



Remember when? Carroll's Cafe in 1941 was popular
See page 3



Wolfpack boys/girls all-NVC team selections
See page 11

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The Elgin Review

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In Brief

ESU 8 K-12 art show date announced

To be held at fairgrounds in Neligh.
The 2026 ESU 8 K-12 Art Show will be held at the Antelope County Youth Enrichment Building in Neligh.
K-12 student artwork will be displayed from Antelope, Boyd, Holt, Madison, Pierce, Stanton, and Wheeler Counties, all served by ESU 8. The show will be open to the public for viewing from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day starting Friday, April 10, through Sunday, April 12. The show will represent approximately 30 schools and over 5,500 students in the seven-county area. There is no fee to enjoy the Art, and everyone is welcome!
Please park in Riverside Park. Accessible parking is available through the fairgrounds entrance.
Please contact Steph Lundgren, ESU 8 Art Consultant with any questions or concerns at stephanie.lundgren@esu8ne.org or 402-887-5041 Ext. 1231.

Public Notices

Public notices in this week's newspaper include:
Notice of Special Meeting — District #18 Board of Education
Notice of Election — Antelope County Water Report — The City of Elgin
Notice to Bidders — Antelope County Board of Commissioners
Notice of Annual Meeting — Park Cemetery Board
Notice of Organization — Hammock Repair, L.L.C.
The Elgin Review is the official legal newspaper for Antelope County, Antelope County Historical Society, Village of Bartlett, Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District, the State of Nebraska, the City of Elgin and Elgin School District #18.

Weather

The high temperature last week was 95 degrees recorded on Saturday March 21.
The low temperature during the same period was 02 degrees recorded on Sunday, March 15. Altogether, 0.30 of an inch of 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 15	23	02	.30
March 16	21	03	.00
March 17	46	14	.00
March 18	73	36	.00
March 19	83	36	.00
March 20	83	49	.00
March 21	95	34	.00
Total for last week			0.30
Total for March			0.59
Total precipitation 2026			0.98



Half a world away, Elgin's generosity touches many

This is a colossal thank you to Elgin and vicinity residents, businesses, churches, and others for helping to catapult a fledgling Kenyan school, some 8,000 miles away, into a resounding success.
It all started in early 2024 with a phone call to Rick and Jane Schuchardt, rural Elgin organic farmers, from East Coast friends Ed and Suzanne Koucheravy with a request. Would we host a young, energetic man from Kisumu, Kenya wanting to learn environmentally friendly, sustainable, small-scale food production practices?
Engaging in a jam-packed schedule of hands-on learning and fun, Elly Opondo along with the Koucheravys, were in rural Elgin for an extended stay in September of 2024. That's when the magic of generosity with sustainable benefit began.

Inspired by his elderly 'mum', who was feeding hungry children from a large pot over an open fire in her backyard about five years ago, Opondo started a school and feeding program primarily for the Luo Tribe (one of some 45 ethnic communities in Kenya). The St. Jerome Emiliano Preparatory School, which provides pre-primary and early primary education, is part of the St. Jerome Emiliano Centre, a community-serving project also offering basic health care and adult education.
Today, the school serves about 270 young children who trudge through dusty, rocky terrain that turns into slippery slopes during the March torrential rainy season.

Many come from squalor huts with floors and reinforced walls of dirt and a tin roof over their heads. Water is carried from a murky lake in clumsy containers on the backs of children or donkeys, sometimes strapped to beat-up motorcycles.
Thanks to the Elgin Public Library which purged its holdings to make room for the new, hundreds of children's books were donated. The children, most of whom are trilingual (English, Swahili, and native tongue) now have a library with shelves and a check-out system.

Thanks to Elgin's Sandi Henn and Bethany Miller, who both sell chicken



Elly Opondo (l) welcomed Jane and Rick Schuchardt to the St. Jerome Emiliano Preparatory School near Kisumu, Kenya last March.

eggs locally, the school now produces nearly all of its eggs as a valuable protein source for the children. Previously, all eggs were purchased with donations, definitely not a sustainable practice for the long haul.

For some little ones, the school lunch program is the only substantial meal they get each day. On weekends, there is a backpack program to send children in need home with a loaf of bread made at a new bakery at the school.

Thanks to knowledge gained from Nebraska Extension, the chicken manure goes on the new tiered gardens used to grow fresh vegetables such as cabbage and kale. Ugali, a thick cornmeal porridge, is a staple there and provided at most every meal as well.

Though near Lake Victoria, water was desperately needed at the school for drinking, cooking, and hygiene. Thanks to the faith community at Immanuel Zion Lutheran Church (IZ), rural Albion, Opondo used donated funds to purchase and install a rainwater catchment system and giant storage tanks. A well project is in process to bring fresh water to the school and community as a supplement to rainwater.

Thanks to training by Linda Kerkman, Elgin, who is a whiz at creating sturdy, absorbent diapers from castoff cotton tee-shirts, IZ made 180 diapers as part of a "God's Work, Our Hands" effort. Kerkman also provided a how-to video so students could learn to sew by making diapers. Several vintage Singer sewing machines came to the school from another donor.

How do books and diapers get shipped to Kenya? Thanks to the Elgin Bargain Box for a grant to cover some of the postage and the Elgin Post Office

for expert assistance getting the boxes to their destination.

The Bargain Box also donated clothes and school supplies that Opondo hand-carried via air travel back to his homeland.

This is not a complete list of all the welcoming support this community extended to Opondo during his visit. In March of 2025, the Schuchardts and Koucheravys traveled to the school and experienced life in a Luo community firsthand, as guests, not tourists. This March, Opondo met with them via WhatsApp video chat to give an update.

In addition to Elgin and vicinity contributions, the Koucheravys' received kudos for seed funding for an indoor food preparation facility and another building. The latter is awaiting furnishings so children can enjoy their school lunch seated under cover from the scorching sun and, in season, the pouring rain. Previously the food was cooked outside over an open fire, children ate standing up or perched on rocks, and tableware was washed in pots on the ground.

During the March 2025 visit, Suzanne Koucheravy, a scoliosis therapy expert, gave a powerful presentation to health professionals on causes and mitigation. The St. Jerome Emiliano Preparatory School also includes a health facility designed by a Catholic nun. People of all ages, primarily suffering from malaria and respiratory issues, come from miles around for care.

Bubbling over with excitement and sporting a broad smile, Opondo asked that the people of Elgin and vicinity be sincerely thanked. These Kenyan children have a bright future as a result to your generosity.

Stuhr, Donaldson chosen to attend 84th Girls State

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Department of Nebraska announced the 84th session of Cornhusker Girls State will be held May 31 thru June 6 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln City Campus.

Chosen to attend this year are Samantha Stuhr, Pope John XXIII Central Catholic (PJCC). She is the daughter of Stephanie and Scott Stuhr. Alternate will be Braelyn Martinsen of Elgin Public School (EPS). She is the daughter of Jamie and Chad Martinsen of Elgin.

Chosen to represent EPS at Girls State was Kyla Donaldson. She is the daughter of Diann and Dan Donaldson. Alternate will be Dannyka Smidt of EPS. She is the daughter of Jennifer Donaldson of Neligh.

As stated by Vicki Ozenbaugh, the 2026 Girls State Chairman, for nearly 100 years the ALA has been dedicated to helping young women understand the privilege we call the American Dream by developing core values of good citizenship and civic responsibility. "At Girls State, young women learn how government works while developing leadership skills and an appreciation for their rights as citizens," she said.

This year a maximum of 350 delegates will be accepted to attend. This year's application fee of \$450 for each delegate has been funded by ALA Elgin Unit #229 and the Elgin Community Club. With sincere appreciation Unit #229 extends a heartfelt thank you for the generosity of the ECC who has helped us, for many years, send two delegates from our schools in Elgin, pursuant to the number of applications received by our Elgin Unit, according to Jan F. Henn (Denis), girls state chairperson for Unit #229. Selection as a delegate to Girls State is one of the highest honors conferred on a high school student.



Samantha Stuhr



Kyla Donaldson



Dannyka Smidt



Braelyn Martinsen



Photos submitted

The children at the St. Jerome Emiliano Preparatory School near Kisumu, Kenya savor a cool, refreshing slurp of rainwater.

Elgin 'egg hunt' is this Saturday

The Elgin Community Club/Chamber of Commerce will again be hosting an Easter Hunt.

The event will be held this Saturday, March 28, at Elgin City Park (weather permitting). Providing Easter eggs filled with candy are club members and others throughout the community. Organizer for this year's event is Kim Schrage.

The egg hunt is for children nine years of age and younger, just as it has been in past years. The age groups are 0-2, 3-4, 5-6 and 7-9.

Participants need to register at the south picnic shelter prior to the start of the egg hunt which will begin at 11 a.m. sharp.

School board special meeting to be Thursday

The District #18 Board of Education will hold a special meeting this week.

Superintendent Mike Brockhaus announced Monday that the special meeting will be held Thursday evening, March 26, beginning at 6 p.m. in the EPS board room.

There is just one item on the action agenda - discuss and take all necessary action to release fifth grade teacher Melissa Buller from the 2026-2027 teaching contract.

Also on the agenda will be discussion of plans moving forward. The meeting is open to the public.

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Great Plains State Bank, Elgin Review support Wolfpack sports

Great Plains State Bank and The Elgin Review newspaper this year sponsored \$3 for every three-pointer made by the Wolfpack boys and girls varsity basketball teams. Altogether, 258 three-point baskets were made during the season. The check presentation, made Friday involved (l-r) EPPJ Boys Coach Matt Euse, ER co-publisher Dennis Morgan, Todd Heithoff CCP at GPSB and Wolfpack Girls Coach Randy Eisenhauer. *E-R photo/LMorgan*

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

Shop at Home!

FFA STUDENT of the MONTH

Libby Evans

Libby Evans is the FFA member of the month! Libby is the daughter of Brian and Abby Evans of Elgin, NE.

Libby has been a FFA member since her 8th grade year. She has participated in numerous FFA activities and contests over the past four years, including the Agriscience Fair, Range and Livestock Judging, Jr. Public Speaking, Cooperative Speaking, Chapter Officer Leadership Training, and numerous community service activities, and has been invited to the Nebraska FFA Agricultural Issues Academy twice. Libby currently serves as the local Chapter Parliamentarian, where she is a valued chapter officer for the Elgin FFA members.

Highlighting her Junior year, Libby has helped qualify Elgin FFA's Food Science team to their first ever state competition. Her and her team were the District X Runner-Ups, and Libby herself was the 3rd overall individual out of nearly 100 contestants! Moreover, Libby qualified for State FFA with her team member, Gemma Miller, in the Agriscience Fair (Food Science Division 6). Thank you, Libby, for your continued commitment to Elgin FFA!

Good Luck at State FFA!

To Elgin's first responders: thank you for all that you do.

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Everything IS bound together

A beautiful thing about the Catholic faith is its interconnectedness. The Church's truths, beauties and mysteries are so tightly woven together that they cannot be separated or undone. Everything is bound together and makes sense – with no contradictions in logic. Someone I used to work with, a fallen-away Catholic, once said that although he didn't always agree with the Church,

at least it was consistent. Lately, I've noticed that Catholic interconnectedness in a personal way. First I came across something that St. Thérèse of Lisieux (1873-1897) wrote to her sister Celine about Jesus: "Let us love Him, then, unto folly; let us save souls for Him. ... I feel that Jesus is asking both of us to quench His thirst by giving Him souls. ... We are

so insignificant, and yet Jesus wills that the salvation of souls depends on the sacrifices of our love. He is begging souls from us. ... There is only one thing to do during the night, the one night of life which will come only once, and this is to love, to love Jesus with all the strength of our heart and to save souls for Him so that He may be loved. Oh, make Jesus loved!" I didn't immediately connect

the dots, but later I thought about another saint and religious sister, St. Maria Faustina Kowalska, a mystic who lived from 1905-1938. Jesus appeared to St. Faustina, who wrote down His messages about Divine Mercy in her Diary. Part of those messages urges people to pray a Chaplet of Divine Mercy Novena, a set of prayers to be said over nine days, that brings souls to Jesus. Each day brings a different

group of people to the Lord: all mankind, especially sinners; the souls of priests and religious; all devout and faithful souls; those who do not believe in God and those who do not yet know Jesus; the souls who have separated themselves from the Church; the meek and humble souls and the souls of little children; the souls who especially venerate and glorify His mercy; the souls detained in purgatory; and souls who have become lukewarm. "I desire that during these nine days you bring souls to the fountain of My mercy," Jesus said to St. Faustina, "that they may draw therefrom strength and refreshment and whatever grace they have need of in the hardships of life, and especially at the hour of death" (Diary, 1209). Traditionally, this novena begins on Good Friday and culminates with the celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday on the Second Sunday of Easter. But I think Jesus has been telling me to bring Him souls all the time – through prayer and whatever other means possible – to quench His thirst, which St. Thérèse, St. Faustina and other saints have faithfully tried to satiate. I might not be able to convert anyone through my own efforts, but I can give souls to Jesus through prayer. I invite everyone to join me, by investigating the Divine Mercy message and praying the Divine Mercy Novena beginning on Good Friday, April 3. But don't limit yourself to praying the novena once a year. Pray it often, every day. Bring Jesus a steady stream of souls to quench His thirst. "Let us love Him, then, unto folly; let us save souls for Him. ... Oh, make Jesus loved!"



Elgin Columnist Susan Szalewski

Looking Back

Sixty Years Ago

March 31, 1966

Last Saturday, the Elgin Public Grade School, under the tutelage of Mrs. Bessie Hawks, won its fifth consecutive year as grand champion in the Antelope County Spelling Contest. This was the third time in which Mrs. Hawks' pupils have won both oral and written divisions of the contest. Arlene Robertson is grand champion and Rose Ann Wilkinson won the oral contest.

This community was lucky Monday noon that services of the local fire department was not needed. WE RAN OUT OF WATER! The problem was soon corrected and gradually the water pressure began to climb back to normal. The reason for the difficulty apparently was due to a flicker in the electrical current that occurred at the precise time the village water pump went on and the breaker switch cut off the electricity.

Numerous "thankful" tales of having been isolated in the cars and trucks during the severe blizzard March 22 have been related by residents of this area. All were thankful they did not suffer the fate of over 20 Nebraskans in losing their life in the storm. Rural residents were without electricity for 36 hours which cause considerable inconvenience water-wise, grinding feed and in milking cows besides attempting to heat homes and in cooking. The electricity went off at 2:15 p.m. Tuesday and came on again between 2-3 am Thursday morning. Some REA lines were off longer, according to reports. Mail in Elgin did not arrive that Wednesday until 3 pm. John Moser was stuck north east of Schuyler in his truck while returning from Omaha from 7 p.m. Tuesday until 10 a.m. Wednesday morning as were numerous other trucks. Al Koskovich and three other people were stuck between Elgin and Petersburg all of Tuesday night during the storm. The Ray Seiers and some friends were forced to stay at Loretto due to impassable roads and their children were home without electricity.

Fifty Years Ago

March 31, 1976

Nearly 800 persons registered Tuesday evening, March 25 at the K. of C. Hall for the Moose meat barbecue luncheon put on by the Henry Wilgocki Insurance Agency. The lunch included all the trimmings besides the Moose meat sandwiches. This is an annual feed put on by the agency for their customers.

Steve Heithoff of the Elgin FFA Chapter has been named North-east Area Star Agribusinessman. Steve, along with three other Area Star Agribusinessmen from across the state, will be honored April 2 at the "Stars Over Nebraska" pageant at the state fair grounds. They will be honored for their outstanding accomplishments. Steve is a senior at Elgin High School and is employed by Bennet Impl., Inc. where he has received his Agribusiness training. He is currently serving as local FFA Chapter president. He plans a career in business management and has received many awards for his work in agriculture. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Heithoff.

Thirty Years Ago

March 27, 1996

Heath Uhrenholdt of Elgin Public School and Jeff Moser of Pope John have been chosen as Elgin's representatives to Cornhusker Boys State this summer. Megan Dvorak of Pope John Central Catholic and Sara Ochsner of Elgin High School have been named Elgin's representatives to Cornhusker Girls State this year.

Alicia Dwyer of rural Bartlett was one of 135 Creighton University students who spent their recent spring break helping with community service projects at various locations across the nation. Alicia, daughter of Mike and Mary Alice Dwyer of rural Bartlett, was among 10 students who traveled for 12 hours to Elkton, KY. While there, they helped to paint and remodel the Interfaith Community Center. They also spent time visiting the elderly in their homes and in the nursing home, had dinner at the Senior Citizens Center, tutored students at the area high school and visited with an Amish woman. Alicia, a freshman at Creighton University, is a 1995 graduate of Pope John Central Catholic High School in Elgin.

Twenty Years Ago

March 22, 2006

After a mild winter, a major storm in the first days of spring marked a big change for the Elgin area this week. A total of 22

See BACK, Page 6 ▶

PJCC speech team claims second at D2-1 district meet

Every year, speech coaches Amy Klein and Chris Grundmayer begin the season with the goal of a successful year, a fun experience, and possibly a trip to the state tournament.

Not on the checklist for the Pope John team this year was a district assignment three hours away from home, a freak snowstorm, and spending two nights before the contest in a hotel in Lincoln. But that's what went down, and they took it all in stride.

Because of a clause in the NSAA rules, any teams that place first through sixth at the state tournament the previous year may not be assigned to the same district.

Four of those teams just happen to be in the Niobrara Valley Conference, making our district assignments more diverse.

Because Pope John was sixth, the team was assigned to a southern "triple-district" that was being held at Raymond Central High School. Three districts (B-4/D1-1/D2-1) were run consecutively, sharing judges.

The Crusaders made the most of the day, showing up and speaking their best. There was a lot of celebration, some tears, and many memories made.

The team brought home the District D2-1 Runner-Up trophy and 11 event medals, and qualified five events for the state tournament.

Aiden Klein was the champion entertainment speaker! He qualified for State in three events: entertainment, OID with Brooke Kinney, Camry Kittleson, Matthew Kerkman, and Tessa Barlow, and also in duet acting with Brooke Kinney.

The OID placed second, and the duet placed third. Jovie Borer is a state qualifier in persuasive speaking, placing second. Jovie also placed fifth in POI.

Lillian Moser qualified for State in poetry, earning the second-place medal.

Also earning medals at districts were Reese Stuhr, placing fourth in serious prose, Raaf Klein, placing fifth in serious prose, and Matthew Kerkman and Christian Preister, placing fifth in duet acting.

Kinley Druke received the sixth-place medal for humorous prose, as did Tessa Barlow for entertainment speaking.

Receiving superior ratings were Harlie Tyler in poetry and informative speaking, Lillian Moser in Informative speaking, and Christian Preister in humorous prose.

The team will take off at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 27, for Kearney.

The NSAA State Speech competition begins at 8:30 am on Saturday, March 28.

Article submitted



Remember when?

Carroll's Cafe in Elgin was a popular destination in 1941

The above photo was taken on July 18, 1941 at Carroll's Cafe in Elgin. Just less than five months before the start of World War Two. From the archives of *The Elgin Review*, the photo shows (l to r) Wilma & Helen Schmitt, Regina Hoefler and Bernie Martin behind the counter. According to wording on the back of the photo which was sent to Margie Baum by Regina Hoefler, "We waited on customers and helped in the kitchen. If we got a nickle tip we were happy!" The large poster on the wall is for Coca-Cola.

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ATTENTION CHEMIGATORS!!

RENEWAL CHEMIGATION FORMS HAVE BEEN MAILED OUT! DEADLINE FOR CHEMIGATION APPLICATIONS IS JUNE 1, 2026!

Elkhorn NRD, have been mailed out for sites that were permitted for Chemigation in 2025. Please don't wait until the last minute to turn in your 2026 forms. The deadline for renewal Chemigation applications is June 1! Anyone wishing to run fertilizer/chemicals through their center pivot irrigation system will need to submit an application for Chemigation to the Natural Resources District. Renewal applications will cost \$30; New applications will cost \$100 per site and must be approved by NRD personnel before any Chemigation activity; and, Emergency applications will cost \$250. Chemigation forms are available at the Upper Elkhorn NRD office and NRCS Office in Neligh or online at www.uenrd.org. Online forms may be filled out online, printed and returned to the NRD office with the appropriate fee. Remember, it is the responsibility of each chemigator to maintain and permit each Chemigation site on an annual basis.

For further information or questions, please contact the **Upper Elkhorn** Natural Resources District
Upper Elkhorn NRD (402) 336-3867.

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Opinion

READ, REFLECT, RESPOND.

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

Edward R. Murrow

Wildfires getting worse, fueled by dry winters, high winds

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

If you're like me, you were sickened to read about the wildfires running amok across sections of Nebraska in mid March.

Thousands and thousands of acres, as far as the eye could see in areas of the Sandhills, in bluffs and hills south-east of North Platte and south of Kilgore, and (once again) in areas near the Nebraska National Forest in Halsey.

As I write this, more than 800,000 acres have burned, according to the Nebraska Public Media.

That's pasture that could feed hundreds of thousands of cattle.

Who knows how many miles of fencing was destroyed.

One elderly woman died trying to escape the flames near Arthur.

An awful tragedy.

The fires made national news – the kind of national news we don't want to make.

But wildfires are becoming more and more common in Nebraska, according to the 2024 update from the Nebraska Climate Assessment.

It's especially problematic when conditions are as dry as they were in western and central sections of the state this winter, and when winds were gusting as high as 70 mph.

Not only are big, costly wildfires becoming more common, so are extreme winds. (The higher price of your homeowners insurance can tell you that.)

The recent wildfires quickly set a record as the worst in state history and it didn't take long.

They eclipsed 2012, when 500,000 acres of Nebraska was scorched, and 2020, when 250,000 acres were burned, including large areas of the Halsey forest.

I've seen close up what fires can do. Me and some buddies used to travel to the Pine Ridge every spring to chase turkeys (we weren't the best at actually bagging one) and to camp amid some beautiful, thick pine forests.

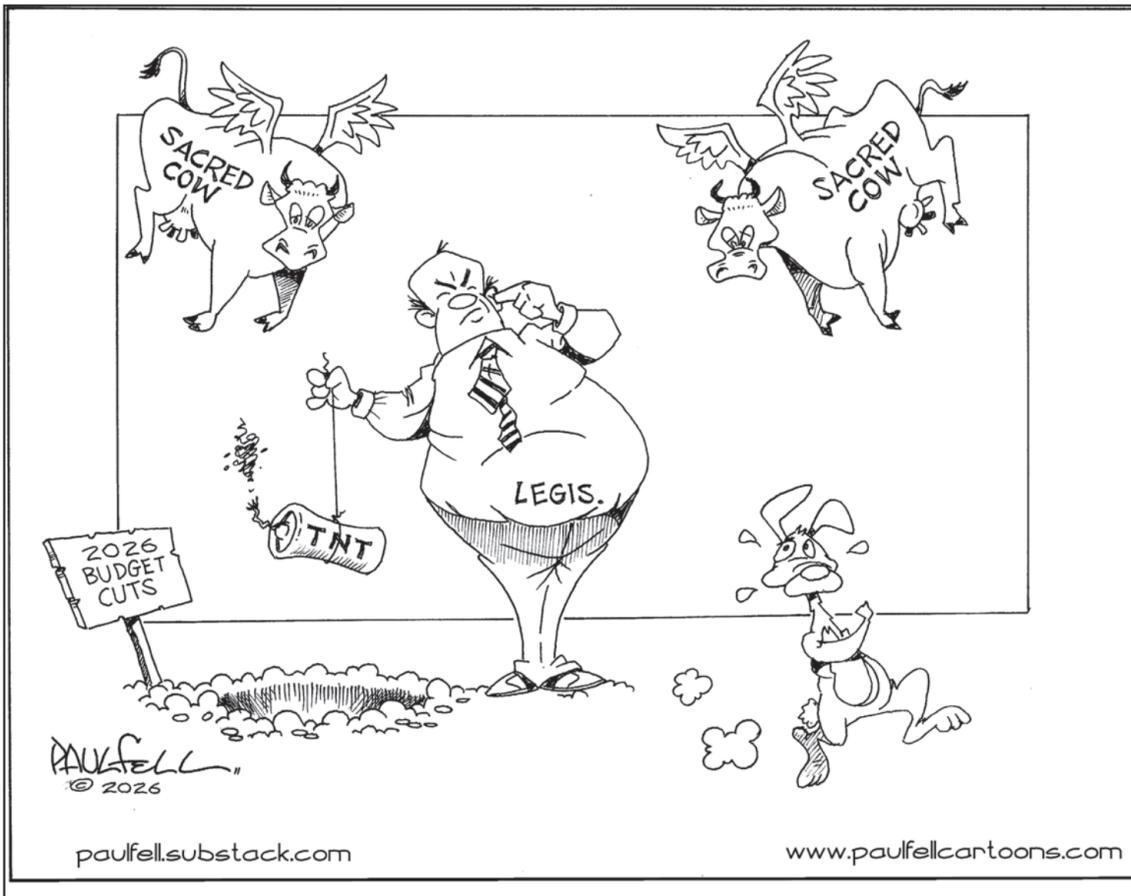
One year, half of the area we used to hunt was burned to ash; the next year, the other half burned.

I covered wildfires that threatened to burn into Valentine, and another

ALL THINGS NEBRASKA



State Correspondent Paul Hammel



that came within a half mile or so of the Chadron State College campus. Heroic firefighting, luckily, stopped the fires.

No area of the state is immune. In April of 2022, a wildfire propelled by 60 mph winds burned across 10 miles of harvested fields in eastern Nebraska near where our family farm is located.

Flames outraced fire crews. Two homes were burned to the ground.

One takeaway: You don't need forests of trees or fields of tall grasses to fuel a wildfire.

The data being collected by the State Climate Office and others doesn't lie – Nebraska's climate has been getting hotter, and getting hotter more rapidly than normal.

Precipitation events are more streaky, coming in buckets when it comes instead of showers. Winters have less snow.

And when it doesn't rain, things dry

up more quickly due to high winds, especially in March and April, our windiest months.

"Nebraska faces rising risks from more frequent and intense extreme weather," predicted the 2024 climate report, led by the Nebraska State Climate Office at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

That same report anticipated that, if trends continue, Nebraska's weather would be more like Oklahoma's by 2050.

That means warmer winters, and warmer summer nights. But it also means implications for growing crops. So what are we to do?

It's hard to stop wildfires from happening.

Burn piles can reignite (as in that fire near our farm), dry lightning can strike, a careless cigarette can smolder and a strong wind can knock down a power pole, sparking a blaze (the apparent cause of the massive Mor-

rill Fire, which blackened more than 600,000 acres recently).

Controlled burns (which may have caused one of the recent fires) need to be carefully monitored, and when it's dry, burn bans need to be heeded. More resilient power poles can be used.

Thinning forests and removing brush and dead timber can help, too. So can rain.

Let's hope those burn areas get some moisture, so those areas can rebound and so Nebraska can stay out of the national news.

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

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

Working families tax cuts support farmers and ranchers

Agriculture is the heart and soul of what we do in Nebraska. Family farms and ranches are the backbone of our communities. But times in farm country are tough. High input costs and low commodity prices are keeping our farmers up at night. That's why I'm fighting to keep more money in the pockets of Nebraska farmers and ranchers.

The Farm Bureau reports Nebraska farm bankruptcies were up 29% last year. But this statistic doesn't tell the whole story. For Nebraskans, agriculture is a proud generational business. Our farms and ranches are passed down through families who have poured blood, sweat, and tears into their ground and livestock. Many would rather leave the agriculture industry altogether than give their operations up through bankruptcy.

In Nebraska, I have heard directly from farmers and ranchers about policies needed to support farm country. Last month, I hosted an ag roundtable with Representative Adrian Smith in Hastings. This week, I will host another in West Point with Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman, Senator John Boozman of Arkansas.

Having Chairman Boozman in our state to celebrate

Nebraska ag is important for our farmers. Chairman Boozman and I will share our work on the Farm Bill, renewable fuels, and how the Working Families Tax Cuts will strengthen Nebraskans.

It gives us a chance to discuss policies that strengthen Nebraska agriculture.

The Senate is working hard on the Farm Bill, and Chairman Boozman is leading this effort. The House Agriculture Committee just passed their bipartisan Farm Bill out of committee last week. It includes Nebraska priorities that will strengthen the agriculture industry. It expands investment in rural communities, restores regulatory certainty, and strengthens risk management tools.

Among these other policies, Chairman Boozman and I will keep fighting for year-round E15.

During these meetings, I am also sharing how the Working Families Tax Cuts will benefit Nebraska ag families. CBS reports average tax refunds will increase by \$1,000 this year, thanks to the Working Families Tax Cuts. That is a house payment! Or that's money that Nebraskans can put towards groceries and utilities.

The Working Families Tax Cuts helps Nebraska producers grow and reinvest. Full expensing is now permanent for property like tractors and other heavy machinery. A corn grower in Custer County will be able to fully write off a new, more efficient combine. Another provision in the bill boosts expensing for tools and equipment. This helps small businesses from welders to seed dealers invest and improve productivity.

Nebraska is a biofuels state. Nebraska is second in the nation for ethanol production. We have 25 ethanol plants that employ over 1,300 Nebraskans. The Working Families Tax Cuts unleashes Nebraska's power to fuel the world. Senate Republicans extended the 45Z clean fuel credit to ag and ethanol producers. This credit raises demand for agricultural feedstocks. The 45Z credit will support domestic biofuel production. In turn, that means more investment and better prices for farmers.

The Working Families Tax Cuts supports the next generation of ag leaders. Whether taking over the family business or starting their own oper-

WASHINGTON REPORT



U.S. Senator

Pete Ricketts

Reluctance to grant new fee authorizations

This past week, the Agriculture Committee held a second hearing on my bill, LB1187, to discuss amendment

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



District 40 Senator Barry DeKay

AM2503. I introduced LB1187 to provide an option to allow the Brand Committee to adjust its inspection fee to help them manage a difficult budget situation. Several factors, including the closure of the Tyson plant in Lexington earlier this year, risk depleting the Brand Committee's cash fund. After the bill's first hearing, it became clear in committee discussions that there was

See DeKAY, Page 6 ▶

Tested by crisis, defined by resilience

Over the past week, smoke has filled the skies across central and western Nebraska as wildfires have torn through more than 826,000 acres—destroying homes, infrastructure, and forcing families to evacuate with little notice.

This is the worst wildfire crisis Nebraska has ever experienced and for many families the hardship is far from over.

I recently had the opportunity to visit affected areas and meet with local officials, first responders, and Nebraskans who have been directly impacted. What I saw was sobering.

The scale of destruction is immense, with entire pastures lost, fences destroyed, and livelihoods threatened. Agriculture is not just our leading industry; it is a way of life for so many across our state.

And right now, that way of life is under real strain.

Agriculture is the backbone of Nebraska, but more than that, it is a legacy passed down through generations. Right now, that legacy is being tested. For generations, Nebraskans have

faced adversity head-on. Harsh winters, droughts, and economic uncertainty have all left their mark, but they have never defined us. What has defined us is how we respond: with grit, faith, and a willingness to show up for one another.

That spirit is evident across our state today.

Volunteer firefighters and first responders are working around the clock, putting themselves in harm's way to protect lives and property.

Neighbors are helping neighbors move livestock to safety. Communities untouched by the fires are stepping up, sending supplies, offering support, and lifting up those affected in prayer.

While this crisis is ongoing, it is critical that those impacted have access to the resources they need.

If you have been affected, I strongly encourage you to document your losses as soon as it is safe to do so. Federal disaster assistance programs are available, and my office stands ready to help connect you with the support you are eligible for.

The road ahead will not be easy,

especially as this crisis goes on.

Recovery will take time, and many families will continue to face difficult decisions in the months ahead, especially as we head into the summer grazing season with significant losses already sustained.

But we will get through this. We always do.

To every Nebraskan impacted by these fires: you are not alone.

You have the full support of your federal delegation and continue working to ensure you have the resources needed to rebuild.

We've faced tough times before and we have always come through them stronger, together. I have no doubt we will do so again, because that is who we are as Nebraskans.

FROM THE HILL



Congressman Adrian Smith

Numbers to Know

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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*Source: U.S. News & World Report

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From JoAnn Baum's Kitchen

Rice Pudding



Good day, This week's recipe is an all time family favorite. Ted said his grandma and his mom made this a lot when they were growing

up. I think you should double the recipe when you do make it. You are going to love this one. You can serve it as a dessert or a side dish. My mom made it and we had it for a morning breakfast food. I like it best when it's warm. Ted just loves either way. Let the kids decide if they like it. You can leave out the raisins if you need to. Give it a try! Yummy!

JoAnn

RICE PUDDING

2/3 cup Minute Rice®
2-3/4 cup milk
1/3 cup sugar
1 Tbls butter
1/2 tsp salt

1/2 tsp vanilla
1/4 tsp nutmeg
Cinnamon
1 cup raisins

Combine rice, milk, sugar, butter, salt, nutmeg, vanilla, and raisins. Pour into a 1 quart baking dish. Bake in a 350° oven for 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes and again when pudding is done. Sprinkle with cinnamon when done cooking. Serve it warm or chilled.

Ricketts

◀ FROM Page 4

ation, we encourage young Nebraskans to enter the ag industry. That's why we strengthened the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Benefit. We extended its coverage from five years to ten years. That gives new producers access to critical risk management tools for longer.

We also expanded and made permanent the Death Tax exemption. 80% of Nebraska farms are family owned. They should stay that way. By making the death tax exemption permanent, we're given family-owned farms and ranches more certainty. Now, \$200 billion in hard-earned family farm assets across the country will go to the next generation, not the government.

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The Elgin Review

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The men who signed the Declaration of Independence

Editor's note: This week marks the second installment of a new series tied to our nation's 250th birthday in July 2026. As time draws near to Celebrate 250 years of Independence, it seems appropriate to review the Declaration of Independence and to explore the background of those who created and signed the most important document in our country's history. It is written by Caroline Epp of Giltner, Nebraska.

George Clymer (1739-1813) must have been a popular name in that era! Six Signers shared the name plus George Washington. Three were from Pennsylvania. George Clymer, one of them, had difficult beginnings, being orphaned as a young child. Fortunately, his mother's sister and husband took him as a son. He did not receive formal education, yet taught to read, the world opened to him, even to becoming one of six Founders who signed both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution! Through a commerce apprenticeship to his uncle, mathematics was accomplished.

For religion, George was raised by Quakers but did not hold tight to their traditions. He did hold high moral values which came from religious beliefs of that day. He even wanted to shy from mercantile business knowing how easily wealth could corrupt one's morals. Since that was the only line of work he grew up in, he remained a merchant.

Being in the field of commerce, Clymer began to experience differences with England before the general public. George became set in the republican thought, so when the Stamp Act arose, he was a staunch supporter of separation from England. When local militia was forming around 1774, he took command of a volunteer corps which belonged to General Cadwallader's brigade. He was heavily involved with public meetings centering on issues with the British which lent himself to heading the Committee of Vigilance in Philadelphia plus on the first Council of Safety and appointed by Congress as one of the Continental Treasurers. He was brought in later, along with Dr. Rush, to the Continental Congress when several were not willing to sign the Declaration of Independence.

When the Revolution broke out, Clymer played a huge role in supplying food and basic needs to the army. He was willing to go to the battlefield when others refused, to learn first-hand of their needs. He started a bank to raise private money, supplying the army when times were desperate. George even traded his gold and silver for the Continental paper money, which some deemed worthless, to buy supplies. His family also endured their home being ransacked by the British due to his direct involvement in the Declaration of Independence. His wife and children had to flee and hide in the forest.

Clymer played a key role in Pennsylvania being the second state to ratify the Constitution. He served the very first term of the House of Representatives in Congress. He must have developed bargaining skills being a merchant because he was sent to negotiate treaties with Indians and to collect excise tax from a strong opposition of whiskey makers in western Pennsylvania. It did involve a large group of military sent by President Washington to defuse the rebellion. He was also sent to southern states to encourage their financial help against the costs of the Revolution.

It is hard to understand how a man gave so much of his life and finances to our country, raising a family of 5 children, plus running a business, but he did. Those weren't days when you just turned up the thermostat for heat and ran to the grocery store for food. The stories of the Founders may blur together in our minds, but these were men who had an understanding beyond what we have today of what it means to stand for principle; for freedom no matter what it took.

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How is your faith? Could it use a boost?
Attending church services has so many benefits...spiritual growth, community connections, and - believe it or not - positive health outcomes. Regular church attendance can also give you opportunities for personal development, service, and a deepening your faith. If your faith could use a booster shot, attend a service of your choice.

Thy Will Be Done, Lord!

BILLY PASCO

Jesus acted in accordance to the Psalmist's truth.
Jesus trusted in God.
Because we do not control the span of our years, we will do well to do likewise.
May you find that peace this week in church.

My times are in your hand. Psalm 139:16
Isaiah 50:4-9a Philippians 2:1-5 Matthew 31:14-27:66
Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts for
Sunday, March 29, 2026
Passion/Palm Sunday

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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Fr. Frank Baumert, Associate Pastor
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Weekend Mass: Sunday, 10 am.
cppnebraska.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

St. John's Catholic Church
Rural Clearwater, NE
Fr. John Norman, Pastor
Fr. Frank Baumert, Associate Pastor
Weekend Mass: 1st, 3rd & 5th Saturday, 5:30 am.
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St. Paul Lutheran Church
Chambers, NE
Pastor Leif Hasskall
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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(facility is handicap accessible plus Facebook Live and broadcasts on cable channel 65, Tuesday at 10:30 am.)

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Seniors Kyndal and Kayton with coaches Jessie Reestman and Stacy Shumake-Henn



Kyla Donaldson and Dannyka Smidt



Kierstyn Eisenhauer and Kayton Zwingman



Elgin Public School SPEECH NIGHT 2026

Last Thursday, members of the Elgin High School Speech Team presented their talents before the general public.

The team is coached by Stacy Shumake-Henn and Jessie Reestman.

E-R photos/DMorgan



Sydney Niewohner



Sophia Burke



Zoey Buechter



OID team of (l-r) Sydney Niewohner, Kynlee Tillis, John Zwingman, Braedon Hinkle and Sophia Burke



Braedon Hinkle



OID team of (l-r) Dannyka Smidt, Kyla Donaldson, Kierstyn Eisenhauer, Gentry Zwingman and Kayton Zwingman



E-R photo/KSchindler

Three advance to State Free Throw Contest

The Knights of Columbus Regional Free Throw contest was held Saturday, March 21st in Albion. Four of Elgin's shooters medaled. They are (l-r): Mark Schindler, 11 year old boy-runner up; Reid Kiely, 12 year old boy-1st; Judd Schindler, 9 year old boy-1st and Chloe Kiely, 14 year girl-1st. First place winners will advance to the KC's State Free Throw contest to be next month in Grand Island.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

DISTRICT #18 BOARD OF EDUCATION
NOTICE OF MEETING
DISTRICT #18 BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 26, 2026

Special Board Meeting Thursday March 26, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the EPS Board Room.

Tentative Agenda for the March 26, 2026 Special Board Meeting:
Agenda Items
Open Meeting
Roll Call of Members
Pledge of Allegiance
Announce Posting of Open Meetings Law

Consent Agenda
Minutes of Previous Meeting
Adopt the Agenda
Recognize Visitors
Action Items
Discuss and take all necessary action to release Mrs. Buller from the 2026-2027 teaching contract
Discussion Items
Plans moving forward
Set next regular meeting
Adjourn

PUBLISH: March 25, 2026
ZNEZ

ECCC to host special communion supper

The Elgin Community Christian Church will be hosting a special communion supper, Thursday evening, April 2 at 6:30 p.m. According to Pastor Jonathan Braden the focus will be the meaning of the Jewish passover and how it translates into today's version of communion in the church. A special meal will be served for all who attend!



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DeKay

◀ FROM Page 4

reluctance to grant any new fee authority to the Brand Committee without broader reforms.

Amendment AM2503 to LB1187 represents the collaborative work of the full Ag Committee. This amendment attempts to identify revisions to the Brand Law that would address concerns with the Brand Law and its implementation. The changes represent a starting point which could allow the bill to be advanced from committee to facilitate discussion and action on the Brand Committee's finances. However, Speaker Arch had asked that the Agriculture Committee hold a hearing on this proposal before considering advancing it to the full Legislature for debate. I agree with the Speaker that this added step was needed for greater transparency. I filed AM2503 as chairman on behalf of the full Agriculture Committee to facilitate the announcement of the upcoming hearing.

At the hearing, it was apparent from the feedback I had already received and additional testimony I listened to at the hearing, that there is skepticism that AM2503, as written, is a workable solution. I contend some sort of legislation needs to be brought to the full Unicameral to ensure the viability of the Brand Committee and integrity of brand inspection.

Meanwhile, one of the two budget bills for this year stalled during the second stage of debate. LB1071 is one of the two budget bills introduced this year to make adjustments to the biennial budget that was passed last year. Prior to Select File, Senator Clements, who chairs the Appropriations Committee, filed amendment AM2748 to LB1071. AM2748 reflected many of the Appropriations Committee's recommendations to balance the state's budget. However, among AM2748's provisions were Senator Clements' proposal to remove the \$3.65 million appropriation for K-12 private school scholarships from LB1071. This amendment spurred opposition from senators who support the proposed private school scholarship program or oppose other changes to the state's budget. Following a filibuster, Speaker Arch's motion to invoke cloture to cease debate on LB1071 failed 19 to 10 with 19 senators not voting, resulting in this measure failing to advance for the day.

With the wildfires affecting western and central Nebraska, I also want to inform the public of resources and an avenue to donate to those impacted. The Nebraska Department of Agriculture has resources listed on its website at www.nda.nebraska.gov/disasterresources. This website has information about requested donations and available donations and services (like hay hauling) to allow people to connect with each other.

I invite you to let me know your thoughts or concerns. My Capitol office telephone number is (402) 471-2801 while my email is bdekay@leg.ne.gov.

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JENNIFER FURSTENAU, OD

Back

◀ FROM Page 3

inches of snow accumulated from the storm, which began early Sunday, March 19, and continued through Monday night. Lack of visibility was a big problem on Monday. Winds 20 to 25 miles per hour from the Northeast. Antelope County Deputy Sheriff Randy Lieswald said visibility was 100 yards or less on Monday afternoon.

Attending a "Mom and Daughters" weekend March 10-12 at the Omaha Karollton Hotel with their mother, Darlene Schindler of Elgin, were Lois Coyne of Millard, Marilyn Sehi of Clearwater, Noreen Miller of Milwaukee, WI, Alice Holtz of Nebraska City, Annette Snodgrass of Carrollton, TX, and Janie Score of Elgin.

By Kari Schindler

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!!!!

Upper Elkhorn NRD Senior Scholarships Available

The Upper Elkhorn Natural Resources District is offering **three \$500** scholarships to graduating High School Seniors from the District. These scholarships are available for students who are planning to further their education in a field related to natural resources or agriculture. Seniors who are interested should contact their guidance counselor or the Upper Elkhorn NRD office in O'Neill for further information, eligibility requirements and applications. Scholarship information has been sent to all District schools and is also available at the Upper Elkhorn NRD website at www.uenrd.org/education.html.

The deadline for all scholarship applications is **April 3, 2026**.

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Elgin City Clerk
PO Box 240
Elgin, NE 68636-0240

Apply by **Monday, April 6, 2026**

Boone County Health Center

OUT-PATIENT CLINIC SCHEDULE

APRIL 2026 723 West Fairview Albion, NE 68620
www.boonecohealth.org (402) 395-3180

Allergy -- Dr. Kinberg	APRIL 13 th
Aesthetics Services -- Dr. Pudwill	APRIL 16 th
Audiology -- Dr. Foss	APRIL 2 nd and 16 th
Behavioral Health (Telehealth)	Call for appt
Bryan Heart Institute -- Dr. Tessendorf/Dr. Pacini	APRIL 6 th , 13 th and 20 th
Dermatology -- Dr. Clarey	APRIL 24 th
Endocrinology -- Dr. Brau/Leah Haak-Beck	APRIL 14 th
General Surgery -- Dr. Schneider/Dr. Luebbe	APRIL 6 th , 13 th , 20 th and 27 th
Heartland Radiology	APRIL 3 rd , 6 th , 10 th , 13 th , 17 th , 20 th , 24 th and 27 th
Neurosurgery -- Dr. Bixenmann	APRIL 1 st
Norfolk Cardiology -- Dr. Hartzell/Dr. Rome	APRIL 7 th and 21 st
OB-GYN -- Dr. Albin	APRIL 8 th
Orthopedics -- Dr. Ochs/Kendra Thiem	APRIL 1 st , 7 th , 8 th , 14 th , 15 th , 21 st , 22 nd , 28 th and 29 th
Orthopedics -- Dr. Rickert/Sean Craig	APRIL 9 th and 23 rd
Otolaryngology -- Dr. Jazwick/Dr. Mawn	APRIL 3 rd and 17 th
Podiatry -- Dr. Borer	APRIL 10 th and 22 nd
Pulmonology -- Dr. Stritt	APRIL 15 th
Urology -- Dr. Hill/Dr. Stegman/Schiessler	APRIL 2 nd and 16 th
Wound -- Dr. Kohl/Candice Schnoor	APRIL 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th and 24 th

Clip & Save!

Bartlett News

Family Literacy Night was held Monday, March 16 at the Wheeler Central large gym. Family Literacy Night was started as a family engagement activity to bring parents and children into the school to engage in literacy based activities.

Shawn Schlenger, who coordinated the event, is the MTSS/Title I Coordinator for Wheeler Central School District. The theme for this year's event was 'Read like a Champion.'

Activities for elementary students included Curling for Context, Biathlon Aim and Alphabet, Figure Skating (writing with shaving cream) Word Search and Write the Room, Miss Lovitt's literacy activity, Lions Bingo and a book swap. Books were donated by Shawna Schlenger and Teammates.

The Wheeler Central Booster Club offered a free will donation meal as part of the evening. Those helping serve food were Trina Pelster, Kay Reineke and Bridget Schmidt. Volunteers helping Shawna with the event were Shari Lovitt, Chelsea Sallach, Ranotta Nordhues, Makayla Reiter, Aubrey and Tegan Reiter, Owen and Warren Sallach, Braelynn and Paige Schlenger, Casey Freouf and Sherry Tetschner. The event had a good turnout and all the children attending went home with a book.



Family Literacy Night was held at Wheeler Central. The Bartlett Lions Club hosted Bingo for the evening. Patty Collins was one of the Bingo callers.



Aubrey Reiter and Emilia Plugge enjoyed a Literacy activity with Wheeler Central second grade teacher Miss Lovitt. (Emilia is wearing glasses.)

BACKFLOW PREVENTION AND THE CONSUMER

Helping Keep Our Water Safe!! Nebraska's Safe Drinking Water Act requires water systems to implement an on-going cross connection control program. An important part of this program is public education. It is believed that a well-informed public will be more aware of the possibility of cross connections within their property and will take reasonable and sensible precautions to avoid creating cross connections on their property.

This brochure is intended to explain what a cross connection is, what causes it, what some of the consequences can be, and how it can be prevented.

What is cross connection? A cross connection occurs whenever there is an actual or potential physical connection between the public drinking water system and any possible source of

BACKFLOW PREVENTION AND THE CONSUMER

contamination. Sources of contamination can include both high hazard materials, which can cause illness or death, and low or non-hazardous materials which are mainly just a nuisance and can cause the water to look, taste or smell unpleasant. Although the high hazards are the primary concern in a cross connection control program, your water utility strives to provide both safe and good quality water to its

customers. Whenever there is a loss of pressure in the public water supply, these cross connections can allow unsafe substances to enter the public water supply.

What causes cross connections?

Cross connections can be caused by both permanent and temporary "piping". An example of a cross connection being permanently piped in is the drain on a water softener. Many times these

discharge lines are connected directly to the sewer line without any type of protection. Hot tub and whirlpool fill pipes and swimming pool and broiler make-up lines are other examples of permanently piped cross connections.

The most common example of a temporary piped cross connection is the common garden hose. It is estimated that 90% of all cross connections are caused by the inappropriate use of garden hoses.

Garden hoses are frequently used to apply fertilizer and pesticides to lawns and gardens. They are also used to fill swimming pools, wash cars, and in rural areas, they are often used to fill stock tanks for watering cattle, horses, and other livestock.

Other temporary piping cross connections occur when hoses are used to fill waterbeds or are connected to utility sinks to fill wash tubs or mop buckets.

What are the consequences of cross connections?

The consequences of cross connections can range from something as simple as "dirty water" to something as severe as serious illness or even death. There are many recorded instances of non-hazardous contamination of public water supplies caused by cross connections. In one case, a line used for cleaning a distilling vat in a wine bottling company was left open, and an entire vat of wine flowed back into the public water system. Although this was not a health hazard, and most of the customers liked the water they drank, this cross connection could have had far deadlier results if it had been something other than wine in the vat.

There are many instances recorded where people have been made seriously ill or even died due to cross connections. There have been cases where dysentery diarrhea, hepatitis and even polio have been contracted as a direct result of a cross connection.

How can cross connections be prevented?

The best way to prevent cross connections is for each customer to examine the plumbing on their premises and look for any permanent or temporary piped cross connections. Any time there is the possibility of a cross connection between the water supply and any hazardous or unknown substance, there should be an air gap between the faucet and the questionable use.

In cases where this is not possible, as with a garden hose, a proper backflow prevention device or assembly should be installed on the supply faucet. This will protect both the public water supply and the inhabitants of the building from contamination.

In situations where extremely high hazards exist in a building or location, it is sometimes necessary to contain that entire system from the public water supply with a backflow preventer to protect the public water supply from the substances being used on that site.

What you can do to prevent cross connections and keep your drinking water safe?

1. Check your faucets to be sure that all faucet endpoints are above the flood level of the sink, tub, basin, or other apparatus they supply.
2. Protect faucet extensions by installing proper backflow prevention devices (i.e. hose bib vacuum breakers) on all faucets capable of having a hose or other extension attached.
3. Check drain lines (refrigerator drink dispensers, water softeners, heat exchangers, etc.) to be sure there is an adequate air gap between the drain line and the floor drain or sewer line into which they discharge.
4. Never use unprotected faucets to fill non-drinking water containers (i.e. water beds, wading pools, stock tanks, hot tubs, etc.)

Following these guide lines and using common sense will help to eliminate the possibility of you contaminating your drinking water, your neighbor's drinking water and your community's drinking water. This not only affects the residents of your community, but their visitors and those people who are passing through.

CITY OF ELGIN ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT



City of Elgin

Annual Water Quality Report
For January 1 to December 31, 2025

This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made by the City of Elgin water system to provide safe drinking water.

Para Clientes Que Hablan Español: Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

For more information regarding this report, or to request a hard copy, contact:

DONALD POULSEN
402-843-8775

If you would like to observe the decision-making processes that affect drinking water quality, please attend the regularly scheduled meeting of the Village Board/City Council. If you would like to participate in the process, please contact the Village/City Clerk to arrange to be placed on the agenda of the meeting of the Village Board/City Council.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Source Water Assessment Availability:

The Nebraska Department of Water, Environment, and Energy (DWEE) has completed the Source Water Assessment. Included in the assessment are a Wellhead Protection Area map, potential contaminant source inventory, and source water protection information. To view the Source Water Assessment or for more information please contact the person named above on this report or the DWEE at 402-471-3376 or 402-471-9249 or go to <http://dwee.ne.gov>.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Sources of Drinking Water:

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and groundwater wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals

and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

The source of water used by City of Elgin is ground water.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- * Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- * Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- * Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- * Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- * Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Drinking Water Health Notes:

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. City of Elgin is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact: DONALD POULSEN, 402-843-8775. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

The City of Elgin is required to test for the following contaminants: Coliform Bacteria, Antimony, Arsenic, Asbestos, Barium, Beryllium, Cadmium, Chromium, Copper, Cyanide, Fluoride, Lead, Mercury, Nickel, Nitrate, Nitrite, Selenium, Sodium, Thallium, Atrazine, Atrazine, Benzo(a)pyrene, Carbofuran, Chlordane, Dalapon, Di(2-ethylhexyl)adipate, Dibromochloropropane, Dinoseb, Di(2-ethylhexyl)-phthalate, Diquat, 2,4-

D, Endothall, Endrin, Ethylene dibromide, Glyphosate, Heptachlor, Heptachlor epoxide, Hexachlorobenzene, Hexachlorocyclopentadiene, Lindane, Methoxychlor, Oxamyl (Vydate), Pentachlorophenol, Picloram, Polychlorinated biphenyls, Simazine, Toxaphene, Dioxin, Silvex, Benzene, Carbon Tetrachloride, o-Dichloro-benzene, Para-Dichlorobenzene, 1,2-Dichloroethane, 1,1-Dichloroethylene, Cis-1,2-Dichloroethylene, Trans-1,2-Dichloroethylene, Dichloromethane, 1,2-Dichloropropane, Ethylbenzene, Monochlorobenzene, 1,2,4-Trichloro-benzene, 1,1,1-Trichloroethane, 1,1,2-Trichloroethane, Trichloroethylene, Vinyl Chloride, Styrene, Tetrachloroethylene, Toluene, Xylenes (total), Gross Alpha (minus Uranium & Radium 226), Radium 226 plus Radium 228, Sulfate, Chloroform, Bromodichloromethane, Chlorodibromomethane, Bromoform, Chlorobenzene, m-Dichlorobenzene, 1,1-Dichloropropane, 1,1-Dichloroethane, 1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane, 1,2-Dichloropropane, Chloromethane, Bromomethane, 1,2,3-Trichloropropane, 1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane, Chloroethane, 2,2-Dichloropropane, o-Chlorotoluene, p-Chlorotoluene, Bromobenzene, 1,3-Dichloropropane, Aldrin, Butachlor, Carbaryl, Dicamba, Dieldrin, 3-Hydroxycarbofuran, Methomyl, Metolachlor, Metribuzin, Propachlor.

How to Read the Water Quality Data Table:

The EPA and State Drinking Water Program establish the safe drinking water regulations that limit the amount of contaminants allowed in drinking water. The table shows the concentrations of detected substances in comparison to the regulatory limits. Substances not detected are not included in the table. The state requires monitoring of certain contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Therefore, some of this data may be older than one year.

MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level) – The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

MCLG (Maximum Contaminant Level Goal) – The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

AL (Action Level) – The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MRDL (Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level) – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. N/A – Not applicable.

Units in the Table:

- ND – Not detectable.
- ppm (parts per million) – One ppm corresponds to 1 gallon of concentrate in 1 million gallons of water.
- mg/L (milligrams per liter) – Equivalent to ppm.
- ppb (parts per billion) – One ppb corresponds to 1 gallon of concentrate in 1 billion gallons of water.
- ug/L (micrograms per liter) – Equivalent to ppb.
- pCi/L (Picocuries per liter) – Radioactivity concentration unit.
- RAA (Running Annual Average) – An ongoing annual average calculation of data from the most recent four quarters.
- LRAA (Locational Running Annual Average) – An ongoing annual average calculation of data from the most recent four quarters at each sampling location.
- 90th Percentile – Represents the highest value found out of 90% of the samples taken in a representative group. If the 90th percentile is greater than the action level, it will trigger a treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.
- TT (Treatment Technique) – A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

City of Elgin

TEST RESULTS

Date Printed: 3/16/2026

NE3100307

Microbiological	Highest Number of Positive Samples	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination	Violations Present
No Detected Results were Found in the Calendar Year of 2025					

Lead and Copper	Monitoring Period	90 th Percentile	Range	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Likely Source of Contamination
COPPER, FREE	2021 - 2023	0.131	0.0106 - 0.477	ppm	1.3	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing.
LEAD	2021 - 2023	0	0 - 1	ppb	15	0	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing.

Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Likely Source of Contamination
ARSENIC	5/21/2025	4.3	4.3	ppb	10	0	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes.
BARIUM	11/4/2025	0.293	0.185 - 0.293	ppm	2	2	Discharge from drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
CHROMIUM	11/4/2025	1.02	0.851 - 1.02	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; Erosion of natural deposits.
FLUORIDE	11/4/2025	0.322	0.205 - 0.322	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; Fertilizer discharge.
NITRATE-NITRITE	2/24/2025	0.968	0 - 0.968	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
SELENIUM	11/4/2025	12.7	0 - 12.7	ppb	50	50	Erosion of natural deposits

Unregulated Water Quality Data	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	Secondary MCL
SULFATE	7/28/2025	18.2	18.1 - 18.2	mg/L	250

During the 2025 calendar year, we had the below noted violation(s) of drinking water regulations.

Violation Type	Category	Analyte	Compliance Period
No Violations Occurred in the Calendar Year of 2025			

There are no additional required health effects notices.

There are no additional required health effects violation notices.

The City of Elgin lead service line inventory has been prepared and can be accessed here: City of Elgin office 104 Pine Street

PUBLISH: March 25, 2026 ZNEZ

Stay Informed! Read the Public Notices!!

Shop at Home!

NOTICE FOR GRAVEL BIDS ANTELOPE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

NOTICE FOR BIDS Gravel The Antelope County Board of Commissioners will accept sealed bids until 9:45 AM on April 14th, 2026, 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, 2026 to June 30, 2026. Bids will be opened and publicly read on April 14th, 2026 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 18, 25 & April 1, 2026 ZNEZ

NOTICE FOR ARMOR COATING BIDS ANTELOPE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

NOTICE FOR BIDS Armor Coating The Antelope County Board of Commissioners will accept sealed bids until 9:45 AM, on April 14th, 2026 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 April 1, 2026 to December 1, 2026. 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 14th, 2026 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 18, 25 & April 1, 2026 ZNEZ

PUBLIC NOTICES

Stay in the know. Read the Public Notices

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION HAMMOCK REPAIR, L.L.C.

NOTICE OF ORGANIZATION The name of the limited liability company: HAMMOCK REPAIR, L.L.C. The address of the designated office is: 704 Bazile Main Street, Creighton, Nebraska 68729. The name and mailing address of the initial agent for service of process of the company is Martin V. Klein, 101 W. 4th Street, P.O. Box 166, Neligh, NE 68756. It is organized to transact any lawful acts concerning any and all lawful business, other than banking or insurance, for which a limited liability company may be organized under the laws of the State of Nebraska.

This company commenced upon filing the Certificate of Organization with the Secretary of State on March 2, 2026, and its existence shall be perpetual. The affairs of the limited liability company are to be conducted by the members under an operation agreement duly approved by its members. HAMMOCK REPAIR, L.L.C. Martin V. Klein Klein Law Office, P.C. P.O. Box 166 Neligh, NE 68756-0166 (402)887-4190 PUBLISH: March 11, 18 & 25, 2026 ZNEZ

NOTICE FOR ASPHALT OIL BIDS ANTELOPE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

NOTICE FOR BIDS Asphalt Oil The Antelope County Board of Commissioners will accept sealed bids until 9:45 AM, on April 14th, 2026 for asphalt oil. Price should be per gallon. Purchase of asphalt oil to be delivered to each county shop from April 1, 2026 to December 1, 2026 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 14th, 2026 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 18, 25 & April 1, 2026 ZNEZ

NOTICE FOR HOT MIX ASPHALT BIDS ANTELOPE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

NOTICE FOR BIDS Hot Mix Asphalt The Antelope County Board of Commissioners will accept sealed bids until 9:45 AM, on April 14th, 2026, for hot mix asphalt. Price should be per ton and per location. Purchase of hot mix asphalt picked up at location between April 14th, 2026, to December 1, 2026, 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 14th, 2026, 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 18, 25 & April 1, 2026 ZNEZ

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING PARK CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

NOTICE Annual meeting of Park Cemetery Association will be held March 29 at 7 p.m. at Park Church. Open to all interested parties. Cemetery

clean up day is scheduled for April 18 at 9 a.m. For more information call Chris Redding 402-843-2342. PUBLISH: March 11, 18 & 25, 2026 ZNEZ

Stay Informed by Reading The Public Notices!

OBITUARIES

Pat J. Kaup-Luettel, 97

August 5, 1928 — March 20, 2026



A Petersburg native, she grew up surrounded by strong family values and deep faith which remained at the center of her life.

Pat J. Kaup-Luettel, 97, of Albion, Nebraska, passed away on Friday, March 20, 2026, at Cloverlodge Care Center, St. Edward, NE. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m., Thursday, March 26, 2026, St. Michael's Catholic Church in Albion, with Rev. Matt Gutowski officiating. Burial will be at 1:30 p.m. at St. Boniface Cemetery in Elgin. Visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. Wednesday with a 7 p.m. wake service at church.

national certification for meritorious achievement as an operating room technician in 1973. She was later named Alegen/NPM Health "Link" Material Manager of the Year in 2000. Even beyond her professional life, Pat continued to give back to her community. She volunteered at the local movie theater for 14 years and served as manager of the Mission Possible store for 19 years. She also remained active in many organizations, including serving two terms on the Albion City Council, two terms on the St. Michael's Finance Committee, and two terms on the St. Michael's Church Council.

She was a Legion Auxiliary member, an altar society member, a board member at the Boone County Fitness Center, a mentor at Boone Central School, and a member of the Red Hat Society. Her faith was a guiding force throughout her life. Pat was a devoted member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Albion since her marriage in 1947 and remained connected to St. Boniface Church in Elgin. Pat lived life with energy and joy. She was known for swimming at the fitness center daily, where she swam a total of 54,139 laps and maybe a few unaccounted for. She loved dancing and traveled with her husband to dances across the area. She enjoyed watching Lawrence Welk every Saturday night, playing pitch with friends, and being part of her card club.

Most of all, she cherished time spent with her family and friends. She is survived by her two sons: John (Eydie) Kaup of Albion, and Dan (Sharon) Kaup of Mitchell, SD; siblings: Maxine Miller of Omaha, James Schalk of Portland, OR, and Barbara (Ron) Gustafson of Seattle, WA; two grandchildren: Derek (Alicia) Kaup of Columbus, NE; Jareth (Kim) Kaup of Lincoln, NE; four great-grandchildren: Makenna, Breysen, and Haven of Columbus, NE; Shelly of Spearfish, SD; along with many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husbands: Raphael J. Kaup and Flavian W. Luettel; infant children: Deborah and Charles Kaup; siblings: Dennis Schalk; Beverly Barnes; Celestine Beckman; Norma Kelley; David Schalk and her infant sister: Madonna Schalk.

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

Lucretia "Pat" Joyce Kaup-Luettel, was born on August 5, 1928, in Petersburg, to Anthony and Agnes (Klink) Schalk. She was baptized and confirmed at St. Bonaventure Catholic Church in Raeville. Pat attended grade school at District 59 where her transportation to school was a pony named Cupid. She later attended St. Boniface, until the 10th grade. Pat went on to get her GED in the early 1970's. She grew up surrounded by strong family values and deep faith, both of which remained at the center of her life.

On June 5, 1947, Pat was united in marriage to Raphael J. Kaup at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Elgin. The couple made their home in Albion for three years then moved back to Elgin where she ran the Kaup Coffee Kup. They returned to Albion in 1957 and lived in the same house where they raised their family until she moved to Cloverlodge Care Center in November of 2021. Raphael preceded her in death in 2003. On September 12, 2008, Pat married Flavian W. Luettel at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Albion. He preceded her in death in 2021.

Pat dedicated her life to caring for others. She began her career at Boone County Hospital working on the floor and later became a registered surgical technician. Pat then went on to International Association of hospital central service management training in March of 1976. From there she served in central supply and materials management for over 45 years.

She was recognized for her excellence in her field, receiving

national certification for meritorious achievement as an operating room technician in 1973. She was later named Alegen/NPM Health "Link" Material Manager of the Year in 2000. Even beyond her professional life, Pat continued to give back to her community. She volunteered at the local movie theater for 14 years and served as manager of the Mission Possible store for 19 years. She also remained active in many organizations, including serving two terms on the Albion City Council, two terms on the St. Michael's Finance Committee, and two terms on the St. Michael's Church Council.

She was a Legion Auxiliary member, an altar society member, a board member at the Boone County Fitness Center, a mentor at Boone Central School, and a member of the Red Hat Society. Her faith was a guiding force throughout her life. Pat was a devoted member of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Albion since her marriage in 1947 and remained connected to St. Boniface Church in Elgin. Pat lived life with energy and joy. She was known for swimming at the fitness center daily, where she swam a total of 54,139 laps and maybe a few unaccounted for. She loved dancing and traveled with her husband to dances across the area. She enjoyed watching Lawrence Welk every Saturday night, playing pitch with friends, and being part of her card club.

Most of all, she cherished time spent with her family and friends. She is survived by her two sons: John (Eydie) Kaup of Albion, and Dan (Sharon) Kaup of Mitchell, SD; siblings: Maxine Miller of Omaha, James Schalk of Portland, OR, and Barbara (Ron) Gustafson of Seattle, WA; two grandchildren: Derek (Alicia) Kaup of Columbus, NE; Jareth (Kim) Kaup of Lincoln, NE; four great-grandchildren: Makenna, Breysen, and Haven of Columbus, NE; Shelly of Spearfish, SD; along with many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husbands: Raphael J. Kaup and Flavian W. Luettel; infant children: Deborah and Charles Kaup; siblings: Dennis Schalk; Beverly Barnes; Celestine Beckman; Norma Kelley; David Schalk and her infant sister: Madonna Schalk.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husbands: Raphael J. Kaup and Flavian W. Luettel; infant children: Deborah and Charles Kaup; siblings: Dennis Schalk; Beverly Barnes; Celestine Beckman; Norma Kelley; David Schalk and her infant sister: Madonna Schalk.

NOTICE OF 2026 PRIMARY ELECTION ANTELOPE COUNTY, NEBRASKA Notice is hereby given that on Tuesday, the 12th day of May, 2026, at the designated polling places in the precincts of Antelope County, Nebraska, an election will be held for nominating, or in some cases electing, candidates to various offices and for voting on measures. The polls will open at 8:00 am and close at 8:00 pm. Some races may not appear on your ballot as the candidates and issues are elected by specific subdivisions, districts or wards. 4 Year Terms unless otherwise noted. If Party is not listed, there are no filings.

AUTOMATIC ADVANCEMENT TO THE GENERAL ELECTION In compliance with Sec. 32-802 & 32-811, Nebraska Revised Statutes, the names of candidates properly filed for nomination at the primary election for the offices listed below do not exceed two candidates for each position to be filled; these candidates shall be declared nominated and their names shall advance to the General Election. Their names will not appear on the Primary Election ballot.

Table listing candidates for various offices including Elgin City Council, Elkhorn Valley Public School Board, and various county and district positions.

Polling sites: Tilden Precinct and Tilden 1st Ward-Tilden Public Library; Oakdale Precinct-Oakdale Community Center; Neligh Precinct Legion Post 172, Neligh; Brunswick Precinct-Brunswick Community Room; Elgin Precinct-KC Hall, Elgin; Royal Precinct-Royal Auditorium; Clearwater Precinct-American Legion Post 267, Clearwater; Orchard Precinct-Orchard Community Room.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal this 23rd day of March, 2026. PUBLISH: March 25, 2026 ZNEZ

Mentoring resources available for Nebraska farmers interested in organic production

Nebraska farmers and ranchers who are interested in transitioning to organic production—or who have recently made the transition—have access to mentoring and educational support through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP).

The program connects experienced certified organic farmers with those who are exploring or beginning the transition to organic practices. Through one-on-one mentoring, workshops, and practical resources, participants can learn strategies for meeting organic certification requirements and managing crops and livestock under organic standards. Transitioning to organic production typically involves a three-

year period during which land must be managed according to USDA organic standards before crops can be marketed as certified organic. Mentorship and peer learning opportunities can help producers navigate that transition and learn from farmers already successfully operating organic farms.

Nebraska producers can also connect with the Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA) Nebraska Chapter, a long-standing organization of certified organic farmers and supporters committed to environmentally sound stewardship and promotion of organic agriculture. The OCIA Nebraska website is: https://www.

See OCIA, Page 12 ►

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Dr. Mawn, new ENT to BCHC Specialty Clinic

ALBION, NE – (March 18, 2026) – Boone County Health Center (BCHC) is pleased to welcome Dr. Mawn, an ear, nose and throat (ENT) specialist with the Columbus Otolaryngology Clinic, who will begin seeing patients at the BCHC Specialty Clinic on the first and third Friday of each month.



Dr. Mawn, ENT

Dr. Mawn joined the team at Columbus Otolaryngology Clinic in 2025 and brings extensive experience in otolaryngology and facial plastic and

reconstructive surgery. At BCHC, he will replace Amber Citta, APRN. Dr. Mawn earned his Bachelor of Science in microbiology from the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia. He received his medical degree from The Medical College of Georgia in Augusta, Georgia. Following medical school, he completed a surgical internship at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia. He later received certification in hyperbaric technology,

diving, submarine and radiation health from the Naval Undersea Medical Institute in Groton, Connecticut. Dr. Mawn also completed an otolaryngology residency at Bethesda Naval Medical Center and Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Throughout his career, Dr. Mawn has held several leadership roles, including serving as department head of otolaryngology. Dr. Mawn is a member of the American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the American Board of Otolaryngology, the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the American Academy of Otolaryngology and the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Mawn practices alongside Dr. Jazwick at Columbus Otolaryngology Clinic. Both physicians will continue providing services to BCHC patients on the first and third Friday of each month through the Otolaryngology clinic. Patients must have a referral to schedule an appointment. For questions or to schedule an appointment, please contact the Boone County Health Center Specialty Clinic at 402-395-3180.

Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, the American Academy of Otolaryngology and the American College of Surgeons. Dr. Mawn practices alongside Dr. Jazwick at Columbus Otolaryngology Clinic. Both physicians will continue providing services to BCHC patients on the first and third Friday of each month through the Otolaryngology clinic. Patients must have a referral to schedule an appointment. For questions or to schedule an appointment, please contact the Boone County Health Center Specialty Clinic at 402-395-3180.

Be on alert for grass tetany as pastures and cover crops green up

Greening spring pastures and growing cover crops are great opportunities for livestock to graze and reduce the need for fed forage. This fresh growth also allows animals to start putting back on condition that may have been dropped over the winter months. However, this is also the perfect set of conditions for a case of grass tetany.

Grass tetany is the result of low levels of magnesium in an animal's blood stream. This mineral imbalance can be brought on by diet due to low magnesium levels in lush, newly growing grass. Because high levels of potassium interfere with the body's ability to absorb magnesium, diets that are high in potassium (greater than 2.5%) are at even higher risk. Another mineral to look at is calcium. Calcium can act

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Beef Systems Asst. Ext. Educator Ben Beckman

as a sort of buffer, limiting the impact of high potassium. Diets with calcium levels below 0.4% are considered low. In lactating animals, this drain on magnesium and calcium from milk production throws these imbalances off even more.

Animals with tetany issues will often graze separate from the rest of the herd, be irritable or excited, show muscle twitching especially round the ears and face, and walk with an uncoordinated, stiff, or staggering gait. Eyes may be wide and staring. In severe cases, animals will collapse, thrash around and can lapse into a coma leading to death.

To prevent tetany problems this spring, it's best to wait till grass in pastures has grown to at least 6 inches high before grazing. Legumes like alfalfa or clover, are a good source of magnesium, so grazing pas-

tures with a good mixture of grass and legume can help balance mineral demands and prevent possible problems. Keep an especially close eye on high milk producing or older animals, as these are the most likely candidates for a tetany issue.

While cultural practices can reduce risk, providing correct and adequate mineral supplementation may be the most fool proof solution. Sodium is important in the absorption of magnesium into the cell, so ensuring adequate salt is available and being consumed by the herd is important.

A sure prevention for grass tetany is feeding a mineral with supplemental calcium and magnesium included. Cattle should be consuming 3-4 ounces daily of mineral containing 10-13% magnesium oxide. This needs to be fed at least 30 days before grazing begins to ensure proper intake has been established. Most high magnesium mineral utilize magnesium oxide, which is bitter tasting and can reduce animal consumption. Mixing magnesium fortified mineral with salt into a complete package may help intake. If the 3-4 ounce target is still not being met, consider mixing the

mineral with a highly palatable protein or energy supplement. High magnesium mineral should be provided for animals until cool season grasses slow down growth and the levels of lush, fresh forage are reduced. This usually happens around mid-May.

Dealing with grass tetany in the spring is one of the annual cycles producers must deal with every year. However, with proper management, it doesn't have to negatively impact your herd. Plan now to adjust grazing management or mineral supplementation for a tetany-free spring.

- 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

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NVC Quiz Bowl champs!

The Pope John XXIII Central Catholic High School quiz bowl team of Matthew Kerkman (front), Landyn Veik, Aiden Klein (holding plaque) and Christian Preister took first place at last week's quiz bowl competition held at O'Neill. Congratulations boys! Photo submitted

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April 13 Feeder Cattle /Yearlings/Weigh Cows & Bulls preceded by the Roll-over auction!

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Happy Easter from all of us at Elgin Livestock Sales.

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Field Rep. Trey Baum
402.843.6683

Field Rep. Brenden Pelster
308.750.3322

Public Relations, Devon Baum
402.843.0446

ROLLOVER AUCTION

on April 13 to benefit
NEBRASKA SANDHILLS FIRE RELIEF.

Benefit auction will be from 12:45 to 1 pm. If you would like to donate but can't attend the auction, contact Ted.



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WOLFEPACK

SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULE

TRACK

BOYS/GIRLS VARSITY

March 31 @ West Point	11:30
April 9 ... @ Battle Creek	11:30
April 14 ... @ Neligh-Oakdale	12:30
April 16 ... @ O'Neill	9:00
April 22 ... @ St. Mary's	9:00
April 28 ... @ Creighton	1:00
April 30 ... @ Norfolk Classic	4:00
May 2 ... NVC @ Bassett	9:30
May 6 ... @ Humphrey	9:00
May 13 ... Districts @ Bassett	TBA
May 22-23 ... State @ Omaha	TBA

JUNIOR HIGH

April 4 ... @ Plainview	4:00
April 13 ... @ Boone Central	1:00
April 21 ... @ Burwell	1:00
April 28 ... @ Genoa	9:00
May 2 ... NVC @ Bassett	9:30
May 4 ... @ Creighton	1:30
May 7 ... @ Plainview	12:30

ACTIVITIES

March 25-27	State FFA Convention
March 28 ... LHNE Music Contest (6-8th grade) •	State Speech @ Kearney
April 1	NECC Scholastic Contest
April 3-6	EASTER BREAK
April 8 ...	Bloodmobile, 9-3 • Statewide ACT
April 9-10	NSCA ELA test (3-8th grade)
April 10	PJCC Prek Roundup
April 10-12	ESU8 Art Show
April 15 ...	Early dismissal • NECC HS Quiz Bowl
April 18	Prom
April 22	EPS, no school
April 28 ...	PJCC 1 pm dismissal
April 29 ...	FFA Banquet

GOLF

BOYS/GIRLS VARSITY

March 31 ... EPPJ Hosts @ Antelope Country Club	3:00	May 18 ... Districts @ Ainsworth	TBA
April 7 ... EPPJ Hosts @ Antelope Country Club	4:00	May 27-28	State TBA
April 11 ... @ Plainview	8:30	JUNIOR VARSITY	
April 15 ... @ Ewing	9:00	April 23 ... @ Leigh	9:00
April 23 ... Lutheran High NE	9:00	JUNIOR HIGH	
April 28 ... NVC @ Summerland	9:00	April 6 ... @ Fullerton	2:00
May 2 ... @ West Holt	9:00	April 23 ... @ Bassett	TBA
May 4 ... @ Albion	4:00	April 30 ... @ Antelope Country Club	2:00
May 6 ... @ Niobrara	9:30	May 4 ... Tri (Stuart, CWC) @ Atkinson	4:00
May 11 ... @ Bassett	9:00		
May 12 ... @ Fullerton	9:00		
May 14 ... @ Antelope Country Club	2:00		

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Wolfpack Sports



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Thank you to our dedicated physicians for your compassion, expertise, and unwavering commitment to caring for our community.

Wolfpack boys trio earn all-NVC first team honors

Three members of the Wolfpack boys basketball team earned first-team honors from the Niobrara Valley Conference last week.

EPPJ had Jarek Erickson, Karson Kallhoff and Max Henn chosen for the first team. They guided the Wolfpack to a 25-4 record during the season.

Others named to the first team were Gage Hedstrom, Ben Barlow and Logan Brabec, O'Neill St. Mary's; Drew Schmaeder and Kayde Ramm, Stuart; Charlie Adams, Boyd County; and Michael Jesse, CWC.

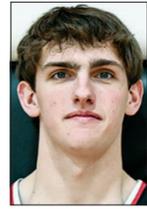
Wolfpack junior Michael Selting headed up selections to the NVC second team. Others on the team are Will Nelson and Issac Jensen, Boyd County; Keian Fischer, North Central; Daniel Kløver and Trey Blackmore, CWC; James Eby, O'Neill St. Mary's; Kash Nielsen, Niobrara-Verdigre; and Chris



Jarek Erickson



Karson Kallhoff



Max Henn



Michael Selting

Fernandez. Receiving honorable mention were Trey Wallinger and Kaige Krieger, Stuart; Ben Schmitz, Boyd County; Jackson Wright,

CWC; Collin Hagan and Brandt Lezotte, North Central; Eli Banks, O'Neill St. Mary's; Ronald Goodteacher, Santee; and Witten Painter, Ainsworth.

Martinsen, Kurpgeweit named to all-NVC first team

Two members of the Wolfpack girls basketball squad were named to the Niobrara Valley Conference first-team all conference.

Selections were announced Wednesday morning.

Named to the first team were juniors Braelyn Martinsen and Mady Kurpgeweit. Each averaged over 14 points per game as the Wolfpack compiled a 18-6 season record.

Other first team selections were Gracie Williamson and Adyson Petersen, O'Neill St. Mary's; Gracyn Painter, Ainsworth; Delani Runnels and Taylen Stark, Niobrara-Verdigre; Miley Pike, Santee; Mya Lewis and Karlene Kepler,



Braelyn Martinsen



Mady Kurpgeweit



Kayton Zwingman

North Central.

Wolfpack senior Kayton Zwingman headed up selections to the all-conference second team. Others named to the second team were Kyra Tubbs and Annie Ludwig, Stuart; Tatum Ickes and Cherish Williamson, O'Neill St. Mary's; Aubrinee Tuttle, Santee; Jaylee Lechtenberg and Elly Zeisler, Boyd County; Amber Sucha, Niobr-

See NVC, Page 12

Aiden, this is your moment. We've been so lucky to watch you over the past four years. You make us so proud, **Good Luck!**

Mom, Dad, Olivia, Raaf, and Diedrick

AIDEN KLEIN
Entertainment Speaking | OID | Duet

We are so proud of you, Tessa! We love watching you shine!

Congratulations, have fun, and enjoy the final ride!

Love, Dad, Mom, Jack and Kate!

TESSA BARLOW
OID

Congratulations, Jovie! We are so proud of you!

Good luck to you and your team!

Love, Dad, Mom, George, and Tom

JOVIE BORER
Persuasive

Good Luck Lillian and Pope John Speech team!

We are proud of you!

Love, Mom, Dad, Elizabeth and James

LILLIAN MOSER
Poetry

Good Luck Camry and your teammates!

CAMRY KITTELSON
OID

Good Luck to you and your team! You've been so much fun to watch! We are so proud of you.

Have fun!

Love, Mom and Dad

MATTHEW KERKMAN
OID

Good Luck to you at State Speech!! Have fun and bring home some hardware!!

Love you lots!!

Love, Your Family

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NVC

◀ FROM Page 11

ara-Verdigre; and Reece Taylor, North Central.

Earning honorable mention were Paige Wolinski and Rose Woeppel, CWC; Emerson Mlnarik, St. Mary's; Talia Saunsoci, Santee; Willa Flynn

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and Jaylee Good, Ainsworth; Kit Painter, North Central; and Kyla McCarthy, Boyd County.

Erickson selected for Sunday all-star game

Mount Marty will host the 'Battle of the Border' All-Star basketball games, this Sunday, March 29 at Laddie E. Cimpl Arena.

Selections are made by conference coaches at the end of the season.

The games will feature 2026 senior basketball players from both South Dakota and Nebraska.

Among the players selected for the Nebraska team is Elgin Public-Pope John senior Jarek Erickson.

Erickson led the Wolfpack in scoring this season as the team compiled a 25-4 record, finishing second at the Class D2 State Tournament earlier this month in Lincoln.

The girls' game will begin at 2 p.m., with the boys' game at 4 p.m.

Spinning Tales
I can't believe what I'm hearing

Lord, I've seen it all you can take me home now.

Nebraska is headed to the 'Sweet Sixteen.'

I didn't know my fingers could type those words - Nebraska is headed to the 'Sweet Sixteen.'

On the rarest of days, Saturday, when the sun scorched our state with sunshine and temperatures in the 90s, trees beginning to bud out and grass blades popping up green, Nebraska basketball took center stage.

If there is a sign we are living in the last days, it may be the Huskers advancing to the second week of the NCAA Basketball Tournament.

There were watch parties at sports bars across the state, not far from my home a garage was cleared out and fans were tuned

in. It's never happened like this ever before in March and yet it happened Saturday night.

Hundreds of miles away, in Oklahoma City, thousands of red-clad fans were in the stands chanting 'Go Big Red' and shaking the rafters with cheers every time the Huskers scored.

My Husker basketball memories have always been our teams coming up short. Looking up and seeing jerseys retired of Huskers who had never tasted victory in the NCAAs. Names like Stu Lantz, Dave Hoppen, Eric Piatkowski and Tyrone Lue, their career highlights came in December, January and February but seldom in March. Others, like Jerry Fort and Steve Willis, Erick Strickland and Rich King never experienced 'Madness' euphoria that only comes with victory.

When Lynell and I got home from the Spring Benefit Auction at the KC Hall, as much as I wanted to I didn't turn the game on for fear of let down like so many times before.

Before calling it a night, I went outside to the garage and I heard this loud roar, something akin to football in November, the way it used to be. A roar I've never heard in March. I knew something good had happened. So, when I got back in the house I checked my phone and it said Nebraska 74, Vanderbilt 72.

From Falls City to Morrill, from Sioux City to Enders and all points in between, joy swept the land as Husker roundball finally arrived, having ascended to a place they never have been before.

One thing's for certain, you never forget the first time and, if you're a Husker fan, you'll never forget the day when the world turned upside down and Nebraska made basketball's 'Sweet 16.'

It's been almost two weeks now since the Class D2 Boys State Tournament concluded with our great team collecting the state runner-up trophy.

Wolfpack fans are still reveling in the team's great run which put them in the championship game before losing to Archangels Catholic.

I'm still buzzing about something that didn't involve baskets or points, but it does involve an award.

Each year, in each class, one school is recognized for exhibiting good sportsmanship during the tourney. Representatives from the school are marched out onto the court to receive recognition for exhibiting good sportsmanship during the tournament.

The announcer rattles off some prepared text, then a presentation is made to school representatives. The TV cameras capture the moment.

then quickly switch to the medal presentations and the awarding of the championship trophies.

This year in Class D2, Pleasanton High School received the award. They were the team the Wolfpack defeated in the first round by the score of 46 to 44. For one game, they impressed someone. Heck, their team and fans were just happy to be in Lincoln with a 13-12 record. Ma and Pa Bulldog hopped in the SUV and burned down the highway for a game which barely surpassed one hour. Then, they hopped back in the SUV and probably stopped at DeLeon's for an extreme burrito before heading back to arrive at home mid-afternoon.

They received the recognition, EPPJ didn't nor did GACC, Archangels Catholic, Deshler, O'Neil St. Mary's, Wynot and FCSH.

It's not an award you expect to receive. And, doing snooping I learned a few things. The winner of the award was selected prior to the championship game. I was told that minutes before the start of Saturday's game. That's not the thing that caught my attention. I learned from another person in the know that the NSAA contacts the schools, after the tournament, to tell them why they didn't receive the award. EPPJ school officials were informed they did not receive the award, citing the actions of our adult fans in the stands.

I'd like to meet the person/persons who sit in judgment of the sins of the fan base.

Evidently, someone was paying attention to our fans, watching their actions and listening to the words they were speaking.

I watch the fans too. Did Wolfpack fans do anything different than fans from other teams participating in the tournament? No. Did Wolfpack fans make their feelings known when questionable fouls were called during the game? Yes, so did the fans from the other schools we played. How do we know that? Because Lynell sits on press row charting the game with their fans directly behind her.

The point I'm trying to make is fans will be fans, Wolfpack fans are no different than Bluejay, Cardinal or Defenders fans. Adult fan behavior is what it is. If you're into the game, you're going to show it with your actions. To judge one school' fans against another borders on being absurd.

One last paragraph and my rant will be over. It's the job of the NSAA to regulate high school sports. High school sports are played by high school students. I think the NSAA's judgment squad should focus their attention on the actions of the students. Had they done just that, then there's no doubt in my mind our student section would have been judged the best.

SPINNING TALES



Publisher
Dennis Morgan

Elgin Community Center menus

- Monday, March 30:** Ham & noodle bake, lettuce salad, stewed tomatoes, fruit cocktail, bread & butter, milk.
 - Tuesday, March 31:** Broccoli & cheese soup, ham sandwich, cottage cheese, pineapple, carrots/celery, milk.
 - Wednesday, April 1:** Chicken strips, French fries, coleslaw, baked beans, bread/butter, milk.
 - Thursday, April 2:** Polish dogs and kraut, hashbrowns, California blend veggie, milk.
 - Friday, April 3:** Lemon pepper fish, scalloped potatoes, green beans, fruit cocktail, bread & butter, milk.
- Menus are provided by the Community Center and are subject to change.
Suggested price is \$7 per meal for persons 60 years of age and older. Under 60 is \$10.

HELP WANTED

CLINIC NURSE (RN OR LPN)
Part Time or Full Time

CLINIC CNA
Full Time

DIRECTOR OF NURSING
Full Time

RADIOLOGY TECHNICIAN
Part Time or Full Time

STAFF NURSE (LPN OR RN)
Full-Time

Antelope Memorial Hospital
102 W 9th St., Neligh, NE 68756

2026 SPEECH

ZOEY BUECHTER
Serious Prose

Congratulations
to Zoey Buechter for placing first at the District Speech Meet and going to State! So very proud of you and all of your achievements.
Love you bunches
Richard....
from Mom & Dad

2026 SPEECH

KYNDAL BUSTEED
Persuasive Speaking

Good Luck
at State Speech, Kyndal & Teammates!!
Bring the energy & soak it all in! We're proud of you!
Shout out to the BEST COACHES- Stacy & Jessie!
Thank you for all you do!

2026 SPEECH

BRAEDON HINKLE
Humorous Prose

Wishing you the **Best of Luck** at State Speech!
We are so proud of all you have accomplished this year!
Love,
Mom and Dad

2026 SPEECH

GEMMA MILLER
Extemporaneous Speaking

Good Luck
Gemma!

Community Calendar

- Wednesday - Friday, March 25-27**
State FFA convention at Lincoln.
- Friday, March 27**
Petersburg Fish Fry at Legion Hall* ■ Elgin KC Fish Fry.*
- Saturday, March 28**
Elgin Easter Egg Hunt* ■ State Speech Contest at Kearney.
- Sunday, March 29**
Pope John Annual Development Dinner at Werner Hall in Petersburg.*
- Friday, April 3**
No School (Easter break begins)
- Sunday, April 5**
Easter Sunday
- Monday, April 6**
Regular monthly meeting of the Elgin City Council ■ No school (Easter break)
- Tuesday, April 7**
Regular meeting of the Antelope County Board of Commissioners at Neligh.

Events listing courtesy of
ELGIN VETERANS' MEDICAL CLINIC
an outpatient department of Boone County Health Center
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Doctors' Day • Monday, March 30, 2026
Antelope Memorial Hospital recognizes:

Dr. Roger Rudloff Dr. Troy Dawson Dr. Kelli Osborn Dr. Josh Thoendel
AMH Family Practice Clinics: Neligh • Elgin • Clearwater • Tilden • Orchard
*Colonoscopies offered by: Dr. Rudloff, Dr. Dawson and Dr. Thoendel
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This notice is provided to inform patients of primary care and colonoscopy services and location.

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nebraskaocia.org
Farmers interested in learning more about organic transition resources and mentoring opportunities are encouraged to visit: <https://www.organictransition.org>. The website provides information about mentoring programs, educational events, and resources available to producers exploring organic production systems.
For additional information about organic certification and farmer networking opportunities in Nebraska, producers may also contact Kim Mosel, at OCIA Nebraska, 402-620-2701.