph, fined \$75.00 - Barker.

Jessica A Reich, Bartlett, NE 1/23/25 No valid registration-car/pickup/stepvan, fined \$25.00 - Barker.

Andrew R Pryor, Omaha, NE 2/2/25 speeding 65/50 mph, fined \$75.00 - Schlote.

Dennis Leitschuck, Albion, NE 5/10/24 Issue bad check-\$0-500, fined \$250.00 plus restitution of \$57.59.* Aaron B Smith, Orchard, NE 9/3/24 Disturbing the peace, fined \$250.00 - Miller.*

Joanne D Schottler, Bloomfield, NE 9/29/24 DUI-alcohol-1st offense, fined \$500.00/probation for 8 months + drug testing/probation administrative enrollment/probation fees totaling \$270.00/license revoked for 60

days/interlock device-breath test - \$100.00 - Hartley.*

Ashlyn K Rudolf, Neligh, NE 2/9/25 speeding 75/65 mph, fined \$25.00 - Hartley.

Misty C Hawley, Plainview, NE 9/18/25 DUI-drug-1st offense, fined \$500.00/jail sentence for 14 days/license revoked for 6 months-interlock device/No operator's license-waiverable, jail sentence of 2 days - Miller.*

Ezequiel Pascual Roque, Albion, NE 1/8/25 No operator's license/waiverable-Operate or park unregistered vehicle, fined

\$150.00 - Miller.* Tomasa Velasquez Ramos, Clearwater, NE 2/10/25 No operator's license/waiverable, fined \$75.00 - Miller.

Cory D Allemang, Clearwater, NE 1/14/25 No operator's license/waiverable, fined \$75.00 - Wiggins.

Michael A Wasser, Ottsville, PA 2/9/25 speeding 75/65 mph, fined \$25.00 - Hartley.

Sean M Lockhorst (Wielenga Trucking LLC), Monroe, SD 1/29/25 Overweight capacity plates, fined \$125.00 - Detlefsen.

Lawmakers asked to restore funding for Standing Bear Museum

LINCOLN – State lawmakers were told Monday that restoring funding for a Standing Bear museum and improvements at two large lakes would enhance tourism and economic development and honor “an extraordinary Nebraskan.”

Chief Standing Bear's pipe-tomahawk was displayed on the first floor of the Nebraska Capitol on Monday. (Aaron Sanderford/Nebraska Examiner)

“Who walks 500 miles in the dead of winter to honor a pledge of a dying son?” author Joe Starita asked members of the Legislature's Appropriations Committee. “Our finest fiction

writers could not make up this story.”

Starita, whose book about Chief Standing Bear, “I Am a Man,” led to the filming of a Hollywood movie and issuance of a U.S. Postal Service stamp, was among several people urging legislators to restore \$14 million in state funding for a museum and cultural center honoring Standing Bear. The funding was cut as part of an effort to close the state's multi-million dollar budget deficit.

The Nebraska Examiner

Buy Local!

From JoAnn Baum's Kitchen

Hearty Beer Cheese Soup & Beer Bread



Good day, Spending the day in the office where it's nice and warm. My favorite coffee and pen in hand.

As you all know, Lent is beginning. I am trying to give you some recipes you might use for your meal plans.

This week I felt these two recipes went together. This soup recipe makes a lot, so if you wanted to freeze some for another time, you would have it when you needed it.

I love to serve a warm bread with any kind of soup. They just go together.

Hope you try these ideas!

JoAnn

BEER BREAD

- 2 cups self-rising flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 2 Tbls honey
- 1 12 oz can of beer

- 3 Tbls butter
- 1 tsp seasoning or garlic salt

Mix flour, salt, honey and beer together. Mix until well blended. Pour into a well greased loaf pan. Mix the butter and seasoning salt onto the top of the crust. Bake at 350° for 20 minutes or until done.

HEARTY BEER CHEESE SOUP

- 4 chicken bouillon cubes
- 3 cups water
- 1 can beer
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1 cup diced onion
- 2-1/2 cups cubed raw potatoes
- 1 cup diced carrots

- 2 cans cream of chicken soup
- 1 lb cubed Velveeta™ cheese

Combine bouillon cubes, water, beer, celery, and onion. Cover and cook for about 20 minutes. Add the potatoes, carrots and cook until tender. Add chicken soup and cheese. Heat until cheese is melted and soup is hot. Chopped ham can be added if you would like. Freezes well! Enjoy!

PUBLIC NOTICES

Stay in the know. Read the Public Notices

NOTICE TO BIDDERS – CULVERTS ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

NOTICE FOR BIDS Culverts
The Antelope County Board of Commissioners will accept sealed bids until 9:15 AM on March 11th, 2025, for Culverts. Bids may be brought in or mailed to the Antelope County Clerk's Office, 501 M Street, PO Box 26, Neligh, NE 68756-0026. Specifications are available at the Clerk's Office. Bids made on items not listed on the specifications or bids not consistent with the specifications will not be accepted. All bids must be plainly marked "Culvert Bid" on the

lower left-hand corner of the envelope. Successful bidder will supply the specified product. Bids will be opened and publicly read at the March 11th, 2025, board meeting at 9:15 AM in the County Commissioners Meeting Room of the Antelope County Courthouse Annex. The Antelope County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Antelope County Board of Commissioners
PUBLISH: February 19, 26 & March 5, 2025
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION GEF Partnership, L.L.C.

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION
GEF Partnership, L.L.C., a Nebraska Limited Liability Company, with its registered address at 428 N. Elm, Box 193, Ewing, Nebraska 68735, was dissolved on February 7, 2025. The terms of the dissolution provide for the payment of liabilities of the Limited Liability Company and the distribution of any remaining assets to the members. Gary D. Funk, the President of the Limited Liability Company, is to manage the company affairs,

wind up and liquidate its business, and distribute its assets. The Limited Liability Company has no assets and no liabilities.
Martin V. Klein
Klein Law Office, P.C.
101 W. 4th Street
P.O. Box 166
Neligh, NE 68756-0166
PUBLISH: February 19, 26 & March 5, 2025
ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION SCHRADER ENTERPRISES, L.L.C.

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION
The name of the limited liability company: SCHRADER ENTERPRISES, L.L.C. The address of the designated office is: 84920 Cemetery Road, Neligh, Nebraska 68756. The name and mailing address of the initial agent for service of process of the company is Martin V. Klein, 101 W. 4th Street, P.O. Box 166, Neligh, NE 68756. It is organized to transact any lawful acts concerning any and all lawful business, other than banking or insurance, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska.

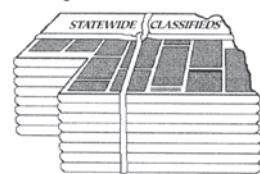
This company commenced upon filing the Certificate of Organization with the Secretary of State on February 25, 2025, and its existence shall be perpetual. The affairs of the limited liability company are to be conducted by the members under an operation agreement duly approved by its members.

SCHRADER ENTERPRISES, L.L.C.

Martin V. Klein
Klein Law Office, P.C.
P.O. Box 166
Neligh, NE 68756-0166
(402)887-4190
PUBLISH: March 5, 12 & 19, 2025
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JUNE 23 - 26 • HASTINGS MIDDLE SCHOOL • Boys & Girls-Commuter Only
JULY 7 - 10 • DOANE UNIVERSITY • Boys & Girls-Overnight & Commuter
JULY 21 - 24 • GICC Camp 2 • Boys & Girls-Commuter Only

(Please Check Website for Possible Changes)

A very wise man, Socrates, once said *this guy!*

“YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW”



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to view our photo galleries:



SUMMER JOB OPPORTUNITY

The Neligh Mill Historic Site has an opening for a Tour Guide. The job will run from May 15th to Labor Day, Tuesday-Saturday, 28 hours per week. Duties include giving tours, answering questions about the local area, mowing and cleaning. The job closes 3-14-25, apply online at statejobs.nebraska.gov

CARD OF THANKS

Thank you to the Elgin Fire Department for their response to our grass fire last week. The efforts and dedication of all the individuals involved are truly appreciated.

The Knievel Family

Thanks to our wonderful family and friends for the special memories throughout the years and on our special day! We truly enjoyed all the cards, messages and phone calls we received. We have been blessed!

Bob and Lori Henn

Controlling winter annuals in alfalfa

IT'S ALL ABOUT BEEF



Beef Systems Asst. Ext. Educator Ben Beckman

limited, especially in alfalfa. Because we don't want to damage our alfalfa plant during the fall as it prepares for winter, or later in the spring as it starts new growth, the best window of opportunity is the short time in the spring where winter annuals have started to grow again, but alfalfa is still dormant.

To take advantage we need to act as soon as winter annuals begin to grow. Scout alfalfa fields and determine if weed pressure is enough to warrant the cost of control. Weeds can reduce overall yield, lower hay quality and palatability, and slow dry-down time for the first cutting. Producers whose goal is dairy quality hay will most likely find

the benefit of control worth the expense. If the hay is destined for dry cows in a beef herd, the difference between benefit and cost may need a closer examination.

It is also important to identify what species need to be addressed. Herbicide efficacy varies by species, so picking the product that best controls your problem weed can prevent future applications and save money in the long run. Need for broadleaf or grass weed control is especially important to identify as some broadleaf products have no action at all on grasses.

Producers with Round-Up-Ready alfalfa varieties can apply glyphosate at almost any time without the worry of damaging their crop. However, best control will occur when weeds are small and by treating early, you can count on a cleaner harvest at first-cutting.

If we miss the window of opportunity when plants are

dormant, select an herbicide that allows application after growth has initiated to minimize damage to the crop. Most of these products target alfalfa growth under 2-3 inches and have pre-harvest intervals, so do your research before applying. If you need help selecting the right product for your situation, your local extension office will be happy to connect you with an educator that can provide guidance.

Winter annuals can be a seemingly never ending fight in alfalfa stands, but by being prepared and acting quickly when the time is right, we can take control.

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



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Dads also got into the spirit at Saturday's game against Kenesaw. Wearing disposable coveralls with their boy's number painted on them, the dads posed briefly before heading back to their spot to cheer on the team. Pictured are, back row, l-r: Lynn Selting, Kevin Rittscher, Marty Henn, Aaron Anderson and Kyle Pelster. Middle row: J.R. Erickson and Jeremy Hoefler. Front row: Gary Schiltmeyer, Joe McNally, Tom Sparr, Eric Beckman, Brent Kallhoff and Dave Kolm. E-R photo by Dennis Morgan.



We've got spirit, yes we do!

The student body showed up last week to cheer on the Wolfpack boys. Above: At St. Mary's last Thursday, a number of girls displayed "baby heads". See anyone you recognize in those baby pictures? At Saturday's game, those heads appeared again at the crowd "white out". The student body also did some "give and take" with the Kenesaw student body. Row Row Row Your Boat made a re-appearance along with several other group cheers and activities. E-R photos by Dennis Morgan



ELGIN LIVESTOCK SALES INC.

NO SALE MONDAY, MARCH 10

Excellent demand for all classes. Some results from Monday's (March 3) auction:

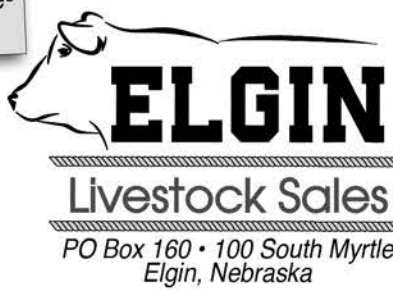
18 BLK Steers.....	562.....	360 ⁰⁰
12 BLK Heifers.....	525.....	335 ⁰⁰
13 BLK Steers.....	442.....	402 ⁰⁰
26 BLK Heifers.....	547.....	320 ⁰⁰
57 BLK Steers.....	729.....	301 ⁰⁰
13 BLK Steers.....	657.....	312 ⁵⁰
29 BLK Steers.....	775.....	281 ⁰⁰
120 BLK Steers.....	845.....	294 ⁰⁰
57 BLK Steers.....	882.....	267 ⁰⁰
18 Fat BLK Cows.....	1838.....	144 ⁰⁰
33 Fat BLK Cows.....	1716.....	145 ⁰⁰
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'This is wild': Emails show trump funding freeze sparked concern in Nebraska state agencies

By Sara Gentzler
Flatwater Free Press

When the new Trump administration directed a temporary freeze on federal grants and loans last month, Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen's office offered a calm public-facing reaction.

But emails and text messages show that many Nebraska state agencies — like organizations across the U.S. — were simmering with questions and concern. Nebraska spent \$5.5 billion in federal funding in the last fiscal year. Tendrils of that money

weave through state government, helping pay for Medicaid and unemployment benefits, for state employee salaries and for communities recovering from natural disasters.

With funding in limbo, some agency leaders received streams of messages from national groups and confused peers in other states. They fielded emails from Nebraskans worried their projects were in jeopardy.

And Pillen's office weighed the value of the largest federal grant ever awarded to Nebraska's Department of Environment and Energy: \$307 million from the Environmental Protection Agency. "Internally, I don't know how much we want to fight to keep it," policy adviser Cicely Wardyn wrote of the grant. "We can use it to benefit farmers and agriculture in the state, but don't want to run counter to Trump's Administration."

Judges temporarily blocked the freeze, the White House rescinded the original memo, and the disruptions proved short-lived, state officials said.

"We are on board with the government cutting costs, and we are on board and working with the federal delegation to identify things that can be trimmed and cut," said Lee Will, who heads Nebraska's Department of Administrative Services.

Federal grants to states totaled over \$1 trillion in fiscal year 2022, according to a Pew analysis. Nebraska received over \$6 billion that year — nearly 40% of the revenue it collected.

But on Jan. 27, the Office of Management and Budget issued a memo directing federal agencies to pause funding while they evaluate programs "consistent with the President's policies and requirements."

"The use of Federal resources to advance Marxist equity, transgenderism, and green new deal social engineering policies is a waste of taxpayer dollars

that does not improve the day-to-day lives of those we serve," it read.

The Flatwater Free Press requested emails and text messages from Jan. 27 and 28 that included words like "Executive Order," "Trump" and "OMB" to and from top officials at 13 state agencies and the governor's office. FFP received hundreds of messages in response.

On Jan. 28, emails circulated from professional organizations and other national groups as they grappled with its effects.

State Budget Administrator Neil Sullivan flagged money for disaster recovery and broadband access, and noted that the state's biggest federal aid programs — aside from Medicaid — are education aid and developmental disability aid.

The Department of Veterans Affairs leadership noted federal funding makes up "a significant amount" of the operating budget for its veterans homes.

Employees within the state's Department of Health and Human Services thought it could impact the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) supplemental nutrition assistance program that, as of September, served about 35,000 Nebraskans a month. There was also evidence of support for some cost-cutting.

Rick Dahlman, deputy director of the state's Military Department, responded to a forwarded email from a national group that included a list of Department of Homeland Security grants headed for review: "You have to admit there is a lot of fat in there!"

"Agree," responded Erv Portis, assistant director for the state's Emergency Management Agency. "Problem is we have enough funds drawn down for about two payrolls."

"This is wild..." wrote Dave Dearthmont, chief economist in the Department of Economic Development, in an email.

Concerns about the funding freeze trickled down to local governments and groups that receive federal money through the state.

District court held February 26

A 27-year-old Norfolk resident facing charges associated with three counts of delivery of marijuana, a Class IIA felony, will wait until March for arraignment.

Arnulfo Adame-Salas appeared before the Honorable James Kube, Feb. 26, in Antelope County District Court. His court-appointed attorney, Patrick Carney, advised Kube he had filed a motion for absolute discharge and requested the arraignment be stopped until Kube ruled on the motion.

Antelope County Attorney Joe Smith requested a hearing on the matter.

According to the motion, filed Feb. 25, Adame-Salas was denied a right to speedy trial.

Kube set a hearing on the motion for March 26 and continued bond in the amount of \$20,000-10%. Conditions of the bond include not leaving the state without the court's permission, not violating any laws, not possessing or using any controlled substances without a prescription and submitting to chemical testing at the request of any law enforcement officer.

Later in the day, the defendant appeared again and Smith advised Kube that Adame-Salas failed to take a drug test prior to Wednesday's hearing, but took one afterward. Adame-Salas tested positive for THC.

Smith requested bond not be revoked since Adame-Salas may be arraigned following the outcome of the March 26 hearing.

Several pretrial conferences were held during the session.

Jasmine M. Maughan, 21, of Neligh, appeared for a pretrial hearing. Carney requested a continuance since he is still working on discovery in the case. She will appear March 26 for a pretrial conference. A jury trial is scheduled for April 21.

Bond in the amount of \$10,000-10% was continued.

Suni R. Moore, of Omaha, appeared for a pretrial conference on two counts of burglary, Class IIA felonies.

Carney, who represents Moore, advised he had filed a motion to suppress. Smith reported he may file motions in response to the suppression motion and needs time to review. He anticipates the case may overlap with a case in Pierce County District Court and requested a joint hearing with Pierce County. The hearing will be held March 21, in Pierce County District Court.

Moone was remanded to the Antelope County Sheriff.

A pretrial conference for Andrew R. Paulsen, 37, of Tilden, will be continued until March 26.

During the Feb. 26 court session, Carney told Kube the case may be resolved soon, pending lab results. He asked for the continuance, which Kube granted.

Smith did not object, but requested the jury trial remain as scheduled for April 21.

Bond, in the amount of \$20,000-10%, remains in effect.

Shayla N. Prochaska, 33, of Brunswick, along with counsel Sydney Story, appeared for a pretrial conference. She is charged with one count of possession of a controlled substance, a Class IV felony; and one count of criminal trespass-2nd degree, a Class III misdemeanor.

Story informed the court that the case is close to being resolved and requested a continuance, which Kube set for March 26. Story also requested the jury trial remain intact for April 21, which Kube also granted.

Two individuals appeared for arraignment in separate cases. Dustin M. Sargent, 30, of Aurora, appeared for arraignment on one count of theft by unlawful taking, a Class IV felony. He pleaded guilty, per a plea agreement, which specified the state will agree not to file additional charges in the case.

Kube ordered a pre-sentence investigation and ordered Sargent to meet with a probation officer. Sargent will appear April 30 for sentencing.

Bond, in the amount of \$25,000-10%, is continued upon the defendant's appearance in court. Sargent was remanded to the custody of the Antelope County Sheriff.

Thomas A. Warnke, 21, of Beatrice, appeared for arraignment on one count of sexual assault in the 1st degree, a Class II felony; and one count of criminal attempt-sexual assault in the first degree, a Class IIA felony.

Warnke pleaded not guilty to both counts, which stem from a November 2024 incident.

A pretrial conference was set for March 26. Kube ordered a jury trial for June 16.

Warnke's bond, set at \$50,000-10%, remains in effect, with conditions previously set.

Prepared by SAM

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for Janna Schruck

Janna is currently undergoing treatments for Multiple Myeloma which means a lot of traveling for treatments plus extensive time unable to work while recovering from a stem cell transplant.

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Free throw competition held at Albion Sunday

Elgin youth were among those competing Saturday to qualify for the State KC Free Throw competition to be held next month in Grand Island. Competing Sunday, March 2, at Albion and how they finished were (l-r): 13-year-old girls runner up Chloe Kietly; 12 boys champion Carter Selting; 11-year old competitor Reid Kietly and 10-year-old competitor Mark Schindler.

E-R photo/KSchindler

Stuart

◀ FROM Page 6

their side outscoring EPPJ 13 to six at that point in the second half.

Then, the 'heavens' opened up and the Wolfpack rained down upon their opponent one trey after another. Kellan Hoefer connected first. Then, after Jarek Erickson sank two free throws, senior sharpshoot-

er Dylan Kolm drained a trey from the left corner with two seconds on the quarter to bump the lead to 39 to 30.

Kolm's trey at the end of the third quarter was big, Euse said.

With eight minutes left in the game, Stuart could make one final run. But not on this night. Hoefer and Karson Kallhoff

opened the fourth quarter with back-to-back treys, Erickson would add another before Hoefer made the sixth and final trey of the second half to lead 55 to 34. With the game no longer in doubt, both teams cleared the bench. EPPJ had a trio of players score in double figures led by Kallhoff with 16, Erickson and Hoefer each with 15. Erickson pulled down a game-high 14 rebounds.

EPPJ 55, Stuart 44

Wolfpack.....11 14 14 16 — 55
Broncos.....8 8 14 14 — 44
Wolfpack — Ticen Sparr 0-0 0-0 0, Kellan Hoefer 6-10 0-0 15, Michael Selting 0-1 0-0 0, Joseph McNally 0-0 0-0 0, Karson Kallhoff 6-12 0-0 16, Evin Pelster 0-1 0-0 0, Brayden Burenheide 0-0 0-0 0, Jarek Erickson 6-11 2-2 15, Taylor Beckman 0-0 0-0 0, Max Henn 2-4 0-1 4, Dylan Kolm 2-5 0-0 5, Trey Rittscher 0-0 0-0 0. Team totals: 22-44 2-3 55. Three-point shots — Wolfpack 9-25 (Hoefer 3, Kallhoff 4, Kolm 1, Erickson 1). Stuart team totals: 17-47 8-14 44. Three-point shots — Stuart 2-13. Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 31 (Erickson 14, Henn 7), Broncos 23. Assists — Wolfpack 12 (Erickson 7). Turnovers — Wolfpack 16, Broncos 9.



Dylan Kolm (30) scored five points in the victory over the Broncos.

Spinning Tales

Boys playing boys sports; girls playing girls sports makes sense

Moving swiftly, the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) made their intentions known last week that they intend to comply with President Trump's executive order banning transgender athletes from competing on women's sports teams inconsistent with their sex as birth.

The NSAA's board of directors voted in unison (8-0) to adopt a resolution stating that they would comply with the president's executive order "until further notice" and follow state and federal law.

Last month, February 5 to pin down a date, Trump signed the executive order in The White House surrounded by female athletes of all ages. He took the 'carrot and stick' approach, not that there's anything wrong with that, to threaten to rescind federal funds from any educational program that fails to comply with the order - meaning federal funding could be withdrawn if transgender athletes were allowed to compete.

In a nutshell, it means biological boys born at birth are only allowed to compete against/along side other boys. The same applies to girls.

And, with the NSAA's resolution, boys sports will be solely boys sports, girls sports will be solely girls sports.

It's an issue that's been brewing for close to a decade now and, whether you like Trump or not, whether you support

the policies of the Right or Left, action has been taken to define and create a level playing field.

Even Governor Jim Pillen chimed in, "Nebraskans want their sisters, daughters, and granddaughters to have a fair shot in girls' sports, and don't want boys invading girls' locker rooms and playing fields."

As I sit here pounding this keyboard, I wonder how we ever got to the point that it took a president's signature on an order to make common sense of boys and girls sports.

Everyone has a right to be who they want to be. But, when a mother gives birth to a child it is either a boy or a girl. Can we agree on that? Since we're attempting to find common ground, can we agree boys are different than girls?

OK, let's move forward. Boys can like girls or they can like boys. The same reasoning works with girls. You can like both if you wish. That's their choice. I have no problem with the choice they make. It's none of my or your business, they have the right to live their lives the way they choose.

However, from day one, I've never been able to understand how an adult decides to change from one sex to the other and then compete in the other's sports. How can that be fair? A man who becomes a woman and competes in women's college volleyball has a physical advantage. A man who becomes a woman and competes in the Olympics as a female boxer has a decided physical advantage. Imagine Mike Tyson becoming Michaela Tyson and competing in professional female boxing, would he/she have an unfair advantage? Would any woman feel safe stepping into the ring against Michaela?

And, why is it that there is more news about men becoming women and wanting to compete in female sports as opposed to women becoming men and wanting to compete in men's sports?

As you can read, there's more questions than answers about this hot topic. Trans athletes who wish to compete should be allowed to compete against other trans athletes in sanctioned sports.

Surely, perhaps not here but somewhere, there are leagues

and/or events where these athletes can compete on a level playing field. Professional leagues may be formed, someday, but like all other sports, the success and future of any league depends on building a fan base. That remains to be seen.

As for today, Trump's executive order is the law of the land. Biological boys compete against biological boys and biological girls compete against biological girls. I'll be glad when the day comes when we can just say boys and girls and leave it at that.

What a turnaround!

In the middle of the season the Wolfpack boys basketball were down, having dropped five games in a row, but they were not out. Saturday night proved that as the Wolfpack earned a trip to Lincoln and the State Basketball Tournament set to begin on March 13.

Top-ranked O'Neil St. Mary's will be there and, to EPPJ's credit, they don't scare the Wolfpack. EPPJ lost to the Cardinals at the sub-district tournament last week. But, two days later, on Saturday, EPPJ played the best when they needed to defeat Kenesaw 43 to 36.

Matt Euse will be taking the Wolfpack to State. Give the young coach credit, he's got the boys playing their best basketball at the right time.

The community can show their love for the Wolfpack on Wednesday, March 12. There will be a pep rally held at the EHS gym beginning at 3 p.m.

Go Pack!

SPINNING TALES



Publisher
Dennis Morgan

St. Mary's

◀ FROM Page 6

Wolfpack — Ticen Sparr 0-1 0-0 0, Kellan Hoefer 2-11 0-0 5, Michael Selting 1-2 0-0 2, Joseph McNally 0-0 0-0 0, Karson Kallhoff 1-13 0-2 2, Evin Pelster 0-0 0-0 0, Brayden Burenheide 0-0 0-0 0, Jarek Erickson 4-8 1-1 9, Taylor Beckman 0-0 0-0 0, Max Henn 3-7 1-2 8, Dylan Kolm 1-5 0-2 2, Trey Rittscher 0-0 0-0 0. Team totals: 12-47 2-7 28. Three-point shots — Wolfpack 2-21 (Hoefer 1, Henn 1). Cardinals team totals: 17-54 3-5 44. Three-point shots — Cardinals 7-27. Team statistics: Rebounds — Wolfpack 35 (Erickson 15, Kallhoff 7), Cardinals 35. Assists — Wolfpack 7 (Hoefer 3). Turnovers — Wolfpack 10, Cardinals 5.

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A junior, Landyn Veik was the sole Wolfpack boy wrestler competing at state. At his first trip to state, he brought home a sixth place medal in the 165# weight class.

LANDYN VEIK
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THE BACK PAGE

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Bartlett Bits

The Renegade boys' basketball is over. Chambers/Wheeler Central fell to Central Valley 62 to 44 last week at Greeley.

Rodney E. Olson of Cedar Rapids passed away February 20 at the age of 94. He is the father of past Wheeler Central Superintendent, Rodney Jr. Olson.

The visitation was on Sunday at the United Methodist Church in Cedar Rapids. I attended the visitation and had the privilege of visiting with Mr. Olson and his wife Shari.

NVC Conference Speech was hosted by Wheeler Central Monday, March 3. Stephani McCain, Speech and English instructor, was in charge of preparations for the meet. Wheeler Central staff assisted where needed.

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month. Colorectal cancer is the third 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. However, 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 Preventive 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 from 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.



Photo submitted

Dr. Josh Thoendel is shown prior to starting a colonoscopy procedure. Colonoscopies are one of the screening tests offered at Antelope Memorial Hospital - for the early detection of colorectal cancer. Dr. Troy Dawson, Dr. Roger Rudloff and Dr. Thomas Beutler also offer colonoscopies at AMH.

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