

The Elgin Review

Wednesday
March 13, 2024

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In Brief

Tire blowout the cause of accident, loss of life

Orchard man dies in accident.

A longtime member of the Orchard community became the latest traffic fatality in Antelope County last week.

Billy Ziegenbein, 76, died as a result of injuries sustained in a two-vehicle accident on Highway 275 east of Neligh shortly before 4 p.m. approximately 1.5 miles east of Neligh.

According to information compiled from the accident investigation, Ziegenbein was driving a 1997 Ford pickup westbound when the front driver's side tire blew out which, in turn, made the pickup veer across the center line. Now in the eastbound lane, the pickup collided head-on with a 1997 Ford Econoline driven by 76-year-old Dean Baker of Columbus. Ziegenbein was pronounced dead at the scene while Baker was first taken to Antelope Memorial Hospital in Neligh before, later in the day, being taken to another health care facility.

EPS to send six students to State Speech

Competition held Tuesday at Stuart.

Results late Tuesday show that Elgin Public Schools will be sending a number of students to Kearney next week for State Speech.

Competing at Stuart High School, EPS state qualifiers are OID (Chloe Henn, Kayton Zwingman, Callie Heithoff, Brenna Martinsen & Baylee Busted); Baylee Busted in Informative Speaking; Heithoff in Entertainment Speaking; Kyndal Busted in Persuasive; Henn and Baylee Busted in Duet. Please go to *The Elgin Review's* Facebook page for complete results. More information will be in next week's paper.

Public Notices

Public notices in this week's newspaper include:

Proceedings — The Elgin City Council
Proceedings — The Antelope County Board of Commissioners
Notice to Bidders (4) — The Antelope County Board of Commissioners

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 59 degrees on Sunday, March 3 and again on Monday, March 4.

The low during the same period was 18 degrees recorded on Monday, March 4 and Friday, March 8.

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
March 3	59	27	.00
March 4	59	18	.00
March 5	54	29	.00
March 6	57	27	.00
March 7	48	27	.00
March 8	46	18	.00
March 9	50	26	.00
Total for last week			0.00
Total for March			0.00
Total precipitation 2024			2.03



Photo submitted

Pope John students headed to the State Speech Tournament next week are (front row, l-r): Jack Barlow, Ashlynn Charf, Elise Ruterbories, Brooklyn Meis and Aiden Klein. Back row: Olivia Klein, Kaitey Schumacher, Juliana McNally, Jovie Borer, Tessa Barlow and Reese Stuhr.

PJCC qualifies 11 for State Speech

The Pope John Speech Team had a very successful day at the D2-2 District Tournament in Scribner-Snyder on Monday.

The team placed third overall, qualifying 11 students in six events for the state tournament on March 22.

Earning District medals were: Jazmine McNally, 6th in Informative Speaking; Aubrie Parks, 6th in Persuasive Speaking; Tessa Barlow, 5th in Program of Oral Interpretation; Aiden Klein, 5th in Poetry; and Samantha Stuhr, 4th in Persuasive Speaking.

Earning District medals and qualifying for State include Olivia Klein and Juliana McNally, 3rd in Duet Acting; Olivia Klein, Juliana McNally, Kaitey Schumacher, Tessa Barlow, and Jovie

Borer, 3rd in Oral Interpretation of Drama; Reese Stuhr, 2nd in Serious Prose; Jack Barlow, Ashlynn Charf, Brooklyn Meis, Ellie Ruterbories, and Aiden Klein, 2nd in Oral Interpretation of Drama; Reese Stuhr, 1st in Enter-

tainment Speaking; and Jack Barlow, 1st in Humorous Prose.

The team will be hosting a community performance in the Pope John High School library at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, March 20.

South Dakota National Guard to conduct maneuver scenarios

Beginning today, Wednesday, March 13, and continuing through Friday, members of the South Dakota National Guard are going to be conducting maneuver scenarios in the sky and on the ground.

According to Antelope County Sher-

iff Bob Moore, Antelope County has been selected for this activity.

He cautioned residents not to be alarmed with the military for this three-day event.

"Proud to support our troops in any way we can," he said.

Sewer plant repairs to be 'short-term' fix

Meeting earlier this month, the Elgin City Council learned that repairs to the wastewater sewer plant will be more than \$20,000.

City Engineer John Zwingman, along with Donnie Poulsen, Jr., answered questions and gave an update on possible repairs to get the system operating again. At the present time the City is bypass pumping from the wastewater treatment facility into the Blacksnake Creek due to maintenance issues.

Both men said the plant, now over 40 years old, is in such a condition that repairs necessary should be made to

get to a long-term solution. One such option would be to pursue a lagoon system, but to do that the City would need to acquire 15-17 acres of land, he said. This could be a multi-year project.

In the meantime, the council approved making the necessary short-term repairs to the facility which hopefully will give the facility an additional five years of service. Doing the work will be Rutjens Construction at a cost of just under \$21,000.

"There's too much stuff to replace," Zwingman said about needed repairs. In other action: Update on water meter replacement

project — Completion of installation of new water meters around town is expected by the end of March.

Drill time set — Elgin's tornado sirens will be tested on Wednesday, March 27, starting at 10 a.m.

Office closed — City Hall will be closed starting March 18 through 22.

Sheriff's report — The Antelope County Sheriff's Department provided just over 88 hours of patrol in Elgin and responded to ten 911 calls during the month of December.

Patrol hours dropped to just over 68 hours in January 2024 and 911 calls dropped to six.

Sale to be held — The council was informed that sometime in 2024 there will be a sheriff's sale for property at 311 Cedar Street. According to City Clerk Kristin Childers, the legal description is W 12' OF N 96' LOT 1; LOT 2 BLK 12 ELGINCITY

Transfer — The council approved closing the water tower painting CD and move the remaining \$15,624.43 to the general checking account water fund.

Pay Hike — The council increased pay rates for lifeguards and summer maintenance help to \$12 per hour plus an additional 50 cents per hour for returning employees.

Rewind — Boyd's Electrical Service out of Neligh submitted an estimate of \$3,850 which was accepted to rewind the existing pool motor to operate on 240v 3phase.

St. Boniface Spring Auction is Saturday

The annual 2024 St. Boniface Spring Benefit Auction will be this Saturday night, March 16.

The first bid will be taken at 5:30 p.m. at the Elgin KC Hall.

Posters and advertisements show this will be a large auction will all proceeds go to St. Boniface Catholic Church.

There will be agriculture-related items, household items, miscella-

Vetch Days activities discussed

By Lynell Morgan

co-publisher

Approximately 20 people brought their ideas to the table last Wednesday evening -- the topic, Vetch Days.

Members of the Elgin Chamber of Commerce/Community Club, representatives from the Elgin Public Library, American Legion Auxiliary, Elgin Rescue, Elgin City Council, E.K.G. and Knights of Columbus discussed options for this year's 3-day celebration.

The dates are June 10, 11 and 12 which is a return to it being held during the week versus weekends. All three evenings will feature carnival rides, games and foods from River City Carnival.

This carnival was in Elgin two years ago and was at the Antelope County Fair last year.

Ideas brought forth and some of the TENTATIVE (unless otherwise noted with a *) days and times for the possible events are as follows: **Monday, June 10**

Kids Day with the Sidewalk Chalk Art throughout the day (Jennifer Iler)

10 a.m. Storytime at the Library (Elgin Public Library)

Annual Pool Party from 1-3 p.m.

Walking Taco meal at the Elgin Community Center

Adults--Pizza Puzzle Team Competition at the KC Hall/courtyard (American Legion Auxiliary)

Tuesday, June 11

Library Scavenger Hunt in the afternoon (Elgin Public Library)

Poker Walk/Run

*Community BBQ at the Firehall

*Parade at 7 p.m.

Duck Race, E.K.G.

Wednesday, June 12

10 a.m. Storytime at the Library (Elgin Public Library)

Afternoon - Ice Cream & Pie Social at the Elgin Community Center

Events being considered:
Speaker from the Humanities (Library), Egg Toss/Chicken Races (E.K.G.), RC Car/Truck Obstacle Course Race (Young & Lively), 5K Glow Race, Karaoke (adult & kids), dance (Live or DJ?), turtle races, teen glow dance, co-ed softball, outdoor movie night, a Cruise Night/Car Show and a beer garden (E.K.G.).

All in attendance noted that we will be working around summer ball schedules which are being set up with the hopes of getting at least one game hosted in Elgin. While many events would work best at the City Park, there are some limitations due to the amount of space and residents in the area. Therefore, many events will be held in the downtown area.

If you have another great activity idea or would like to comment on one of these listed, comment to Bruce Clark, Dean/Kim Schrage, Jennifer Iler, Alan Reicks, Janna Schunk or Lynell Morgan.



Photo submitted

FFAers qualifying for State

Elgin FFA's Farm Business Management team, consisting of (l-r) Jarek Erickson, Nick Anderson, Baylee Busted and Keyera Eisenhauer, recently finished second overall in district competition, qualifying for the State FFA Convention. Learn more about their, and other FFA members', recent accomplishments starting on Page Seven.

Ad prices good through 3/19/2024

From JoAnn Baum's Kitchen

Yummy Chicken Casserole

Good day,
What's for supper again?
I truthfully struggle



with that thought in my house. Ted never complains, which makes it a little easier. This week is one of them easy go-to recipes.

Add some sides and you have a quick meal.

I have just used chicken pieces like legs and thighs in this recipe. They work just as well. This recipe is really

tasty if you should have any leftovers.

Make sure you bake it with the foil on it. It will dry out and be sticky

(the rice) if you don't. Simple & yummy!

JoAnn

YUMMY CHICKEN CASSEROLE

3-4 skinless chicken breast
1 can cream of celery soup
1 can cream of chicken soup
2 cups Minute Rice®
1 cup water

1 pkg Lipton® onion soup mix

Preheat oven to 350°, spray a baking dish then cover the bottom of the baking dish with the Minute Rice®. Mix the two cans of soup with the one cup of water, pour over the rice.

Place the chicken breasts on top of the mixture. Sprinkle the dry Lipton® soup mix on top of the chicken breasts.

Cover with foil and bake for one hour or until chicken is done....may take a little more time!

Shedding light on colorectal cancer

By Amy Olnes, APRN, FNP-C

Boone County Health Center

March marks the onset of Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, a time to shine a spotlight on one of the most prevalent yet preventable cancers affecting millions worldwide.



Amy Olnes

Colorectal cancer (CRC) remains a significant public health concern, with staggering prevalence rates and associated mortality. However, with increased awareness, early detection, and proactive measures, we can combat this disease effectively.

Prevalence and Mortality: Colorectal cancer ranks among the most commonly diagnosed cancers globally, with approximately 1.9 million new cases and 935,000 deaths reported annually. These statistics underscore the urgent need for heightened awareness and proactive measures to combat this disease.

Risks and Signs: Several risk factors contribute to the development of colorectal cancer, including age, family history, lifestyle choices, and underlying health conditions. Recognizing the signs and symptoms of colon cancer is crucial for early intervention.

These may include persistent changes in bowel habits, blood in the stool, abdominal discomfort, unintended weight loss, and fatigue.

Prevention: While certain risk factors such as age and family history are beyond our control, adopting a healthy lifestyle can significantly reduce the risk of developing colorectal cancer. Embracing a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, maintaining a healthy weight, limiting alcohol consumption, and avoiding tobacco can mitigate the risk factors associated with this disease.

Screening Guidelines and Types: Regular screening is paramount for the early detection and prevention of colorectal cancer. Current guidelines

recommend screening for average-risk individuals starting at age 45. Screening methods include colonoscopy, fecal occult blood tests (FOBT), fecal immunochemical tests (FIT), sigmoidoscopy, and stool DNA tests. These screenings can detect precancerous polyps or early-stage cancer when treatment is most effective.

Treatment: Advancements in medical science have revolutionized the treatment landscape for colorectal cancer. Treatment options may include surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, targeted therapy, and immunotherapy. The choice of treatment depends on various factors, including the stage of cancer, overall health, and individual preferences.

Blue Light Campaign: The Blue Light Campaign serves as a powerful reminder of the

importance of colorectal cancer awareness and prevention. By illuminating landmarks and communities in blue, this initiative aims to spark conversations, promote screening, and save lives.

Take Action: As we commemorate Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, let us commit to prioritizing our colon health. Whether it's scheduling a screening, adopting a healthier lifestyle, or spreading awareness within our communities, every action counts. Remember, early detection saves lives.

Contact Your Primary Care Provider: Take the first step towards safeguarding your colon health by scheduling a screening with your primary care provider today. Together, we can make strides in the fight against colorectal cancer and ensure a healthier future for all.

Date announced for March food pantry in Neligh

The mobile food pantry, sponsored by the Neligh Faith Community Church as well as various other churches, individuals, and businesses in the area, will be dispersing food on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 from 2-3:30 p.m.

The location will be at the American Legion Club in Neligh, according to organizer Jeanie Juracek.

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38th Annual Pope John Development Dinner

Palm Sunday, MARCH 24 2024

Werner Hall ~ Petersburg, NE

Silent Auction and Social beginning at 5 pm. Dinner at 6:30 pm followed by awards and the live auction.

Tickets are \$75 per person

Contact Pope John XXIII Central Catholic school for tickets. **402-843-5325**

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COMMUNITY NEWS

It's hard to forgive AND to forget

I think we all know how important it is to forgive others and extend grace, especially with our children. The goal is to "forgive and forget". However, it's not always that easy. Repeat offenses, the stresses of

the day, and the fact that we're human can make this more difficult than it sounds. For me, I think I'm quick to forgive. What I struggle with is the forgetting part. My son can forget to make his bed, apologize, and I will forgive him. However, tomorrow when he forgets to make his bed, I still remember that we just went through this day before. And the day before that. And the week before that!

It's these repeat offenses that I feel build up over time. I'm not really giving them a clean slate each time I forgive them. I'm mentally marking down yet another offense, which leads to my building frustration and me eventually snapping.

It's also hard to calm down mentally after there's a disagreement or altercation in the home. For example, our middle son used to get himself all wound up and have a fit. He would be very emotional, we would be talking in circles for an hour, and work very hard to calm him down. It was emotionally draining for everyone. However, when he was finished, he would apologize, and then immediately move on as if it didn't happen. His dad and I were not able to move as quickly. I would still be hyped up and then he would ask for something or want a hug or to play a game and I would struggle to get into the right head space. Then there's our spouses. Do we extend to them the same grace we give our kids? I think

a lot of us expect our children to do things that require forgiveness. We expect them to mess up and so we're not as surprised when it happens. They're just kids, right? So, why aren't we as quick to forgive our other loved ones when they also make mistakes? Why do we hang on to past offenses and hold grudges? Perhaps it's partly the idea that as adults we should have it all together. Which is ridiculous considering none of us do. Or maybe it's just the stress of the day and the kids. We're so consumed with them that another mistake or mishap just pushes us over the edge. Whatever the reason, our spouses are also human. They make mistakes...and so do we. At least I know I do. I make plans and accidentally leave dinner or evening routines to my spouse without checking first. Sometimes I make assumptions and make decisions about kids or finances without a conversation. I use the last of the toilet paper and forget to replace it.

We all love our children and spouses, and I believe we all want to be quick to forgive. Let's also practice forgetting. Really, truly forgetting and not bringing up the list of past crimes when it isn't warranted. Let us all remember that none of us have it together 100% of the time. We're all going to make mistakes and that's ok. What's important is that we apologize when we're truly sorry, and then extend grace to those we love when they need it as well.

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

Tales of a Tired Momma



Elgin Columnist
Katherine Cobb

Sixty Years Ago

March 12, 1964

A large number of Antelope countians attended the Regional Governor's Conference held at Norfolk Senior High School, Saturday, March 7 from 10 a.m to 4:45 p.m. The group of 207 persons spent the day in ten sectional meetings discussing three main questions: What kind of education do we need in Nebraska? How do we implement the program and how should we pay for the schools we need?

Linda Wortman will represent Elgin at Girls State in June sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary of Post 229. This is the 23rd annual session on the University of Nebraska campus.

Members of the Elgin's Girl Scout troop, in celebration of the national organization's 52nd birthday anniversary this week, have planned an awards presentation at the legion hall Thursday, March 12. Curved bar awards will be given to seven girls: Jeannie Ridder, Nancy Heckert, Anna Huffman, Kathy Pape, Tarry Verplank, Rita Schmitt and Jeaneen Benda.

Around 100 vocalists from Elgin, Meadow Grove and Oakdale High Schools held a Tri-City Festival in the Public School auditorium Thursday night. The program was directed by Mrs. Maynard Rouse and Mrs. Don Smejkal, music instructors for Elgin-Oakdale and Meadow Grove Respectively.

A large crowd attended the annual bull sale at Elgin Livestock Sale Co. Friday with 84 bulls being sold. Top selling bull was consigned by Wm. Paegel of Cedar Bluffs and purchased by Green Valley Ranch for \$550.

Fifty Years Ago

March 14, 1974

"The Sounds of Magic" singers from Dominican High School, Omaha, rehearsed their numbers prior to their performance here Saturday night in the St. Boniface gym. The group was directed by Sr. Barbara Anne, formerly of Pope John High School. Their vocal selections were complimented highly by those who attended the program.

Funeral services for Harold Clarence Stokes of Petersburg were held at 10:30 Wednesday from St. John the Baptist Church in Petersburg. Rev. Ralph Lammers officiated at the funeral services and burial was made in St. John's Cemetery.

William Wylie, former state senator from here, has announced he will seek the Republican nomination for lieutenant governor. Wylie, 45, is a farmer and serves as a lobbyist in the Legislature.

The engagement and approaching marriage of Debra LaVerne Summers and Michael Loren Childers is being announced by the parents of the couple. The future bride is the daughter of Mrs. Mary Ann Summers of Bartlett and the late LaVern Summers. Her fiancé is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Childers.

Pope John Teachers basketball team won first place in a tournament completed Wednesday night last week in the St. Boniface gym against the Reuss team with the score being 85-56. The men who competed were: Mike Barada, Norm Ridder, Darrel Fenton, Joe Luettel, Ron Vanourney, James Getzfred, Dave Eischeid, Don Zegers, and George Busted.

Thirty Years Ago

March 9, 1994

Anton F. Reuss, 90, a longtime Elgin resident, died Tuesday morning March 8, at the Antelope Memorial Hospital.

Chris Uttecht, a senior at Elgin High School, has been selected to receive Regents Scholarships from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln and the University of Nebraska - Kearney. Chris is the son of Pat and Dwaine Uttecht of Elgin.

Jazz musicians Tony and Joey Gulizia of Omaha will be returning to Elgin again this year for an artists-in-residence program and concert at Elgin Public School. Using their talent with a wide variety of musical styles, the Gulizias will perform both as a duo and also with various student groups.

Wildlife biologists observed near record numbers of wintering bald eagles in Nebraska during the mid-January survey. John Dinan, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission non game biologist, said 1,178 bald eagles were observed across the state during the annual aerial survey. That is the second highest number on record. During the 1992 survey, 1,292 birds were counted. Last year nearly 700 eagles were counted.

The Elgin Eagles boys basketball team is to compete at State after winning the D2-4 District Tournament against Beemer.

Twenty Years Ago

March 17, 2004

Members of the Elgin High School's OID team will compete at the State Speech Meet this weekend. They are Kelcey Fredrickson, Laure Childers, Sarah Jensen, Megan Bode and Stacy Hoefer.

The Cowboy Up Steakhouse and Lounge opened Monday, March 15, in Elgin under the ownership of Darryl and Julie Lierrman.

District #18 Superintendent Gayla Fredrickson spoke to the board about the high school roofing project planned for this summer as well as the work of area schools in the Northern Tier inter local agreement, Nebraska Coalition on Educational Equity and Adequacy. The board decided to solicit bids on the high school roofing project.

Later in the meeting the board approved a two-year contract with the Elgin United Methodist Church to house the school's Early Childhood Learning Center.

Becky Eischeid of Elgin graduated from barber training at Bahner College of Hairstyling in Fremont. She is the daughter of Dave and Janice Eischeid.

Three EHS students have been chosen for the Class D All-State Band. They are Cheyenne Miller, Katie Score and Whitney Sprout.

Advertisement: Special this week at Getz' Grocery is USDA Select boneless Rib-Eye steaks for \$5.99 per pound.

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The Elgin Review

Community Calendar

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

Saturday, March 16
St. Boniface Spring Benefit Auction @ KC Hall*.

Sunday, March 17
St. Patrick's Day Bash @ Tilden*.

Monday, March 18
Elgin EMTs meeting.

Tuesday, March 19
Food Pantry from 2-3:30 p.m. at the Neligh American Legion Club*.

Wednesday, March 20
Pope John Speech Night @ 6:00 p.m. at PJCC.

Friday, March 22
Fish Fry at St. John's Catholic Church (Rural Clearwater) from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.*

Saturday, March 23
Elgin Easter Egg Hunt (sponsored by the Elgin Community Club/Chamber of Commerce) at Elgin City Park @ 11 a.m. (Registration begins at 10:30 a.m.)

Sunday, March 24
38th Annual Pope John Development Dinner @ Werner Hall in Petersburg*.

Events listing courtesy of
ELGIN VETERANS' MEDICAL CLINIC
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ANNUAL St. Boniface Spring Benefit AUCTION

2024

SATURDAY, MARCH 16TH

located at the Elgin KC Hall

5:30 PM

The BAR will be open and FOOD available!

A great time for all!

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SEE YOU AT THE AUCTION!

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

Edward R. Murrow

Slama bowing out, Chambers wants back in statehouse

There are a lot of ins and outs in party politics during an election year. Who’s in the race and who’s out? All eyes have been on the Legislature where the big surprise came from Republican Julie Slama – rhymes with drama – announced she wouldn’t seek a second term representing southeast Nebraska’s District One because she was going to take her recently earned law degree another direction.

But before the appointee of then Governor Pete Ricketts could relish the attention one more time, the venerable Ernie Chambers of Omaha threw his hat in the ring for Omaha’s District 11 seat which he held for 46 years before being term limited a second time. That means he’ll run against incumbent Terrell McKinney whom he endorsed four years ago.

“I can be aware of what other people are doing, but the obligation I have is to my own conscience,” he told the Lincoln Journal Star. “And I tell people, always, I’m not running against somebody. I’m running because of things that I think need to be handled differently.”

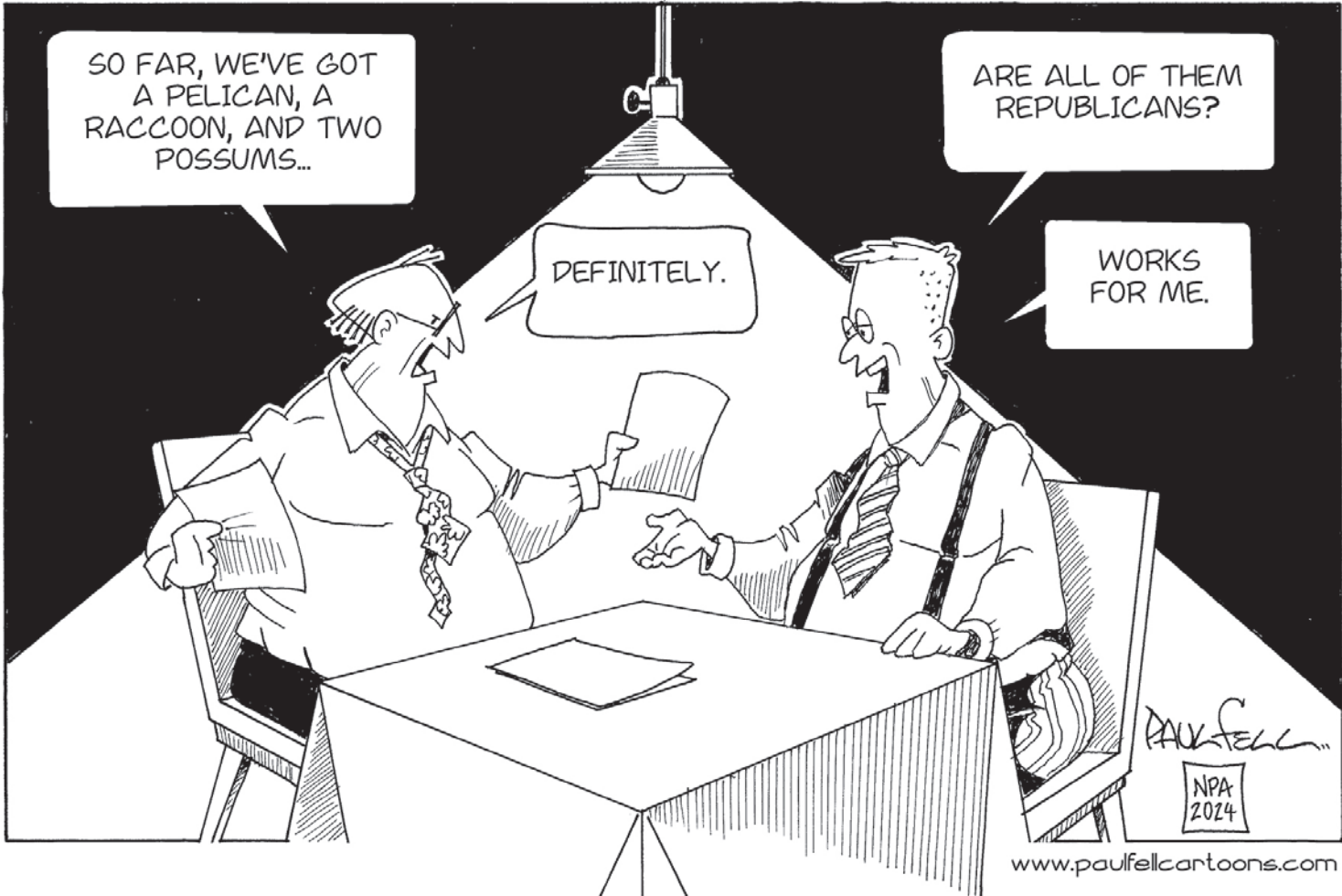
I couldn’t agree more. There are things about the nation’s only one-house legislature that would benefit from a fresh dose of Ernie, but we’ll get back to that.

Ricketts appointed Slama, who most recently lists Sterling as home after stints in Peru and Dunbar, in 2018. She ran for election in 2020 in a race tainted by smear tactics against her opponent, fellow Republican Janet Palmtag of Nebraska City.

Slama, the state Republican Party and some unknown resources mounted personal attacks on Palmtag in baseless mailings painting her as a failed real estate businesswoman and, horrors, as being friends with non-Republicans or non-conservative Republicans.

Palmtag chose not to run for the seat this time.

Dennis Schardt of Steinauer, a Republican who owns Den’s Country Meats in Table Rock, filed shortly after



1ST. LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OFFICIALS PONDER REPLACEMENT FOR OUTGOING SEN. JULIE SLAMA.

Slama made her announcement that she planned to step down. Schardt is a former county commissioner, city council member and volunteer fire chief.

There are three other hopefuls in the May primary. Syracuse attorney Bob Hallstrom, a registered Republican whose law firm does government relations at the Legislature in addition to other legal work.

Bob Holman of Auburn, a Republican, and Glenda Willnerd of Unadilla, a registered Democrat, also filed for the seat. District 1 includes Otoe, Johnson, Nemaha, Pawnee and Richardson counties.

Meanwhile, the Chambers race could make an otherwise predictable election year something to get excited about. Chambers, Nebraska’s longest-serving state senator, plays the Legislature’s rulebook like a piano. The 86-year-old (he’ll be 87 in July) said he has no reservations over his decision to challenge incumbent McKinney for the North Omaha seat. Chambers, who has long listed his occupation as “defender of the downtrodden” faces the 33-year-old McKin-

ney who has emerged as a champion of Omaha and the most vocal critic of mass incarceration.

Chambers says the race shouldn’t be about age in a time when many Americans are doubting the age and acuity of President Joe Biden, 81.

I agree that Chambers is a better physical specimen than a lot of guys half his age.

He was the only senator I ever knew who lifted weights in his office during the lunch break when most of his colleagues were headed off to meals provided offsite by lobbyists.

His institutional memory alone is worth the price of admission. His understanding of the rules, daily reading of the agenda and strategizing are worthy of awe. Don’t even mention filibustering, he has a master’s degree in that.

People either love him or hate him. I have long respected him and his status as a truly politically independent individual in a Legislature that is technically nonpartisan but has played along party lines for years.

Nebraska Democratic Party Chair Jane Kleeb said she worries that if

Chambers couldn’t finish his term a replacement would be appointed by Republican Governor Jim Pillen and the appointee would be a Republican in a district that has 63.6 percent registered Democrats. Party Executive Director Precious McKesson of Omaha said it’s time to pass the torch and let the younger generation lead. Imagine Democrats being ageist.

Chambers acknowledges the concerns but told the Journal Star that he hasn’t “had any of the kind of ailments that would give me a warning that the grim reaper is right around the corner or knocking at my door.”

“And I do believe there are things that I could do in the Legislature to diminish the negative impact that will be felt in the kind of things that are being introduced — and I look at the governor — somebody needs to be there who can kind of be a check or a brake on that wheel on this runaway train.”

I rest my case.

J.L. Schmidt has been covering Nebraska government and politics since 1979. He has been a registered Independent for 25 years.

A solution for faster federal disaster relief

Last week, natural disaster struck Nebraska. Our dry weather and windy days make us especially vulnerable to disasters like wildfires, as Nebraska farmers and ranchers know all too well. Beginning last Monday, a wildfire blazed across 71,000 acres of land in Custer and Lincoln counties over just 24 hours.

The fire destroyed several buildings, including primary residences, and forced evacuations in the North Platte area. Thankfully, no one was hurt, but producers and their families are experiencing losses.

Nebraska’s local and state-level agencies handle emergencies like this skillfully. But farmers, ranchers, and their families can struggle in the aftermath with confusing and delayed disaster relief regulations on the federal level. Federal relief is often slow because of bureaucracy in Washington — but getting aid quickly is essential for producers’ livelihoods.

Over the years, I’ve heard time and time again about the complications of relief programs, and my office has helped many producers navigate them. Their experiences led me to introduce the Emergency Conservation Program Improvement Act, which was referred to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry for consideration earlier this month.

If passed, my bipartisan bill will expedite producers’ access to federal disaster relief by reforming the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP). These reforms will give producers harmed by natural disasters the option to receive an up-front cost-share, based on Department of Agriculture estimates, so they can get to work immediately restoring what they’ve lost. The bill will also adjust eligibility for relief to include any wildfire caused or spread due to natural causes, as well as wildfires caused by the federal government.

Family farmers and ranchers

WASHINGTON REPORT



U.S. Senator

Deb Fischer

See FISCHER, Page 8 ►

LB1087 one step closer to becoming law

Rural hospitals would receive higher federal reimbursements

We are now two-thirds of the way through the 60-day session and have completed public hearings for the year. Senators will now meet in full-day sessions for floor debate. Discussion will focus on bills that have been given priority status either by a senator, a committee, or the Speaker.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



District 40 Senator
Barry DeKay

for Medicare and Medicaid Services for approval to impose an assessment on Nebraska hospitals. For each dollar assessed under the program, the

federal match in Medicaid directed payments would be approximately \$2.19 which would infuse an additional \$1 billion in federal dollars to Nebraska hospitals without incurring a general fund impact to the state.

Those dollars would be distributed to hospitals based on their share of Medicaid patients treated in both inpatient and outpatient settings.

Rural hospitals across the state have had continued issues keeping their doors open due to inflation and below-cost reimbursement rates that have forced some facilities, especially those in rural areas, to eliminate or reduce needed services. According to the Nebraska Hospital Association, more than half of the state’s hospitals are operating at a loss and are faced with the possibility of closing their doors.

Without these facilities, the next closest hospital in parts of greater Nebraska could be hours away and prevent people in a medical emergency from receiving prompt lifesaving treatment. After some debate on the second stage of consideration, senators moved to advance the bill to Final Reading on a voice vote. I am a co-sponsor of LB1087.

LB1170, put forward by Senator Riepe, would reduce unemployment benefits from the current

six months to three months.

Supporters of the bill argued that it is reasonable to expect someone to find a new job within three months, even if it is not their dream job, especially with the number of businesses across the state looking for new employees.

Opponents of the bill argued the bill would compel workers to take low wage jobs and would undermine the wage increases that the current low unemployment rate provides. After a 5-hour filibuster, LB1170 was passed over by the Speaker and is unlikely to be scheduled again unless Senator Riepe can show he has 33 votes to break the filibuster.

My personal priority bill LB1301 addressing acquisitions of land by foreign adversaries was also advanced from the Agriculture Committee this week and is expected to come before the floor for consideration in the near future. However, my legislation is not the only bill that deals with this critical issue. During the interim last year, several senators got together to try to solve this problem of foreign adversaries or their subsidiaries from acquiring land in our state.

We came up with two ideas which ultimately resulted in two bills: my LB1301 and Senator Hardin’s LB1120. LB1301 creates the mechanism

to enforce our state’s existing foreign ownership laws and divest violators of such laws.

Currently, county attorneys are tasked with enforcing our current statutes, but the county attorneys in greater Nebraska are hindered in what they can do to enforce these laws primarily due to time and resource constraints.

My bill empowers the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and Attorney General to be able to enforce foreign land ownership laws instead.

LB1120, as amended by Senator Hardin, would require affidavits affirming that a buyer of land near the panhandle missile silos have no ties to foreign adversaries.

This bill would serve as a “tripwire” at the point of sale which when used with my bill can be used to build a legal case to go after those who acted dishonestly and violated our state’s laws. LB1120 was advanced to the second stage of debate on a 38 to 0 vote. I am a co-sponsor of LB1120.

You can always contact me with your thoughts and opinions on bills that have been introduced. 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.

Numbers to Know

President Joe Biden, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20510; phone (202) 456-1111.

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

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

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

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

Representative Adrian Smith: 503 House Office Bldg., Wash-

ington, D.C. 20515-2703. Phone (202) 225-6435. Fax: (202) 225-0207. E-mail: <http://www.house.gov/writerep/>.

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

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.
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Boone County Health Center a ‘Top 100’ hospital four of last five years

Boone County Health Center (BCHC) proudly announces its inclusion in the prestigious list of Top 100 Critical Access Hospitals (CAH) in the United States, a recognition bestowed by the Charter Centers for Rural Health.

This achievement not only places Boone County Health Center within the top 22 percent of critical access hospitals in Nebraska but also among the top seven percent nationwide.

Caleb Poore, President and CEO of Boone County Health Center, expressed gratitude for the remarkable achievement, emphasizing,

“This award is a testament to each member of the organization for their hard work, professionalism, and dedication. Their expertise, teamwork, and compassionate care have made a significant impact in the lives of our patients and their families.” He added, “This achievement would also not have been possible if it weren’t for the un-

wavering support our patients have for our health system. Their persistence in putting trust in Boone County Health Center as a health system is a key element to our success as an

organization.”

The acknowledgment reflects Boone County Health Center’s consistent efforts to elevate healthcare standards and ensure the well-being of its

patients.

There are 1,353 CAH’s in the state, and BCHC ranked in the top 100. BCHC has received the award four out of the past five years.

In Nebraska, empty churches are becoming apartments, museums

bought it.

This house of worship turned home is one of a number of Nebraska churches that, amid rising costs and falling attendance, have found second lives filling gaps in their local communities. Churches are becoming apartments, community centers and places to preserve history and foster the arts.

In early February, the Lincoln City Council signed off on a proposal to turn the former Southminster Methodist Church into offices and apartments. New Visions United Methodist Church decided to

merge into one building and sell their two remaining properties in Lincoln, including Southminster.

New Visions had a front row seat to what Rick Reinhard calls the “great mismatch.”

Aging congregations no longer have the resources or numbers to fill and maintain large and, in some cases, deteriorating buildings, said Reinhard, an urban planner and consultant who spent four years assessing United Methodist Church properties across the U.S.

See CHURCHES, Page 10 ►

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A message from the Nebraska Secretary of State.

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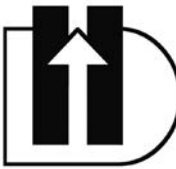
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To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see.
Hebrews 11:1

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In a world that doesn't always make sense, find answers in faith!
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There Is A Payoff



Jesus has a claim on His followers.

There are rewards for people who follow Jesus and serve Him.

Eternal life is one reward.

God has more.

Join other followers of Jesus this week in church.

Whoever serves me the Father will honor. John 12:20-33

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Hebrews 5:5-10 Psalm 51:1-12

Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts for
Sunday, March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday In Lent

For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be the glory forever!
Amen.
Romans 11:36

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Weekend Mass: Sunday, 10 am.
cppnebraska.org

St. Bonaventure Catholic Church
Raeville, NE
Fr. John Norman, Pastor
Fr. Joseph Sund, Associate Pastor
Weekend Mass: Sunday, 8 am.
cppnebraska.org

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

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
Petersburg, NE
Fr. John Norman, Pastor
Fr. Joseph Sund, Associate Pastor
Weekend Mass: Saturday, 7 pm.
cppnebraska.org

Bartlett United Methodist Church
Bartlett, NE
Pastor Duane Waddle
Sunday Worship Service: 10:45 am.
Sunday School: 10 am.

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

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

Elgin Community Christian Church
Elgin, NE
Pastor Jonathan Braden
Adult Sunday School: Children Sunday School: 9:30 am.
Sunday Worship Service: 9 am.
Church Council: 2nd Sunday of each month following worship.

St. John's Catholic Church
Rural Clearwater, NE
Fr. John Norman, Pastor
Fr. Joseph Sund, Associate Pastor
Weekend Mass: Sunday, 11:30 am.
cppnebraska.org

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Chambers, NE
Pastor Leif Hasskari
Sunday Worship: 8:30 am.
Sunday School/Bible Study: 9:30 am.

Immanuel-Zion Lutheran Church
ELCA
Rural Albion, NE
Pastor Elizabeth Goehring
Worship Service: 9:30 am.
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Faith
is confidence is what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.
Hebrews 11:1

WOLFPACK

Wolfpack Sports

Luettel, others presented ‘Champions for Coaches’ award Friday Night

The Nebraska School Activities Association on Friday night formally recognized recipients for the first-ever Champions for Coaches award. The ceremony took place at Pinnacle Bank Arena as the coaches were called to the center of the court to be formally recognized. Twenty-four coaches across the state received the award, designed to honor active coaches who go above and beyond for kids and the community. Students, administrators, parents/guardians, and community members were encouraged to nominate coaches that have made a significant impact in their school and community. Wolfpack volleyball coach Jordynn Luettel received 14 nominations for this award, many coming from team members during the 2023 volleyball season. After taking over for Coach Liz Selting, she and the team turned in a season for the ages, compiling a 28-7 record and advancing to the Class D-1 State Tournament for just the second time in Wolfpack history. The Wolfpack finished third, defeating Guardian Angels Central Catholic (GACC) in the consolation finals played at Lincoln Northeast High School. Coach Luettel is shown with other award recipients. She is kneeling in the front row (fifth from left).

Courtesy photo



Erickson led EPPJ in points, rebounds during 23/24 season

Lueking was the team leader in assists, steals

Final statistics were released for the Wolfpack varsity boys basketball season.

Elgin Public-Pope John (12-10) started strong, then battled through injuries and illness during the middle part of the season before getting its full complement of players back on the court in February.

The team was led in scoring by sophomore Jarek Erickson who missed most of January due to illness. But, when he was on the court, he was a threat to score both inside and outside. He made 47 percent of his two-point shots and better than 40 percent of his three-point shots to average just over 12 points per game.

He was the only Wolfpack player to average in double figures. Teammates Karson Kallhoff and Blake Henn averaged over eight points per game while Gage Thiessen and Kellan Hoefer tossed in over six points

Lueking, Henn selected to play in NENASC

Two members of the Wolfpack football team that made the state playoffs during 2023 will have the opportunity to don the pads one more time.

Announced recently, seniors Blake Henn and Dylan Lueking has been selected among the best football players in the state to play in the Northeast Nebraska All-Star Football Classic on Saturday, June 8.

The game will be held at Veterans Memorial Field in Norfolk with kickoff slated at 11 a.m.

Henn and Lueking will be members of the ‘White’ team joining Theodore Windhusen and Justus Weidemann, Logan View; Trent Patzel, James Fogleman, Hank Hudson, Parker Borer, Boone Central; Mavrick Hagemann, Nate Decker and Dawson Hansen, Elkhorn Valley; Jacob Henery and Bryson Gadeken, Neligh-Oakdale; Colten Klosen, Howells-Dodge; Treven Weddle, West Point-Beemer; Blake Borchers, Landon Weinandt and Cameron Korth, Battle Creek; Jesse Steffen, Guardian Angels Central Catholic; Mitchell Hupp and Parker Wiedeman, Stanton; Brendan Weber and Spencer Hille, Plainview; Jesse Droesch, Tyler Case and Lincoln Benne, Oakland-Craig; Dylan Higby, Clarkson-Leigh; Wyatt Rangeloff, North Bend Central; Landon Redding, Lyons-Decatur Northeast; Connor Kreikemeier and Nathan Hegemann, Howells-Dodge; Sam Zazueta, Dylan Froberg, Jackson Mazuch and Alan Diaz, Norfolk; Ryder Kleckner, Twin River.

Mike Hassler of Wakefield and Cory Valasek of Riverside Schools have been named head coaches for the game, now in it’s 11th year.

per contest.

Erickson led the team in rebounds with 126, Nick Anderson pulled down 96 rebounds and Dylan Lueking had 84.

Lueking led the team in assists with 46, four more than Kallhoff with 42.

Lueking also topped the team in steals as he had 29, Erickson had 24 and Anderson was credited with 20.

As a team, EPPJ averaged 49.7 points per game while limiting opponents to just 45.6 points per game.

Wolfpack Boys Basketball End-Of-Season Stats

Name	2pt FG	3pt FG	Tot FG	FTs	Pts/AVG	Assts	OReb	DReb	Steals
Blake Henn	73/131	1/5	74/136	31/62	180/8.6	13	26	27	16
Kellan Hoefer	23/52	21/79	44/131	22/30	131/6.2	19	6	19	8
Kaiden Bode	0/5	1/5	1/10	0/0	3/0.4	0	1	5	0
Gage Thiessen	33/61	9/32	42/93	19/30	112/6.2	14	19	52	16
Karson Kallhoff	24/52	39/130	63/182	13/16	178/8.5	42	6	35	13
Michael Selting	0/0	0/3	0/3	0/0	0/0	0	2	2	0
Myles Kittelson	18/49	9/28	27/77	16/23	79/4.2	13	8	18	7
Nick Anderson	14/35	1/21	15/56	7/16	38/1.8	28	31	65	20
Jarek Erickson	47/100	17/42	64/142	37/46	182/12.1	31	43	83	24
Taylor Beckman	3/12	0/1	3/13	1/4	7/0.7	0	5	4	0
Steven Nelson	1/2	0/0	1/2	0/0	2/0.5	0	4	4	1
Dylan Kolm	7/19	1/8	8/27	6/10	23/1.5	10	11	10	10
Dylon Lueking	35/68	9/34	44/102	12/25	109/5.4	46	27	57	29
Team Totals:	278/586	108/388	386/974	164/262	1044/49.7	216	189	381	144
Opp. Totals:	253/615	100/336	353/951	152/248	958/45.6	NA	146	294	144

Spinning Tales

It’s a mystery why some schools never go to State

I had a customer in the office last week asking a question which I found somewhat amusing.

The man, slightly older than myself, had the look of surprise on his face as he stood at the counter looking at me. Then he said, “What are you doing here?”

I said, “Shouldn’t I be here?”

He answered, “No, shouldn’t you be at the basketball tournament?” He was referring to the Boys State Basketball Tournament underway in Lincoln.

“No, I was there last week for the girls tournament. We don’t have a team (that we cover) playing in the boys tournament.”

From here in Elgin, maybe he was confused, maybe he thought I looked like I needed to be away from the office for an extended period of time OR maybe he was just messing with my psyche. I’m not certain, but he didn’t seem confused, he’s been a long-time subscriber so I think he knew where he was. So that leaves one likely answer, he was just messing with me.

It wasn’t long thereafter that it was closing time. I locked the door and headed down to Dean’s Market to pick up some food for supper. The best choice for Thursday night was a DiGiorno frozen ‘supreme’ pizza. Being home during the second weekend in March is something I don’t like, but have accepted.

The odds are more against small schools to get to state than they are for the larger schools in Class A and B. Why? The number of schools in each class. Class A had just over 30 schools so that means the odds are around one in four to make state.

Get down to Class D1 (which the Wolfpack competed in this year), there were well over 50 schools. So, that means one out of every seven schools makes it to the state tournament.

As bad as it may sound, it’s easier to get to state now than

when it was when I was in high school. Back then, there were only four classes (A,B,C,D) that played in the state tournament. The odds didn’t change much for the bigger schools, but for the smaller schools it was a monumental challenge. There would be stories every year about a small town school making the state tournament for the first time in 50-60 years, maybe more.

Last year the story centered around Central City High School. Before qualifying for the 2023 State Tournament, the last time they competed for a state championship was 1947 (two years after the end of World War II). That’s a lot of ‘night moves’ with little to show for it on the scoreboard or in the trophy case.

So, with some time on my hands, I decided to peruse the NSAA records to see which schools have the longest streaks between state tournament appearances. Some will surprise you (one such school is an opponent of the Wolfpack year after year).

Let’s start with Arthur County. Located north of Ogallala, Arthur hasn’t been to the state tournament since 1924 - the middle of the Roaring 20’s, long before Bonnie & Clyde. Babe Ruth was working on becoming the Sultan of Swat when they last went to Lincoln for March Madness.

Sticking with A’s, Alma High School was last to State in 2003, before that it was 1962. Think of that span of time? JFK was in the White House in 1962 and Marilyn Monroe was in California. Then fast forward to 2003, less than two full years after 9/11 and we’re still not sure what happened to Monroe.

Garden County (Oshkosh) was at state in 2017. Before that? 1939. In March 1939 they played in Lincoln, six months later World War II started. Do the math, 78 years in between. I bet they had to get some new uniforms. Ya think?

Last year Santee made it to

State. Before that, it was 1937, a span of 87 years.

Nebraska City, a Class B school, has only been to State three times in the school’s history (1992, 1965 and 1940) or to put a different spin (Britney Spears, Sandy Koufax and Ted Williams). What perplexes me is with the size of the school, there had to be good athletes, maybe the best athletes chose wrestling or simply didn’t like basketball.

Madison High School’s last appearance at State was 1995, Dorchester was 1985 and Geneva was 1981. I just don’t get it, it doesn’t make a lot of sense.

But, the one opponent on the Wolfpack’s schedule with the longest streak belongs to Winside. According to NSAA records, Winside hasn’t been to the boys state tournament since 1935 (89 years). Again, to put this in perspective, consider the following - the country is in the grips of The Great Depression and FDR has yet to decide whether or not to run for a second term (he would be elected president four times before dying in office in 1945), it’s four years before Judy Garland stars in “The Wizard of Oz” and my parents have not yet met on a blind date and won’t get married for another six years.

The distance from the rim to the floor is still 10 foot. I believe the width of the rim is the same then as it is now. The lane has been widened but not much else has changed. Why some schools go often and others rarely do is a mystery to me.

Youth Ball signup is tonight

Signup for the 2024 Elgin Summer Youth Ball Program will be Wednesday, March 13 (today) from 4-7:30 p.m. at the Elgin Fire Hall.

Please bring your registration form(s) and registration fee to signup.

If you have any questions, please call Kim at 402.843.0152.

ANTELOPE COUNTY
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Antelope County

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‘Outstanding Achievements’ - Elgin FFA members excel in multiple contest categories

Editor’s note: The following article was submitted last week by Elgin FFA Advisor Julia Schwartz.

The 2024 year has been a great year for Elgin’s FFA members.

Beginning with 11 Senior members learning that they earned the State FFA Degree. Meanwhile, several members were busy with agriscience fair projects and reports. All the members that take on completing a agriscience fair project, not only have volunteered to put in a little extra work, they also are able to learn some great science lessons as they go through the scientific method processes.

Ultimately, these members are hoping for some recognition at the state and national levels where they have seen several members of the Elgin Chapter succeed. In order for any agriscience fair project to be selected for the state FFA convention contest, the reports must be submitted by a February 15th deadline and evaluated by judges. The reports must meet a certain number of points on the rubric to move forward. This year the chapter has 16 FFA members (each in teams of two) that had their reports selected for state. At the state contest, the members will present their science boards and go through an interview. The top 3 in each division and category will then be recognized on stage at the convention, with the winner advancing their projects to nationals for review.

Here are the qualifying teams:

- Chloe Henn & Samantha Durre - Plant Systems Division 6
- Michael Selting & Justice Blecher - Enviro/Nat. Resource Systems Division 4
- Kyndal Busted & Autumn Forbes - Social Systems Division 4

- Braelyn Martinsen & Kylee Lichtenberg - Food Systems Division 4
- Megan Wright & Ruby Durre - Plant Systems Division 4
- Brooke Kinney & Aubri Parks - Plant Systems Division 4
- Brystol Buschow & Kaidyn Schrad - Food Systems Division 2
- Molly Thiessen & Makenna Mortiboy - Food Systems Division 2

Career Development Events

Along with the hectic season of state degree applications and science fair madness, all the members were also preparing for two big days at the end of February and beginning of March; District 10 Career Development Events (CDE’s).

With almost 60 FFA members this year, everyone knew they had to prepare and step it up if they wanted a chance to compete at state FFA, especially since almost all contests are now qualifying contests at state convention due to the increase in overall members in the state. And that’s just what they did, as they competed against FFA members that come from some of the best FFA chapters in the state including Ainsworth, Boyd County, Burwell, Chambers, Elgin, Elkhorn Valley, Keya Paha County, Loup County, Neligh-Oakdale, O’Neill, Ord, Rock County, Sargent, Stuart, West Holt, Wheeler Central, and the newly formed Nebraska Ag Academy.

The first round of CDE’s took place at Northeast Community College. With the contests, the team had to either place in the top 25 percent of the total number of schools competing or in the top 5 (welding only).

Here are results of those contests:

- Livestock Management - 3rd Overall Team - State Qualifiers Samuel Hemenway, Samantha



Photos submitted

Elgin FFA Livestock Management Team members (l-r) are Jaidyn Schrad, Samantha Durre, Samuel Hemenway, Autumn Forbes and Gemma Miller.

Durre, Jaidyn Schrad, Autumn Forbes & Gemma Miller

- Welding - 4th overall team - State Qualifiers Nick Anderson (Arc Welding), Samuel Hemenway (TIG Welding), Isaac Hemenway (MIG Welding) & Dylon Parks (Oxy-Acetylene Welding) (Kaiden Bode alternate)
- Floriculture - 3rd overall team - State Qualifiers Baylee Busted, Callie Heithoff, Sara Bode, & Kate Furstenu
- Nursery Landscape - 4th overall team - State Qualifiers Camry Kittelson, Tessa Barlow, Natalie Burenheide & Sara Bode
- Farm Business Mgt - 2nd overall team - State Qualifiers Keyera Eisenhauer, Baylee Busted, Jarek Erickson and Nick Anderson
- Agriscience - 2nd overall team - State Qualifiers Kylee Lichtenberg, Elizabeth Moser, Kierstyn Eisenhauer & Ruby Durre.
- Ag Mechanics - 6th overall team Samuel Hemenway, Isaac Hemenway, Kaiden Bode & Nick Anderson

The second round of CDE’s were in Sargent on March 7. Out of the four contests Elgin qualified two teams!

- Natural Resources - 3rd overall team Landon Kallhoff, Blake Henn, Myles Kittelson & Dylon Lueking (Alt. Brian Heithoff)
 - Agronomy - 3rd overall team Isaac Hemenway, Samuel Hemenway, Haley Parks, and Taylor Beckman (Alt. Jayda Chessmore)
- For the chapter, this is the most CDE teams that have qualified for state competition! **Agriculture Issues Academy**
- While working on their CDE’s a few members took some extra time writing essays and working on resumes in order to be selected for the Nebraska Ag Issues Academy. This academy is an opportunity for FFA members to learn new leadership

and communication skills while interacting with professionals in agricultural industries. The members had to submit a written essay application and their resumes and then be selected to the academy.

Elgin FFA had five young ladies selected; Kyndal Busted, Rylen Schwarting, Dannyka Smidt, Libby Evans & Zoey Buechter

Proficiency and State Star Awards

Just to add to their list of things to do, some members went above and beyond to fill out proficiency applications and State Star applications. The Agricultural Proficiency Awards honor FFA members who, through their SAEs, have developed specialized skills that they can apply toward their future careers.

This year Samuel Hemenway applied with a diversified ag placement and grain place-

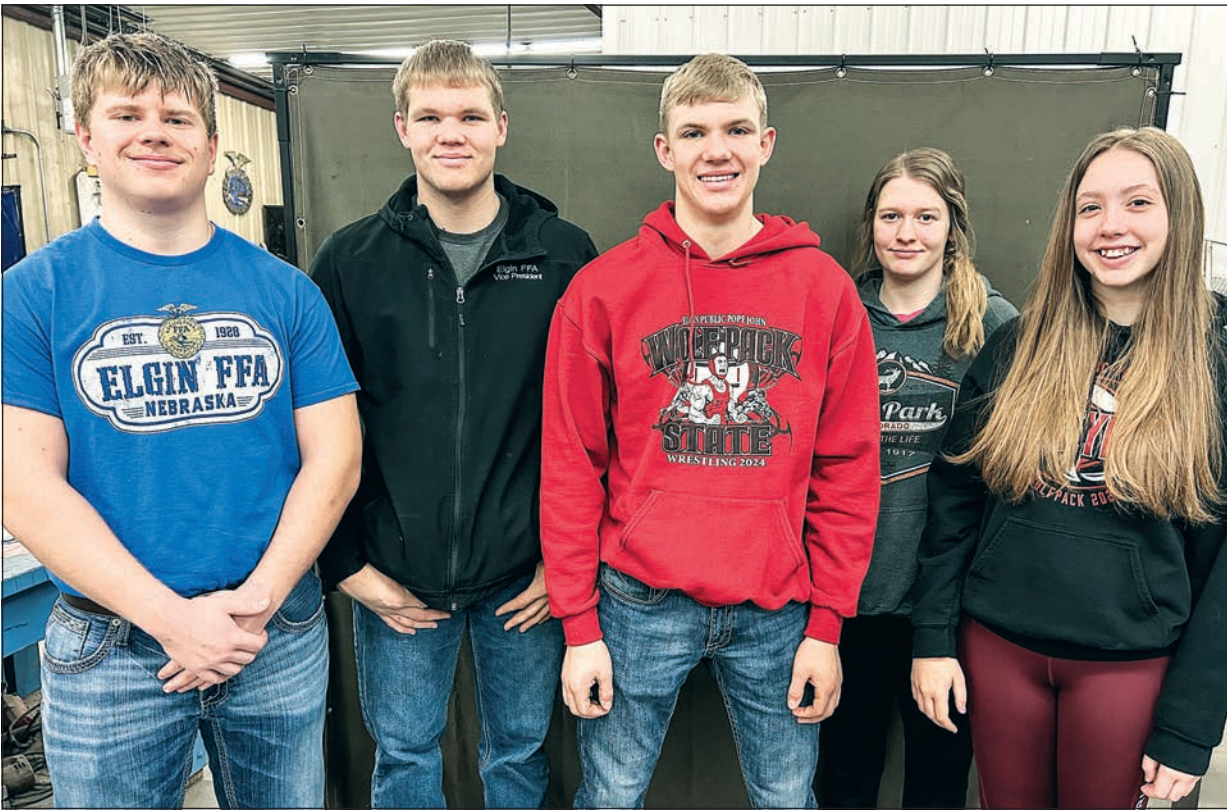
ment proficiency. Both of his proficiencies made it to the state level. His grain proficiency was 5th overall and his diversified agriculture application is top 3 in the state and he will be interviewed and recognized at state for a chance to win.

Carter Beckman, will also interview and be recognized at state for his swine placement proficiency, this time with a

See FFA, Page 10 ►



Natural Resources team members from Elgin FFA are (l-r) Brian Heithoff (alt.), Landon Kallhoff, Dylon Lueking, Blake Henn and Myles Kittelson.



Agronomy team members are Taylor Beckman, Samuel Hemenway, Isaac Hemenway, Haley Parks and Jayda Chessmore (alt.).



The Elgin FFA welding team members are (l-r) Kaiden Bode (TIG Alt.), Isaac Hemenway (MIG), Nick Anderson (ARC), Dylon Parks (OA) and Samuel Hemenway (TIG).

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PROCEEDINGS - MARCH 4, 2024 THE ELGIN CITY COUNCIL

ELGIN CITY COUNCIL Proceedings March 4, 2024

The Elgin City Council met in regular session on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 7:30 p.m., pursuant to posted notice.

Mayor Schmitt called the meeting to order, and announced the location of the Open Meeting Act.

Councilmembers present were Mike Dvorak, Jim Kittelson, Leigh Kluthe, and Craig Niewohner.

A complete and accurate copy of the minutes is available for public inspection during normal business hours at the City Clerk's office.

The following agenda items were approved:

- February regular meeting minutes, treasurer's report, transaction report, and paying the claims

GENERAL: ERPPD, se, 107.85; Great Plains Communications, se, 83.66; APPEARA, su, 58.38; The Elgin Review, print, 107.8; Brenda Reikofski, se, 135.00; Northeast NE Clerks Association, dues, 20.00; Kristin L Childers, su, 691.19; Black Hills Energy, se, 295.89; Elgin Community Club, misc, 10000.00; Prudential, retirement, 361.82; American Funds, retirement, 195.84; US Treasury, tax, 3143.22; Payroll, 2610.42

SALES TAX: Pool Fund: 2963.87; General Fund:10000.00; Water Fund:75000.00

STREET: ERPPD, se, 971.31;

Verizonwireless, su, 75.33; Elgin One Stop, fuel & su, 113.98; Hometown Station, fuel, 109.54; Advanced Consulting Engineering Services, se, 2000.00; The Elgin Review, print, 170.00; Black Hills Energy, se, 184.74; Payroll, 1839.29

WATER: ERPPD, se, 965.74; Great Plains Communications, se, 55.16; Verizonwireless, su, 75.32; NE Health Lab, se, 507.00; One Call Concepts, se, 3.20; Rutjens Construction, se, 206590.80; NE Dept of Revenue, tax, 230.28; US Post Office, postage, 63.40; Payroll, 3678.58

SEWER: ERPPD, se, 996.87; Great Plains Communications, se, 52.07; Elgin One Stop, su, 33.48; One Call Concepts, se, 3.20; Automatic Systems Co, se, 1044.30; NE Dept of Revenue, tax, 1116.97; Payroll, 1415.37

FIRE:ERPPD, se, 182.56; Great Plains Communications, se, 59.26; APPEARA, su, 58.38; Northwest Electric, su, 1876.28; Overhead Door Company, su, 261.75; To Rescue Fund, transfer, 5000.00; Black Hills Energy, se, 878.00

POLICE: Antelope Co Sheriff, se, 2,800.00

TRASH **PICKUP/RECY-CLING:** Bud's Sanitary Service, se, 6383.50; Betty Moser, rent, 100.00

POOL: ERPPD, se, 66.35; Great Plains Communications, se, 10.00; The Elgin Review, print, 170.00; NE Dept of Environment & Energy, license, 40.00; Amazon Business,

su, 2537.85; Black Hills Energy, se, 40.37; Bank of Elgin, loan, 2227.79

PARK: ERPPD, se, 84.85; Payroll, 423.91

LIBRARY: ERPPD, se, 102.65; Great Plains Communications, se, 59.27; Amazon Business, su, 417.81; Dianne Gunderson, su, 31.88; Black Hills Energy, se, 156.12; Payroll, 1258.64

YOUTH: ERPPD, se, 33.60

RESCUE: Asq Promotional Products, su, 110.70; Hometown Station, fuel, 101.02

- Special designated liquor license for the Bullarama on June 7th and a separate special designated liquor license for a beer garden during Vetch Days
- Estimate from Rutjens Construction for repairs to the sewer plant for \$20,846.75
- Bid from The Road Guy to supply and apply 7,000 gallons of armor coat oil at \$4.10 per gallon
- Proposal from Complete Pest Elimination, Inc for mosquito spraying for June through September for a prepayment amount of \$3,192.00
- Estimate of \$3,850.00 from Boyd's Electrical Service to rewind the existing pool motor to operate on 240v 3phase
- Approve Julie Thiessen as assistant pool manager and Natalie Burenheide and Kaitey Schumacher as part-time lifeguards
- Approve Jack Wemhoff as summer maintenance help
- Increase pay rates for life-

guards and summer maintenance to \$12.00 per hour plus \$0.50 per hour for returning employees

- Close the water tower painting CD and move the remaining \$15,624.43 to the general checking account water fund
- Building Permits: Cole Haddix

The following agenda items were discussed:

- Update on water meter replacement project
- Update on funding for new well
- Topographic map and preliminary drawing of the Block 17 storm sewer improvement
- Check if dumpsters would be available April 19th for community clean-up day
- Sheriff report: December 2023-88.08 hours with ten 911 calls; January 2024-68.30 hours with six 911 calls
- Property at 311 Cedar Street will be on sheriff sale
- City Hall will be closed March 18-22
- Tornado drill set for March 27th at 10:00 a.m.
- Prepare insurance to be put out for bid
- Next regular meeting will be held on Monday, April 1, 2024
- Regular Meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Mayor Mike Schmitt
City Clerk Kristin L. Childers
PUBLISH: March 13, 2024
ZNEZ

NOTICE TO BIDDERS - GRAVEL

ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**NOTICE FOR BIDS
Gravel**

The Antelope County Board of Commissioners will accept sealed bids until 9:45 AM on April 2nd, 2024, for gravel. Bids may be brought in or mailed to the Antelope County Clerk's Office, 501 M Street, PO Box 26, Neligh, NE 68756-0026. Successful bidder will supply the specified product from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Bids will be opened and publicly read on April 2nd, 2024 at 9:45 AM in the County Commissioners room of the Antelope County Courthouse Annex. The Antelope County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. ROAD GRAVEL - Purchase of Road gravel to be bid as follows: Priced per Ton, transported by county, loaded by pit operator. ARMOR COAT GRAVEL - Priced per Ton, transported by county, loaded by pit operator. All bids must be plainly marked "Gravel Bid" on lower left-hand corner of envelope. **Pricing all types of fill and aggregate.**
PUBLISH: March 13, 20 & 27, 2024
ZNEZ

NOTICE TO BIDDERS - ARMOR COATING

ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**NOTICE FOR BIDS
Armor Coating**

The Antelope County Board of Commissioners will accept sealed bids until 9:45 AM, on April 2nd, 2024 for armor coating of oil roads within Antelope County. Said bids are for the application of armor coating using county furnished materials. Successful bidder will supply the specified product from May 1, 2024 to December 1, 2024. Price should be per mile. All work to be done according to county specifications. Contractor must supply traffic control, signing and proof of bonding and insurance. Bids can be brought or mailed to the Antelope County Clerk's Office, 501 M Street, PO Box 26, Neligh, NE 68756-0026 and will be opened at 9:45 AM, on April 2nd, 2024 in the Antelope County Commissioners Room, Antelope County Courthouse Annex. Envelopes should be marked in the lower left-hand corner with the wording, "Armor Coating Bid." The County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
PUBLISH: March 13, 20 & 27, 2024
ZNEZ

NOTICE TO BIDDERS - HOT MIX ASPHALT

ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**NOTICE FOR BIDS
Hot Mix Asphalt**

The Antelope County Board of Commissioners will accept sealed bids until 9:45 AM, on April 2nd, 2024, for hot mix asphalt. Price should be per ton and per location. Purchase of hot mix asphalt picked up at location between April 1, 2024, to December 1, 2024, for all types of hot mix asphalt. Bids can be brought or mailed to the Antelope County Clerk's Office, 501 M Street, PO Box 26, Neligh, NE 68756-0026 and will be opened at 9:45 AM on April 2nd, 2024, in the Antelope County Commissioners Meeting Room, Antelope County Courthouse Annex. Envelope should be marked in the lower left-hand corner with the wording, "Hot Mix Asphalt Bid." The County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
PUBLISH: March 13, 20 & 27, 2024
ZNEZ

NOTICE TO BIDDERS - ASPHALT OIL

ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**NOTICE FOR BIDS
Asphalt Oil**

The Antelope County Board of Commissioners will accept sealed bids until 9:45 AM, on April 2nd, 2024 for asphalt oil. Price should be per gallon. Purchase of asphalt oil to be delivered to each county shop from April 1, 2024 to December 1, 2024 for the following types of asphalt: MC-800, RC-250, MC3000, CRS2, and CRS-2P. Bids can be brought or mailed to the Antelope County Clerk's Office, 501 M Street, PO Box 26, Neligh, NE 68756-0026 and will be opened at 9:45 AM on April 2nd, 2024 in the Antelope County Commissioners Meeting Room, Antelope County Courthouse Annex. Envelope should be marked in the lower left-hand corner with the wording, "Asphalt Oil Bid." The County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.
PUBLISH: March 13, 20 & 27, 2024
ZNEZ

PROCEEDINGS - MARCH 5, 2024 ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ANTELOPE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS Neligh, Nebraska March 5th, 2024

Chairman opened the meeting. Notice of meeting published as required by statute.

Approved agenda. Approved minutes of the 2-13-2024 BOE & BOC Meeting.

Correspondence was reviewed.

Monthly Reports: Treasurer's Fund Balance Report; Treasurer's Miscellaneous Revenue Report; Treasurer's Sweep Account State-

ment; Zoning Permit Report; Imprest Pledge Collateral Report.

Hear Extension Office annual report. Appointed Extension Board member.

Reviewed Thunderhead Noise Study.

Zoning Administrator Report was heard, approved two (2) plats.

Road Superintendent Report:

- Approved 11 underground permits.
- Approved one (1) access permit.
- Approved five (5) oversize per-

mits.

- Other report as needed.

Approved interlocal agreement with Knox County on County Line Bridge.

Meeting Adjourned.

Antelope County Board of Commissioners

CHARLIE HENERY
Chairman of County Board

Attest: LISA PAYNE /s/
Antelope County Clerk
PUBLISH: March 13, 2024
ZNEZ

Fischer

◀ FROM Page 4

need help quickly after disaster strikes. The Emergency Conservation Program Improvement Act will make that help more efficient and easily accessible. Last week's tragic wildfires demonstrated the necessity of passing this bill — and soon.

At home, first responders like our firefighters, State Patrol, National Guard, and others did their part to fight the fires and support those affected. Here in the U.S. Senate, I want to do my part too. I'm hopeful that we can get this legislation passed in the Senate and send it to the president's desk.

Death Notice

Edith Helen Finkral, 93 of Neligh, NE passed away on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, at The Willows in Neligh, NE. Edith's wishes were to be cremated and no services. Levander Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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Preliminary hearing continued

Joaquin S. Escheverria, 28, of Brenham, Texas, (in custody) appeared in front of the

Honorable Donna Taylor in the Antelope County courtroom in Neligh last week for preliminary hearing.

Escheverria is accused of a Class 1 C felony, possession of more than 28 grams of methamphetamine, with intent to deliver, alleged Feb. 19. Antelope County public defender Pat Carney requested continuance. Taylor continued the hearing to March 20.

Escheverria was remanded back to the custody of Antelope County Sheriff Bob Moore, pending posting \$100,000, 10% cash, bond.

James A. Brady, 68, of Neligh, accompanied by his attorney, Joel Carlson of Norfolk, appeared for further arraignment on a Class 1 misdemeanor alleged Nov. 25, 2023, in Neligh. Brady pleaded not guilty to third-degree assault and requested a jury trial. Taylor set pretrial hearing for March

See HEARING, Page 11 ▶

Meetings

Office of Bids

Proceedings

Ant Domain

Sheriff Sale

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Ordinances

reclosures

Violations

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NATURAL RESOURCES
TECHNICIAN
Upper Elkhorn NRD

The Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District is accepting applications to fill the Natural Resources Technician position. Responsibilities will include assisting the Water Resources Department and supervising the conservation tree and wildlife programs. This position will also be involved with working with the general public; chemigation program; basic equipment & ground maintenance; collecting water quality and quantity data; assisting in preparation of reports; and, updates and presentations to the NRD board/committees and partnering agencies. A college degree or training in a natural resource or forestry/wildlife related field is beneficial. Knowledge of Microsoft office programs and ArcGIS experience is highly beneficial. This is a fulltime position with a starting salary range of \$36,000-\$44,000, plus paid holidays, vacation & sick leave, medical, vision and dental insurance and retirement. Resumes and (three) references must be submitted to: Upper Elkhorn NRD 301 North Harrison St, O'Neill NE 68763. Resumes will be reviewed starting at 4:30PM March 29, 2024 and the position will remain open until a satisfactory candidate is selected. Please call 402-336-3867 with any questions or visit our website at: www.uenrd.org The Upper Elkhorn NRD is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Wheeler County
GOP Convention
will be held on Wednesday,
April 3, 2024
6:30 p.m. in the old Bartlett Firehall
For more information, contact Ellis at 402-843-2245

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MONDAY, MARCH 18 1 P.M.
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TJMT Hoefer - 210 Fancy BLK & BWF Steers, 825-860#
B & C Stagemeyer - 180 Fancy BLK & BWF Steers, 950-975#
C & F Thiele - 180 Fancy BLK & BWF & CharX Steers, 700-900#
TJK Farms - 110 Fancy Black Angus Steers & Heifers, 750-850#
A Starman - 110 BLK & BWF Steers, 700-775#
C & S Lemberg - 90 Fancy BLK & BWF Steers, 925-950#
L Selting - 80 BLK Fall Steers & Heifers, weaned, 450-625#
M Klein & Sons - 65 BLK & BWF Steers & Heifers, 700-850#
R Johnson - 32 Black Angus Cross Steers & Heifers, 650-750#
T Sprout - 30 Black Angus Fall Steers & Heifers, 350-525#
R Wortman - 25 Black Angus Steers, 750-850#
C Baum - 20 CharX Steers & Heifers, 875-950#
T Rakow - 15 BLK Steers, 1000#
Evergreen Farms - 10 Black Angus Steers, 750-850#
G Selting - 8 BLK & BWF Steers & Heifers, 400-425#
L Henseleit - 5 Black Angus Steers & Heifers, 450-550#
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APRIL 22 - Feeder Cattle/Weigh Cows & Bulls
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Jo Ann Baum 336-7218
Chris Baum 649-9875
Dan Baum 843-8813
Dave Baum 649-4616
Office 843-2275
ELGIN Livestock Sales
PO Box 160 • 100 South Myrtle Elgin, Nebraska

HELP WANTED:

The Neligh Mill Historic Site has an opening for a Tour Guide. The job will run from May 20th to Labor Day, Tuesday – Saturday, 28 hours per week. Duties include giving tours, cleaning, mowing and answering questions about the local area. The job closes 3-20-24, apply online at statejobs.nebraska.gov 25c

TC Vet
Town & Country Veterinary Clinic
TC Vet Clinic is seeking a part time
RECEPTIONIST/VET ASSISTANT
to work at our **ELGIN** location.
The hours will be Monday, Thursday, and Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm. Weekend rotation, Saturday 8:00am – 12 noon. Some flexibility in scheduling required.
Duties include data entry, maintaining medical records, answering phones, scheduling, cleaning/organization, assisting the veterinarian with animal handling, surgical procedures and examinations. The applicant must possess excellent customer service, the ability to multitask, and the desire to be around people and animals. Applicants with previous veterinary experience are preferred but this is not a requirement. We are willing to train the right applicant.
Deadline for this ad will be March 20, 2024
Send resumé to:
TC Vet Clinic Attn: Jenny Koziol
PO Box 310 Albion, NE 68620.
You may also email a resumé to jkoziol@tcvetclinics.com
elginreview@yahoo.com

Figuring out that potential fungus in fescue

While not as ubiquitous in Nebraska as it is for our neighbors to the south and east, tall fescue is still a prevalent perennial grass in many eastern Nebraska pastures. Fescue has been a go to grass for grazing for some time, but has historically had one bit problem, endophytes. In the 1970's researchers discovered that a majority of fescue plants were infected with a fungus (Neotyphodium coenophialum) that lives inside the plant. Endophyte means exactly that, internal fungus. While providing benefits to the grass itself like better tolerance to stressors like drought and overgrazing, alkaloid toxins produced by the endophyte were causing problems for grazing animals. While it's tricky to pin down

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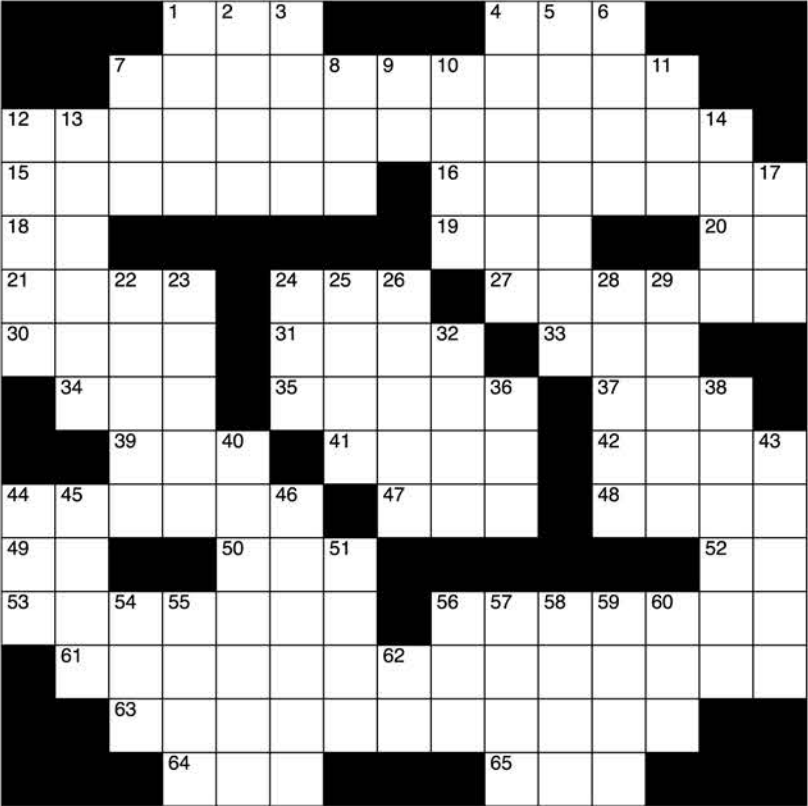
Beef Systems
Asst. Ext. Educator
Ben Beckman

exactly, estimates put the reduced performance caused by endophyte toxicity at \$600 million to over \$1 billion annually. Fescue toxicity can take many forms including lameness and loss of extremities in cold weather due to constriction of blood vessels (fescue foot), reduced feed intake, reduced gains and milk production, elevated body temperature, more time spent in water or shade and reduced time grazing, rough hair coat, and lowered reproductive performance. Obviously, these are problems we want to avoid, so management of endophyte infected pastures is critical. Endophyte has the highest concentration in seedheads, so grazing or harvest prior to emergence will

help. Improving the health of other forage grasses in the pasture and/or planting legumes can provide a more varied diet and dilute the amount of toxin ingested as well as increase pasture quality and offset some of the reduction in gains. Another solution to this problem is to plant an endophyte free fescue. Endophytes are found in the plant themselves and pass on through seed, not pollen, so by using endophyte free seed, pastures can be established without the risk of toxicity. There is one catch, remember when we said that the endophyte helped the plant become more stress tolerant? As a result, endophyte free fescue tends to be less vigorous, have reduced stand life, and can be out competed and replaced by endophyte infected fescue plants if they become established in the area. Once again scientists went back to the lab and in the 1990's found several strains of tall fescue endophyte that did not

produce toxic alkaloids. Even without these compounds, these new strains helped with pest resistance, grazing tolerance, and overall vigor under stressful conditions. These strains were called novel endophyte and were inserted into several fescue varieties and made available for purchase and use. Fescue can be a great forage resource in pastures, but the risk of endophyte infection makes proper management key. Knowing if your fescue stand is endophyte infected or not is the first step, which can be tested for. Once we know the level of endophytes, we can manage accordingly or consider replacing the stand with an endophyte free or novel endophyte variety. - Ben Beckman is a beef systems Extension Educator serving the counties of Antelope, Cedar, Knox, Madison and Pierce. He is based out of the Cedar County Extension office in Hartington. You can reach him by phone: (402) 254-6821 or email: ben.beckman@unl.edu

Crossword Puzzle

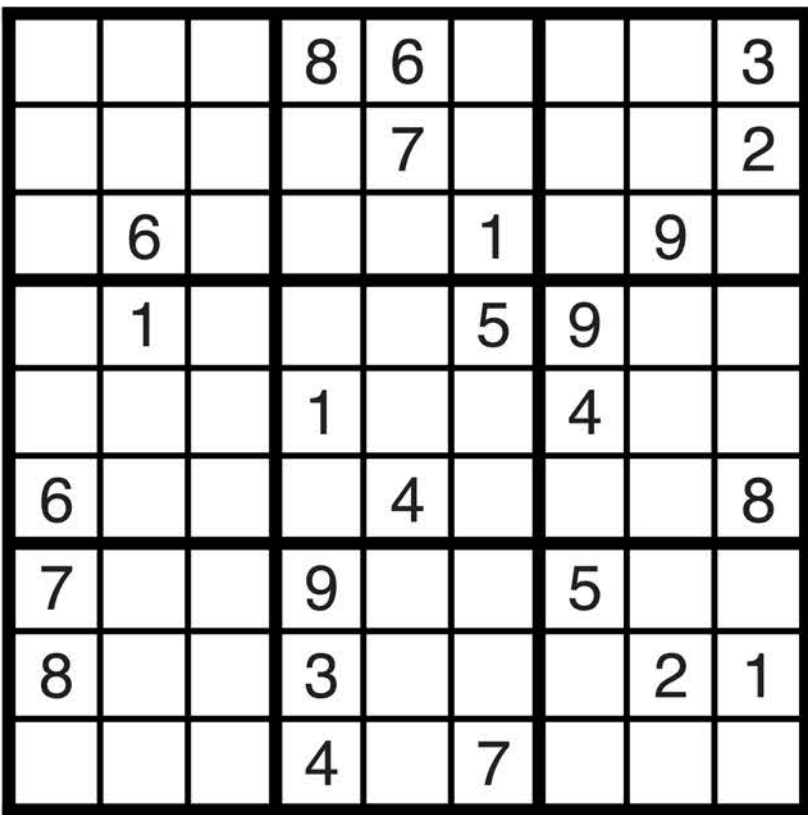


CLUES ACROSS

- Helps little firms
- Political action committee
- Allowed
- Olivia Colman played one
- Open
- He had a notable lamp
- Promotional material
- Domesticated animal
- Larry and Curly's buddy
- The best ever
- TV network
- Checked for
- Dry or withered
- Expression of annoyance
- Dash
- Fifth note of a major scale
- A secret clique
- Partner to cheese
- ___ school: where to learn healing
- City in ancient Syria
- Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- Established practice
- Thanksgiving side dish
- District in Peru
- It's becoming more prevalent
- State in India
- Measure of illumination
- Raised platform
- Japanese warrior
- R.L. Stevenson novel
- Transitory
- Advanced degree

CLUES DOWN

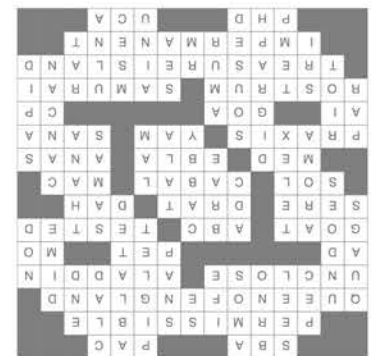
- Prevent from seeing
- Czech city
- ___ and Andy, TV show
- A young pig
- Removed surgically
- Covered with
- Chest muscle (slang)
- Nigerian City
- Midway between south and east
- A way to shut
- Stop playing
- Marshy places
- Takes apart
- Ten cents
- A gesture of assent
- Scent
- Teletypewriter
- General's assistant (abbr.)



Level: Intermediate

- Hillside
- Taxi driver
- Semitic Sun god
- Town in India
- Traditional rhythmic pattern
- Fugitives are on the ___
- Type of dance
- Two letters, one sound
- Having a strong, pleasant taste
- Golf score
- Mayhem
- Drenched
- River in northeastern Asia
- Drug to treat anxiety (abbr.)
- Part-time employee
- A very large body of water
- Aboriginal people of Japan
- Millisecond

- Forearm bone
- Subway dweller
- Royal Mail



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Bartlett News



Winners in the written contest in the 3rd and 4th grades were (l-r) Warren Sallach, Adynn Smith and Sofia Heinz.



Oral spelling contest winners in the 3rd and 4th graders were (l-r) Easton Kasselder, Addyn Smith and Sofia Heinz.



Written contest winners in the 7th and 8th grades were (l-r): Olivia Heinz, Elexis Plugge and Paige Schlenger.



Oral spelling contest winners in the 7th and 8th grades were (l-r) Alexis Plugge, Casey Freouf and Paige Schlenger.

The annual Wheeler County Spelling Bee written and oral contests were held Thursday and Friday afternoons, February 22 and 23 at Wheeler Central Schools.

The final results for the written contest were: 3rd and 4th grades: 1st place Adynn Smith, 2nd place Warren Sallach and 3rd place Sofia Heinz. Fifth and 6th grade results were 1st place Owen Sallach, 2nd place Dawson Kluver and 3rd place Denna Skorcz. Seventh and 8th grade results were 1st place Olivia Heinz, second place Elexis Plugge and third place Paige Schlenger.

Winner of the oral spelling contest in the 3rd and 4th grade was Adynn Smith, daughter of Andrew and Justine Smith, who spelled the word, ‘shortage,’ to win the contest. Second place went to Easton Kasselder, son of Drew and Melissa Kasselder. In third place was Sofia Heinz, daughter of Travis and Paula Heinz. Placing fourth place was Warren Sallach, son of Craig and Chelsea Sallach.

Fifth and 6th grade oral spelling winners were Owen Sallach winning first place by correctly spelling the word ‘granulate.’ Owen is the son of Craig and Chelsea Sallach. Second place was won by Denna Skorcz, daughter of Adam and Sara Skorcz. Third place winner was Dawson Kluver, son of Dan and Michelle Kluver and fourth place was Calvin Schlenger, son of Brent and Shawna Schlenger.

Casey Freouf was the winner of the 7th and 8th grade oral spelling division by correctly spelling the word ‘inferno.’ Casey is the son of Adam and Christi Freouf, Paige Schlenger, daughter of Brent and Shawna Schlenger, won second place. Alexis Plugge, daughter of Troy Plugge and Robin Brown, was the third place winner.

Placing fourth was Olivia Heinz, daughter of Travis and Paula Heinz.

Track season began this week at Wheeler Central with quite a



Oral spelling contest winners in the 5th and 6th grade were (l-r) Owen Sallach, Denna Skorcz and Dawson Kluver.

few students participating.

Students began ‘MAP,’ testing on Wednesday and Thursday in reading and math.

Churches

◀ FROM Page 5

He points to four factors that have contributed to the mismatch: declining membership, rising property expenses, virtual livestream options and COVID-19.

“There was hope that someday we would get back to being three separate churches after the pandemic, but it just became so obvious that something needed to be done,” said the Rev. Doyle Burbank-Williams, pastor at New Visions.

The Omaha Archdiocese, which spans from Omaha to Sioux City, told the Flatwater Free Press that only 25% of Catholics in northeast Nebraska attend Sunday Mass and there’s been a 42% decline in mass attendance since 2003. Fifteen churches in the Archdiocese have closed since 2000.

The United Methodist Church Great Plains Conference, which includes Nebraska and Kansas, has seen 81 churches close since 2014.

Three other Christian religious authorities in Nebraska contacted by the Flatwater Free Press either did not respond or said they did not keep records of closures to confidently report.

Part of the mismatch, Rein-

FFA

hard said, lies in the fact that many churches were constructed at a time when they needed to be within walking distance.

“Well, not only do we have motorized vehicles now we have the internet,” he said. “So if I want to watch the Archbishop of Canterbury service in London, all I need to do is to click the mouse.”

Churches are also expensive to operate. The International Facility Management Association estimates that it costs \$7 to \$10 per square foot annually to run a church.

Rising maintenance costs factored into the decision to sell the First Baptist Church in Wayne in 2021, according to Matt Ley.

Ley bought the property for \$175,000 and renovated it into six apartment units, which now rent for between \$1,000 and \$2,000 a month.

“I really just wanted to save one of the most beautiful buildings in town and provide different housing options.”

Kathy and Tim Johnson sold their home in York and moved into the former church in Benedict out of a desire to live closer to family without the burden of a mortgage.

They bought and renovated

SAE.

The FFA Star award is for FFA members who have outstanding SAE programs and may apply to be a State Star in Production, Agribusiness, Placement or Agriscience. Twenty-four individuals are selected to be finalists each year and one Star is named in each of the four areas. Samuel will have a lengthy interview at the state convention and then they will announce the winner’s at the last session of convention on

the 5,100-square-foot church for less than \$100,000.

“If you don’t want to be in debt, go buy a church in a small town,” said Kathy Johnson, a former member of the church she now lives in.

While housing is a common use for a church’s second act, it’s not the only one.

The First Presbyterian Church in Madison was sold for \$5,000 and turned into a nonprofit arts center in 2007; the former Immanuel Lutheran Church in Snyder was converted into a museum in 2018; and the Seward Chamber of Commerce bought and repurposed a local Presbyterian church to become the Olde Glory Theatre in 2013.

In Pilger, St. Peter’s Lutheran Church managed to survive a pair of devastating tornadoes in 2014. But it ultimately couldn’t survive falling attendance and a lack of volunteers, said Gene Willers, a former member of St. Peter’s.

In the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod district that covers all of Nebraska, minus the panhandle, 35 churches have closed or disbanded since 2000.

Some Nebraska churches are choosing to restructure their congregations rather than sell

or donate their properties.

In 2022, the Omaha archbishop grouped 134 Catholic churches into 33 families across eastern Nebraska. The change allows parishes to better coordinate resources that can address declining attendance, population changes and shifting cultural attitudes, said Riley Johnson, Omaha Archdiocese communications director.

No parishes have made a decision to merge or close since the restructure.

Burbank-Williams at New Visions in Lincoln said the closing of two churches strengthened the surviving church.

Money from the sales funded renovation projects at their current location, including a new sign, handicap parking, and environmental updates to the building, according to Burbank-Williams. These sales will also help replenish New Visions’ reserves after years of losses.

“There are churches like us that have given themselves permission to not do things the way they’ve always been done,” he said. “And those churches I think are growing.”

Elgin Community Center Menus

Center and are subject to change).

Suggested price is \$6 per meal for persons 60 years of age and older.

Under 60 is \$9.00. Serving starts at 11:45 a.m. and ends around 12:15 p.m.

Meals are served Monday thru Friday.

Takeout starting at 11:30 a.m.

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

For a great meal, come to the community center!

Monday, March 18: Hamburger on bun, French fries, baked beans, fruit cocktail, milk.

Tuesday, March 19: Ham & bean soup, lettuce salad with veggie toppings, pears, milk.

Wednesday, March 20: Goulash, broccoli, carrots/celery, strawberry/peaches mix, milk.

Thursday, March 21: Liver & onions OR ham, baked potato, mixed vegetables, pears, milk.

Friday, March 22: Tuna & noodle casserole, peas, lettuce salad, fruit cocktail, milk.

(All meals served with bread & butter. Menus are provided by the Community

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Hearing

◀ FROM **Page 8**

20. Bond is continued at \$4,000, 10%.
Dennis Statler, 54, of Neligh

faced Taylor for first hearing on a Class 4 felony bad check charge.
Statler requested a continuance so he could consult an

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attorney. Taylor continued the hearing to March 20.

Kriss Sanderson, 57, of Norfolk failed to appear for first hearing on a Class 4 felony count of issuing a bad check, alleged Aug. 7, 2023. Taylor ruled the county attorney may file motion, affidavit and order for an arrest warrant.

Julius Tauber, 21, Camp Lejune, North Carolina, through his attorney Ron Temple of Norfolk, again requested a continuance. Assistant county attorney Joe Hurd did not object.

Taylor continued arraignment to April 3, on two Class 3 misdemeanor counts of intimidation by phone call, alleged Sept. 17-18, 2022.

The complaint was filed by Antelope County Attorney Joe Smith on June 12, 2023. Tauber has yet to appear in the county courtroom on the allegations. He filed a written not guilty plea in January and, according to the judge, acknowledged in writing that multiple continuances do not count against the state's responsibility to provide a speedy trial.

Meeting last week, the Antelope County Board of Commissioners made an appointment to the Extension Board.

Commissioners approved the appointment of Sheila Parks to serve a three-year term on the extension board.

That was just one of a number of actions taken by the commissioners. The meeting marked the first for newly-appointed District #5 Commissioner Casey Ditttrich. Actions taken by the commissioners included:

Report — The commissioners were presented information regarding a noise study conducted

Parks appointed to Antelope County Extension Board

Commissioners approve interlocal agreement with Knox County

on Thunderhead Wind Energy.

Agreement — An interlocal agreement with Knox County was approved on the County Line Bridge.

Permits — As part of the zoning administrator's report, a number of administrative plats were approved. They were:

- Merle Borer: 7-23-6 N2NE4 Ex Tr Cedar Township-proposed 5.49 acres
- James Meyer: 8-27-8 SW4 Garfield Township-proposed 5.583 acres

More permits — As part of the road superintendent's report, the following permits were approved:

- Barnhart Crane and Rigging – 3 oversize permits: Hwy 14-855th Road-518th Avenue
- Barnhart Crane & Rigging – 2 oversize permits: 836th Road -
- Access Permit 21-28-8 Irregular Tract in SW¼ /Yoder
- Underground Permit: 854th Road – SE¼ 24-26-6/Kallhoff & Two Rivers Irrigation
- More underground Permits: 513th Avenue (16-24-8); 852nd Road SE¼ 34-26-7; 521st Avenue 26-26-7; 525th Avenue NW¼ 27-27-6; 525th Avenue NE¼ 33-27-6; 528th Avenue SW¼18-26-5; 854th Road NW¼ 25-26-6; 527th Avenue NE¼ 26-26-6; 854th Road NE ¼ 27-26-5/Two Rivers

Elgin Easter Egg Hunt is March 23

The Elgin Community Club/ Chamber of Commerce set the date for the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

It will be held on Saturday, March 23, beginning at 11 a.m. at Elgin City Park.

There are four age divisions.

They are ages 2 & under, ages 3 & 4, ages 5 & 6 and ages 7-9. Registration will begin at 10:15 a.m. at the park.

WOLFPACK



ELGIN PUBLIC-POPE JOHN

CATCHING FIRE

TRACK
VARSITY BEGINS ON MARCH 26

GOLF
BEGINS ON APRIL 2

ELGIN PUBLIC-POPE JOHN
WOLFPACK

OTHER UPCOMING SCHOOL- & YOUTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

March 13	EPS, late start
March 14	EPS, 1 pm dismissal
March 15	St. Boniface Spring Benefit Auction
March 18	NVC Instrument Music @ Verdigre
March 20	NVC Quiz Bowl @ Wheeler Central • PJCC Speech Night
March 22	Enrichment Day @ Bartlett • Rural St. John's Fish Fry • State Speech
March 23	March for Life @ Norfolk
March 27	NECC Scholastic Contest
March 28	EPS 5th Grade Field Trip, Stuhr Museum • PJ/SB 1 p.m. dismissal
March 29	All Schools - NO SCHOOL
April 1	All Schools - NO SCHOOL
April 2	EPS - no preschool
April 3-5	State FFA Convention
April 4-5	ESU 8 Art Show
April 7	St. Boniface First Communion
April 10	NECC Quiz Bowl
April 13	ACT
April 17	Bloodmobile (EHS host)
April 20	EHS/PJCC Prom
April 22	EPS Spring HS Concert
April 23	PJCC/SB 1 p.m. Dismissal
April 26	NVC Art Show @ Rock County
April 27	N-O 5th/6th Grade Honor Band
April 28	PJCC Spring Musical

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THE BACK PAGE



Courtesy photo

Wrestlers looking sharp with new singlets courtesy of EKG

The Elgin 'Little Wolfpack' wrestling team flexes their muscles while wearing new singlets. The singlets were purchased for team members by the Elgin Ko-Ed Group, making them one of the best-looking teams on the mats when they compete. The program continues to grow with these young wrestlers, some will grow up to become leaders of the Wolfpack varsity wrestling program.

New state resident learns about Nebraska laws

An Elgin man, who had moved here from Arizona last fall, has learned about icy road conditions and Nebraska law regarding vehicle and driver's licenses.

Tyler S. Zawacky, 30, of Elgin appeared in front of the Honorable Donna Taylor in the Antelope County courtroom in Neligh on March 6 for pretrial hearing on Count I, leaving scene of property-damage accident, a Class 2 misdemeanor; Count II, no proof of financial responsibility, a Class 2 misdemeanor; and Count III, fictitious plates, a Class 3 misdemeanor.

Pursuant to a plea agreement with assistant county attorney Joe Hurd, Zawacky pleaded guilty to an amended Count II, careless driving, a Class 3 misdemeanor, and Count III, as charged. In return, Hurd dismissed Count I. Zawacky agreed to pay \$910.66 restitution to Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, for a power pole damaged in an Oct. 28, 2023, collision.

Zawacky told Taylor the careless driving charge came from sliding into the pole, due to icy road conditions, while he was on his way to work. He explained the fictitious-plate charge came from his lack of knowledge about a difference in state laws. He had moved to Nebraska last year from Arizona, where he said plates remain with a vehicle.

Taylor fined Zawacky \$100 and \$50, respectively, assessed \$50 costs and ordered restitution. She asked if he had obtained a Nebraska driver's license. When said he had not, she explained that Nebraska law requires drivers to obtain a Nebraska license within six months of becoming residents.

"But that's not part of this," she said.

Zawacky was represented by Antelope County public defender Pat Carney.

Taylor sentenced Richard C. Jelich Jr., 28, homeless (in custody) on a count of third-degree assault committed in June 2023. A 12-month term of probation was revoked after he admitted violations. He was ordered to serve 156 days in the Antelope County Jail, with credit given for 36 days previously served.

Jelich was self-represented.

Cameron J. Schindler, 19, of Neligh appeared for pretrial hearings on charges in two case - a Class 3 misdemeanor, minor in possession of alcohol, committed Oct. 7 and three

alcohol-related charges alleged Oct. 15, Count I, driving under the influence, a Class W misdemeanor; Count II, MIP; and Count III, speeding, an infraction.

Pursuant to a plea agreement, Schindler pleaded guilty to the Oct. 7 MIP charge and the Oct. 15 DUI. In return, Hurd dismissed counts II and III in the Oct. 15 case.

For the Oct. 7 MIP, Taylor sentenced him to a 30-day administrative (unsupervised) probation term, including two days in the Antelope County Jail and taxed him \$50 costs.

For the Oct. 15 DUI, he was placed on a nine-month term of probation, including payment of \$300 in fees, a \$500 fine, with credit allowed for up to \$245 paid for an alcohol evaluation, and \$150 costs. Terms of probation also include attending outpatient counseling, as recommended in evaluation, and at least one AA or NA meeting per week. Schindler was represented by Carney.

Shane Sleister, 49, of Oakdale (in custody on other allegations) faced Taylor for sentencing on an Oakdale nuisance violation, on his property at 606 Rath Street in Oakdale. The complaint was filed in February 2023 and Sleister was found guilty at a January 2024 trial.

Taylor fined Sleister \$100 and assessed \$50 costs of prosecution. Prior to the trial, village attorney Joe Smith had offered a deal after some abatement work was completed by the defendant. Smith agreed to dismiss the charge if Sleister paid \$50 court costs. Sleister did not comply and the case went to trial. He was self-represented.

Jeffrey A. Reinke, 35, of Omaha pleaded guilty, by waiver, to a charge of no operator's license, a Class 3 misdemeanor committed Jan. 1, 2018. He paid \$399 (fine/costs/restitution) as agreed in a plea bargain with Smith earlier this year and a charge of leaving the scene of a property-damage accident was dismissed.

Reinke's case stemmed from allegations he failed to report a 2018 New Year's Day accident. Reinke, driving an uninsured vehicle belonging to another Omaha individual, crashed the vehicle at the intersection of highways 20 and 13 east of Brunswick, causing damage to signs and then abandoned the damaged vehicle. In addition, his driver's license was reported suspended out of Washington state. Reinke was represented by Gregory Pivovar of Bellevue.

Annual St. Boniface Spring Benefit

AUCTION

THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 16

5:30 PM - ?? with the 1st bid starting at 5:30 PM at the Elgin KC Hall, Elgin, NE

The BAR will be open - be sure to enjoy **Sloppy Joes, Chips & Cookies/Bars** from 5:30-7?? **FREE WILL OFFERING**

AG-RELATED ITEMS, SHOP, TOOLS & MORE

Windshield Replacement; Basic Vehicle Detail; Preseason Service on Pivot*; 2 Hours of Excavator Work; Weed Killer; 2 - 2.5 Gal. Jugs of DEF®; 5 Gal 85-140 Gear Oil; 5 Gal 00 Grease; Battery Charger; 100 Preg Checks; Center Drive and Sweatshirt; Stihl® Gas Powered Trimmer; Dewalt® 20 Volt 1/4 inch Impact Wrench with Battery; Gallagher® Electric Fence Volt Meter; 40 Acres of Grid Sampling; 5 Gallons Roundup®; 5 Gallons Brush®; Neptune Pump; 1 Load Red Rock (rock and freight included); Milwaukee® Power Tool; 3 50# Bags of Lawn Fert.; 2 - 25# bags of Overtime Plus® Grass Seed; 80, 6 Bar Continuous Fence Panels40, 5x10 Portable Panels; Nano Controller; 200 Gal. Propane; \$100 Gift Certificate for Service Work; 500 Ton Manure; Red Ride On Tractor; Green Ride On Tractor; Basket of Goodies; Becks® Seed Corn 4 Bags; Cub Cadet® 357cc 3 Stage Snowblower (26" width electric start); 2-Loads of 14 Bales (each should be a little over 10 ton, delivered within 60 miles of Elgin); Full Treatment on 40 Unit Box of; Soybeans; Set of Pickup Tires; DeWalt® Impact; 200 Ton Manure; Soybean Seed Treatment, 45 Units One Season Use - Aquaspy® Moisture Probe; 2012 Easiloat 2-Box Seed Tender 7" Auger (non-scaled, electric lift and start); Bad Boy® E Series 80v Hand-Held Blower; Bad Boy® ZT Avenger 54" Kawasaki Engine; Gravely® ZT x 52" Kawasaki Engine.

GUN RAFFLE

Henry Lever Action .22 Magnum Octagon

MISC./SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

One Hour Plane Ride; Chiropractic New Patient Exam (1 adjust.+2 adj. adjust.); Parking space East of Convent; Paring space in Sister's Driveway and Golf for 2 (with carts) - 2 different courses.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS - KITCHEN, DECOR & MORE

Painting of Scenic Farm; Sketch #1; Sketch #2; New Ninja Air Fryer/Microwave; Mary & Martha Board; Box of Furnace Filters; HVAC Service Call; Glass Cabinet (with glass shelving; and sliding glass doors); 3 Carved Santas by Jim; Dolls; Religious Picture; Quilt Frame; Grilltex® Under the Grill Protective Deck and Patio Mat; PitBox PB4BGD1 4-Burner Deluxe Gas Grill (brand new in box); New Tramontina Dutch Oven; New 32" Steel Door (pre-finished white); 2 New Onyx Vanity Tops (each 73 x 22-1/2 inches); Gift Cards; Ogio Golf Bag, Golf Balls, Towel & Cooler; Basket of Products from Sengence; Kids Table and Chairs Set and Kids Kick Scooter.

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